

Landfill tour presents alternatives

Advances in technology should assure good environmental results for a new Armidale Dumaresq landfill facility, according to Armidale Dumaresq councillors and staff, following a tour of sites on the coast.

The fact-finding tour to Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Port Stephens included Deputy Mayor Peter Ducat, Waste Management Chairman Cr Herman Beyersdorf and member of Waste Management Committee Bruce Whan, as well as three senior members of Council staff.

"We came back reassured that Armidale Dumaresq is well ahead of the game with its recycling, separation and recovery of resources," Cr Ducat said.

"It was also clear that waste management technology is improving all the time and that some of the bigger companies are looking at producing technology for smaller scale operations which would suit us."

Each of the centres the group visited had the

same aim, to reduce landfill, cut putrescibles to zero where possible, recycle and compost green waste.

Councillor Beyersdorf stated that while all the Councils visited were significantly larger than Armidale Dumaresq, and were able to adopt a true regional approach, nevertheless it should be possible for ADC to draw on the latest waste technology similar to that inspected, and adapt it to local conditions, especially to our much smaller size.

"If we are to move to a Class 2 Landfill, something which I fully endorse, we need to calculate the true costs both of the current landfill system and alternative waste technology," he said.

"When the community and council have the full costs, then the decision needs to be made as to whether - and how much - we are prepared to invest in moving towards alternative waste technologies which will reduce the need for land-



Cr Peter Ducat, Cr Bruce Whan and Cr Herman Beyersdorf considering waste management alternatives.

fill.

"Where landfill is still required, we would need to ensure that the material deposited there is biologically stabilized."

The tour members found that Grafton had a new conventional landfill on the Armidale

Road, some 9kms from the city, which had been built with a compacted clay base to prevent leachate escape.

Dams above and below the site and diversion drains had been built to protect the landfill area, and the landfill site was well set back and not visible from the

road.

Coffs Harbour had a joint arrangement with surrounding Bellingen and Nambucca Councils to extend the life of its existing landfill through the use of a steam system which separates food waste and ensures that no putrescibles enter the landfill.