

Friday, 09 November 2007

Dear Members,

Welcome to WCRAQ.

It is with some trepidation that I take on the role as President as I, like you all, are very busy making sure we stay in business. It is however, this exact reason that I have accepted the position. We are all very busy fighting the day to day battles of running a waste management company, so how could we ever find the time to individually deal with government regulators and influence policy makers that, the decisions of which could possibly have devastating effects on us all.

I'm not meaning to sound dramatic, but decisions can be made by any level of government that could adversely affect our livelihoods down the track, either singularly or as a group. The WCRAQ concept has worked extremely well in southern states and it was time for Queensland to have its own voice. This association has been formed to represent the needs and future of individuals and companies that actually perform the tasks of waste management, not just talk about it. We employ and train the staff, we build and operate the vehicles and infrastructure, and we deal with the real world of waste management on a day to day basis.

This association will be there to assist all members whenever it can. It will provide a united voice to the powers that be to ensure our industry is regulated fairly and sensibly. Rick and myself have already met with the new Environment Minister who gave us a very enthusiastic welcome and is genuinely looking forward to working and consulting with us in the future. He has even taken up our offer to be "inducted" into the industry by visiting various operations and sites around Brisbane to get a feeling for the real coal face of waste management.

During the next twelve months, our executive committee will be conducting forums for the various sub-groups of WCRAQ. (the first being on November the 28<sup>th</sup>) We will use these forums to discuss issues affecting and concerning members. From these we will formulate policies and strategies to address and act on these concerns.

Our executive will be approachable and responsive. We are here for our members and we will work to protect the interests of the industry as a whole and for individuals who may need a louder voice.

Thanks to you all for your support and faith in this fledgling organization. Your presence ensures a strong united voice for the industry, and we will not let you down. I also take this opportunity to thank Rick Ralph and Paul Haslam for their efforts and time in getting WCRAQ off the ground, and look forward to working closely with you all over the coming year.

**Sincerely**

**Phil Richards**  
**President**

#### **FOUNDING EXECUTIVE COMPANIES**

Ipswich Waste Services • JJ Richards & Sons • Kartaway Mini Skips  
Queensland Recycling • Thiess Services • Veolia Environmental Services  
and Visy Recycling