

Tuesday 7 December 2004

SUBSIDIES TO GREEN FESTIVAL STATE

Organisers of the more than 600 sporting events, concerts, fetes, fairs and conferences held in South Australia each year will be urged to reduce plastic waste at their event – with a financial incentive from the State Government.

Through Zero Waste SA, the Government is offering a 50 per cent subsidy for any extra cost involved in organising a waste free event.

Environment and Conservation Minister John Hill says the scheme will help event organisers to reduce the environmental impact of public events by becoming a ‘Zero Waste Event’.

“South Australia is the Festival State. We hold hundreds of different events every year,” Minister Hill said.

“These events generate thousands of tonnes of waste, such as empty bottles, used paper plates, plastic cutlery and glasses, packaging, unwanted food and drink, waste water, cartons and plastic bags.

“A 50 percent subsidy of any extra cost involved in running a Zero Waste Event will provide an incentive for event managers to increase recycling and reduce waste at public events.”

Minister Hill said the strategy was a key part of the goal to reduce waste going to landfill by 25 per cent within a decade – and the ultimate aim of Zero Waste SA.

The scheme has already attracted interest from organisers of popular events such as WOMADelaide, Unley Council's King William Road Street Party, Campbelltown Council's Proud Day and Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Council's Parade Food, Wine & Music Festival.

A recycling trial at WOMADelaide in 2001 resulted in the event recycling 13,340kg (more than 13 tonnes) of waste over three days. With only 3,500kg of waste being disposed to landfill this equated to a 79% diversion rate.

Guidelines are available for event organisers which provide practical information on how to minimise waste before, during and after the event. Free signage such as banners, bin labels and caps are also available for event managers.

Applications for the subsidy are open until Friday 25 February 2005.

The subsidy guidelines and online application forms are at the Zero Waste SA website:
www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au