

Dumping the past

Council promise a cleaner future

Armidale-Dumaresq Council's Waste Management Committee has responded to environmental concerns regarding landfill sites by voting unanimously to throw its weight behind a move to establish an ecologically friendly landfill site that will receive only waste that will pose no danger to the surrounding environment.

In the wake of angry protests against the possible establishment of a landfill site on the Waterfall Way near the environmentally sensitive Gara River, Mayor Chetwynd and Councillor Herman Beyersdorf were glad to announce the green initiative by Council.

Mayor Chetwynd said that he was glad to see the city move towards establishing a site that would receive only inert waste.

This would entail new technology and techniques to separate putrescibles (vegetable and liquid matter) from waste destined for the tip.

The rotting vegetable matter would be composted.

Cr Chetwynd said

the ultimate aim was to recycle up to 80 per cent of rubbish arriving at the city's Waste Management Centre in Long Swamp Road.

The remaining inert waste with no potential to leach out into the land and water ways would be sent to the landfill site.

"We have decided that there is no point in pursuing out of date methods of waste management when technology is delivering us much better solutions all the time," Cr Chetwynd said.

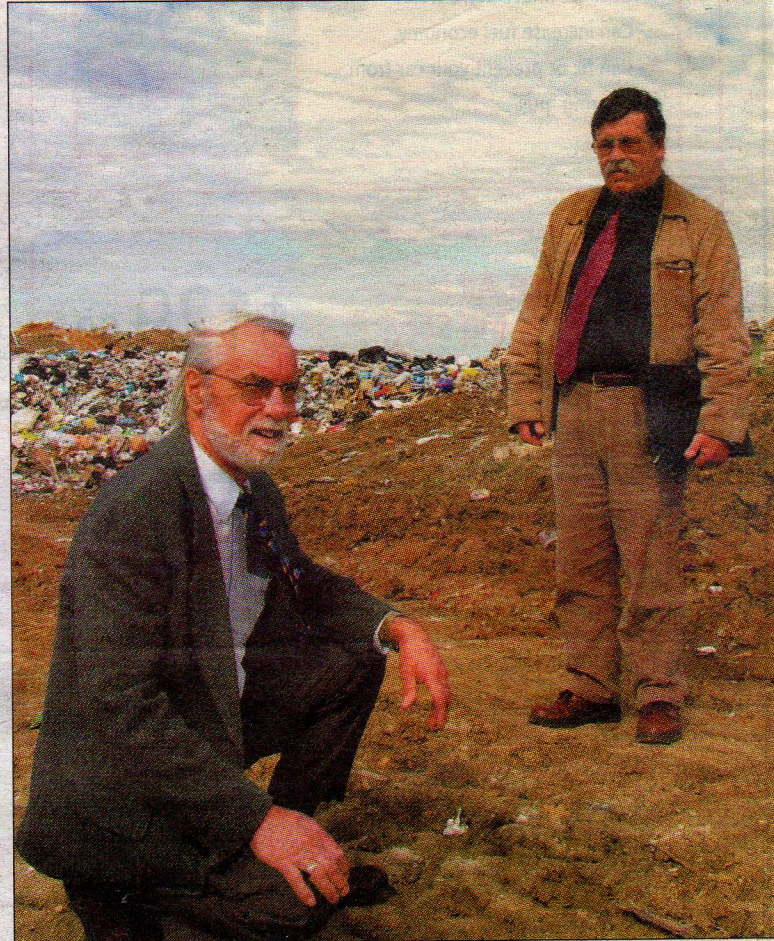
"Of course, there are costs to consider and the new technology is not cheap.

"However, there are economies of scale and a very competitive market with new discoveries and better results being achieved all the time.

"We are looking to develop a program over the next five years.

"The present landfill site has two to three years left in it, so now is the time to do the hardwork.

The committee has approved a fact finding tour of centres that



Must be a better way: Mayor Brian Chetwynd and Councillor Herman Beyersdorf looking towards a new era of waste management

have the leading technology by the Mayor, Deputy Cr Peter Ducat, Chair of the Waste Management Committee Cr Herman Beyersdorf and Com-

mittee member Cr Bruce Whan. "It is a much better option for us to look at current best practice and the approach taken

by local government in other centres before we make any final decisions," Cr Beyersdorf said.

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Hi-tech waste

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"We also need to look at the innovative technology that is now available and use it to tailor our landfill site as far as we can possibly afford to achieve minimal environmental damage.

"As a community we cannot continue the careless and improvident dumping of rubbish practiced in the past.

"It is a new era that is requiring and regulating new levels of responsibility and this decision by the Waste Management Committee is certainly a step in the right direction for Armidale."

Committee member also stressed the importance of a community education campaign to increase the level of recycling and reduce the amount of putrescible waste currently ending up at the Waste Management Centre.