



## **GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 13 – November 2007**

### **Steering Group Update**

This has been a very busy period for the Steering Group who met several times to prepare a detailed submission to the Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) to the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill.

The Steering Group also met with Rachel Depree, General Manager of the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Industries Group to discuss the potential impacts of this proposed legislation on our industry.

To provide an informed legal opinion on the SOP as written, we also commissioned specialist Resource Management lawyers Cowper Campbell to help draft amendments which address the issues raised.

The approach which we have taken is to be pragmatic. It is clear from all our soundings with the Select Committee that a waste levy and some form of product stewardship are inevitable given cross party support for waste minimization.

Accordingly we believe that providing solutions rather than presenting problems is the best way forward.

### **Glass Packaging Forum submission**

We have asked for consideration of the following:-

"There are a small number of specific changes that the Forum would like to see made to the Bill to ensure that:

- its title better reflects its purpose;

- some new definitions are included in the SOP and some existing definitions are amended;
- the process for the declaration of priority products is robust and based on best available economic and environmental analysis and reasoning;
- voluntary waste minimisation and recycling initiatives, such as the Packaging Accord are integrated into the scheme of the Bill as efficiently as possible;
- the cost of collecting and administering the levy, effectively the 'operating costs', be drawn from the total funds raised via the levy prior to paying shares in the 'profit' to territorial authorities and that the portion of the levy paid to local authorities should be used to perform functions additional to those already being carried out under existing waste minimisation plans;
- a robust analysis is undertaken before the rate of the waste levy is varied; and
- a mechanism is established enabling the creation of nationally consistent bylaws relating to waste when it is appropriate to do so; and
- the awarding of grants is not anticompetitive; and
- the composition of the Waste Advisory Board adequately reflects the interests of the wider commercial sector in addition to that of the narrower commercial waste sector.

### **Select Committee Hearings...**

The Select Committee will be hearing a small number of submissions on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The Packaging Council was

heard on 8<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of the packaged goods industry.

We await a decision as to whether the Glass Packaging Forum will be asked to present its submission in person.

### **Launch of the Glass Crusher...**



### ***Hon David Parker***

The mobile glass crusher was launched in front of Parliament on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

After formal speeches from the Minister, Nandor Tanczos for the Green party, David Carter- Chairman for the Forum and Donald Nelson representing Lion Nathan (sponsor), children from Thorndon Primary School joined the party to watch the Minister officially christen the machine. The party was able to inspect the material produced by the machine in a range of particle sizes 9.5mm to 19mm and the Children were able to view the crusher for which a 'Naming Competition' was announced. All schools of New Zealand incorporating Years 1 - 8 will be invited to present possible names as suggested by the pupils and the successful school will receive a prize of \$1000.00 to support a specific school activity.



### ***Donald Nelson from Lion Nathan talks to local school children.***

In anticipation of rain, guests and VIP's including members of the Select Committee hearing the waste bill and other MPs; Nick Smith, Nicky Wagner; Steve Chadwick; Lianne Dalziel and Mayor of Porirua Jenny Brash were provided with Glass Forum umbrellas – but we were lucky to have a wonderfully sunny Wellington day.

Ministry staff commented that it was one of the best attended functions of its type. The only disappointment was that we could not see the crusher actually at work because of concerns about noise distracting our political leaders inside!

The crusher itself will be traveling initially through the South Island processing those stockpiles of glass requiring crushing.

### ***On its way south***



### **Alternative Uses for glass...**

An arrangement in Principle has been made with Smart Bottles which is a small voluntary container recovery system in the south. The Forum will be able to monitor and assess the successfulness of this operation in return for a grant. This cooperation will allow the Forum to be actively involved in a non mandatory container recovery system showing that legislation is not a prerequisite for the use of returnable bottles.

### **Palmerston City Council recycling survey**

Work continues in both the information gathering and the development of the Castle Bin collection system. A full and detailed report is nearing completion reviewing

domestic glass collection throughout the country.

The consultant TPL made a joint presentation with the Forum on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at the WasteMINZ annual conference.

### **Media Coverage**

#### **Container deposits – back to the future scheme would add up to \$10 on a case of drinks...**

Public interest in CDL continues with debate heightened by Campbell Live and Radio Live media coverage of Otago University students returning their beer bottles for cash. The Bottle Buy Back event held in Dunedin saw a "refund" of 10c paid out on a total of 7,276 containers. The initiative was designed by The Otago University Student's Association to encourage students to clean up North Dunedin streets following the widely publicised student riots recently and sponsored by Phoenix Organics.

Paul Curtis Executive Director of the Packaging Council responded on behalf of industry.

#### **Glass Packaging Industry crushes its critics...**

The launch of the glass crusher has been widely covered in newspapers up and down the country with particular interest in our target audience in South Island.

Whilst TV and radio attended the launch event, there has been little subsequent coverage largely because the crusher was not able to be operated. However we are working with the media to have coverage of the "1<sup>st</sup> crush" in the South and to launch the schools competition on Radio NZ.

### **Communications**

If you haven't been on to our website, please take a look at it and do provide us with your feedback and your stories.

<http://www.glassforum.org.nz/>

### **Waste Minz Conference**

The Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister for the Environment outlined plans for a network of public recycling facilities to be available in larger cities and major tourist destinations. The first partner councils to pilot this initiative will be announced shortly with the first bins destined to be rolled out before Christmas this year.

In a joint presentation with Andrew Slack and Pip Chrystall from Palmerston North, John Webber outlined how a 5% Crushed Glass Aggregate can provide a regional solution to recycling of excess Glass.

Outside the conference the mobile crusher received much attention.

### **Packaging issues around the world**

#### ***In Europe***

EU member governments are debating a proposed European Commission regulation governing what recycled plastics processors may use for packaging foods.

#### **European Packaged Goods industry challenges criticism of packaging**

Under-packaging is "ten times worse" than over-packaging a product claims the EU's industry association, in response to a survey found that 5 per cent of the weight of an average UK shopping basket is made up of packaging.

European has countered this saying weight isn't the only measure of environmental impact and carbon footprint and heavier weight of using recycled content must be taken into account. The association gives the example of packaging that needs to weigh more than its contents to do its job...

For example champagne needs to be packed in a bottle that is 95% of the total weight or

it would not survive the journey from the vineyard to home, or contain bubbles. On the other hand, some packaging is much lighter - butter wrapping is only 1 per cent of the product.

### **In the UK**

#### ***And to support the packaged goods industry's claims about food waste...***

#### **Food Waste is Environmental Sleeping Giant Says WRAP**

A new UK Government backed campaign reveals a staggering third of the food purchased in the UK is thrown away— most of which could have been eaten. The statistic follows pioneering research undertaken by WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) which shows that for every three bags of shopping we bring home, we effectively put one straight in the bin. The campaign urges action on 6.7m tonnes of food waste in the UK.

### **And again in the UK**



#### **UK - glass industry voices MRF concern**

The UK glass industry has voiced concern about the increasing numbers of material recycling facilities. The trade federation argues that despite lobbying for many years to maintain colour separated glass collection, current legislation means local authorities are being forced to abandon separated collections when many don't want to.

The association says that government should concentrate on delivering the biggest environmental benefit not the greatest tonnage. The majority of MRFs produce poor quality mixed material that has little use other than as aggregate replacement, which is the least environmentally friendly way of using post consumer glass waste.

In 2006 British Glass members recycled a record 756,000 tonnes of glass to make new bottles and jars. However, annual growth in closed loop glass recycling slowed from 10 per cent in 2005 to 1.8 per cent in 2006. British Glass says that the reduced growth rate is, in large part, due to a reduction in the quality of materials being returned to the industry. Last year glass recycling reduced UK CO2 emissions by around 200,000 tonnes supply.

#### ***In Ireland – concerns expressed in the Irish Times about reliance on off shore recycling***

A total of 234,696 tonnes of material was recycled in Ireland in 2005, a decrease of 25% from 2004. The overall proportion of waste recycled **in** Ireland dropped to 17% from 26% in 2004. Ireland has become increasingly dependent on foreign recycling infrastructure, **with 83% of recyclable materials exported.**

There are no significant facilities for glass recycling in the Republic of Ireland, and with the closure of a paper mill in 2005 only 2.6 per cent of recyclable paper and cardboard was recycled in Ireland compared with 31 per cent in 2004.

