
Wednesday 28 September 2005

GREENING THE FESTIVAL STATE

Event organisers in South Australia are being offered subsidies by the State Government to “go green” and reduce waste from their festivals, concerts, sporting events, conferences, fairs and fetes.

Environment and Conservation Minister John Hill says the Government’s recycling body, Zero Waste SA, will provide up to 50 per cent of the extra cost in making an event “waste free”.

“We are now coming up to the peak season over summer, Christmas and the New Year, for festivals, events, fairs and fetes,” Minister Hill said.

“And we are the Festival State - there are on average 10 public events each week throughout South Australia - festivals, concerts, sporting events, conferences, fairs and fetes.

“These events generate a whole range of waste – lots of plastic cups, paper plates, plastic cutlery, serviettes – the list goes on.

“I want to urge people organising these events to think about it being a “Zero Waste event”.

“This subsidy will provide an incentive to increase recycling and reduce waste at these events.”

Minister Hill said WOMADelaide 2005 was a major South Australian Zero Waste Event, where almost 70% of the waste produced was recycled.

“About seven tonnes of food scraps plates, beer cups and other paper collected in biodegradable bins at WOMADelaide in March this year has been transformed into 24 tonnes of valuable compost which is being used to enrich the soil at Adelaide Botanic Gardens and Botanic Park,” he said.

A total of 17,332 kg of material was recycled from six zero waste events in 2004/2005: St Peters’ Harvest Fair, Parade Wine & Food Festival, Unley Way to Go Fair, King William Road Street Party, Campbelltown Proud Day and WOMADelaide.

Zero Waste events guidelines, application forms and case studies are available at www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au. Hard copy versions of the guidelines can also be obtained by contacting Zero Waste SA.

Applications are now being called for the 2005/2006 round of funding for Zero Waste SA’s Events subsidy scheme.

Applications close on 5pm, Friday 18 November 2005.