



MEDIA RELEASE

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SSROC USHERS IN A NEW RESOURCE RECOVERY ERA WITH ZERO WASTE NETWORK-SYDNEY

A multi-stakeholder approach to growing the re-use, repair and recycling sector in greater Sydney.

November, Sydney, Australia: Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), in collaboration with the Community Recycling Network Australia (CRNA), are pleased to advise the official launch of the Zero Waste Network Sydney this coming Wednesday. The Network will create jobs and provide alternatives to landfill, retaining the value of scarce materials.

ABC television and radio presenter James O’Loghlin will launch the Network as event MC.

The launch will take place Wednesday 22 November 2017, from 5-7p.m. at Australia Technology Park Blacksmith’s Workshop, Locomotive Street, Eveleigh.

The launch also includes special guest speakers Liesbeth De Shamphalaere, from KOMOSIE Federation (Belgium) and Matthew Luxon, Director Envision New Zealand.

Last year community reuse and recycling businesses established nearly 300 jobs and diverted approximately 30,000 tonnes of waste items from landfill - roughly the same weight as 74 Sydney train carriages. From the Hunter to Illawarra, and west to the Blue Mountains, the Network is working to boost the operations of these small businesses and reduce the need for landfill.

The need for reuse, repair and repurposing – known as ‘circular economy’ – solutions is growing.

SSROC has projected that the southern Sydney region will grow 28% to 2.18 million by 2036 with a 27% increase of waste generation projected to over 880,000 tonnes per annum – or 17 Sydney Harbour Bridges of waste in 2036.

Bulky household clean-up waste alone was estimated at 57,000 tonnes in 2016 in the SSROC region, which is equivalent to eight ANZAC Bridges.

Councils, residents and the State Government are starting to ask, where will all this waste go?

The Zero Waste Network-Sydney is a member-based network, and provides an effective voice and support for greater Sydney’s community reuse, repair and recycling enterprises.

The Network aims to support local repair and reuse businesses to become successful by reducing barriers to growth, and to provide skills training and mentoring for the sector. The goal is to enable better opportunities for waste avoidance, innovations in resource recovery, and data collection so that community reuse and recycling enterprises can continue to carry out opportunities in waste services across greater Sydney.

SSROC General Manager Namoi Dougall recognises the importance of the opportunity.

“Social and not-for-profit community reuse and recycling businesses do important work in our communities turning unwanted items into valuable goods.” said Ms Dougall.

“We are working together with local government to achieve better resource recovery by enabling the social sector in the waste industry.”

“We are supporting the sector to increase its potential by providing professional training so the sector can engage in advocacy, data gathering and implement quality control methods.”

Community reuse and recycling enterprises are social and not-for-profit companies working to retain value of unwanted materials, save scarce materials, and provide alternatives to landfill.

Within CRNA membership, the biggest concentration of community reuse and recycling enterprises is in the greater Sydney region. By 2020, Zero Waste Network expects the capacity to grow to 100,000 tonnes diverted per annum, and establish up to 1,000 jobs.

The opportunity is a welcome one for Matthew Allen, Convenor of the Zero Waste Network, Sydney. Mr Allen managed a de-construction-for-reuse social enterprise in Tasmania, and was the Director of CRNA for two years.

“Reuse and repair businesses have a long and proud history of partnering with local governments to reduce waste, create sustainable jobs, and provide public education. This initiative gives our sector an opportunity to move to a new stage of development, improving our services and working to scale up some of the most innovative and forward-thinking enterprises in the recycling industry.”

This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less Recycle More initiative, funded by the waste levy.

About Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc.:

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils spanning Sydney’s southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of the Greater Sydney’s population, or 1.7m people.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

As the level of government that is closest to the community, member councils aim to keep the “local” in local government, while fully utilising the benefits of regional cooperation through SSROC.

You can keep up to date with the work we are doing at www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au

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