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: RECYCLING

WA recycling can do better

WA recycled 1.83 million tonnes during 2008/09, slightly up from 1.81 million tonnes in 2007/08, according to the WA Waste Authority.

"West Australians recycle 839 kilograms per capita," notes a new report, with a total value of \$1.74 billion. Some 66 per cent of material recovered was processed in WA, with 31 per cent exported and just three per cent transferred interstate.

In 2008/09, diversion from landfill in the metropolitan area was 34.2 per cent, up from 30

per cent the previous year but still well below the benchmarks elsewhere.

Jan Grimoldby, acting chair of the WA Waste Authority, said the report "encourages WA to build on these improvements and to close the gap with other states' performance".

They hope to lift the rate through the increase in the urban landfill levy and by supporting recycling infrastructure through the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme.

Courtesy: Inside Waste

: HAZARDOUS WASTE

Sims is worth its salt

Victorian Environment Minister Gavin Jennings has flicked the switch on state-of-the-art recycling machines at Sims Aluminium's plant in Melbourne, promising to cut by a massive 95 per cent the amount of hazardous waste going to landfill from aluminium recycling.

Doug McLean, GM of Sims' Australian manufacturing division, said the two new 'dross presses' will make the company's secondary plant in Laverton North "the only known secondary aluminium smelter in the world to operate a 'salt free' process utilising dross press technology".

Salt is used in the scrap aluminium smelting process to maximise aluminium recovery. This waste cannot currently be used and is generally landfilled. The dross presses, costing \$1 million apiece,



Sims GM Doug McLean (L), Gavin Jennings and the EPA's John Merritt.

remove the need for salt.

"This means the leftover fines will no longer be contaminated with salt and can be subsequently recycled," McLean said.

"We've tailored the equipment to suit our specific needs and, as a result, can guarantee diversion of 1,800 tonnes of salt, and eventually an additional 12,000 tonnes of aluminium fines, from going to landfill per annum."

EMN.net.au search: Sims

: INFRASTRUCTURE

AGIC launches Knowledge Hub

The Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) has launch its Knowledge Hub, a free online resource focused on sustainability in the infrastructure sector.

AGIC chair David Hood said the new hub would provide a focal point for the latest developments in infrastructure sustainability. It includes a resource library of best-practice

case studies, discussion papers, reports, tools and checklists, and education information. It will also in time include an online discussion and wiki forum.

Tenix group sustainability manager Matthew Brennan, who led development of Knowledge Hub, launched the site at AGIC's annual conference.

EMN.net.au search: AGIC