



## THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **New glass crusher “an exciting recycling initiative”**

“This has been an exciting project, and although the work of installing the new glass crusher is complete, I want to follow through to ensure that it succeeds and that other recycling initiatives can be implemented”. These were the words of the successful tenderer and supplier of Norfolk Island’s new glass crushing and recycling equipment, Hadyn Bell of Automotive Service Centre.

Hadyn has worked closely with the American manufacturers and the Australian importer to get the glass crusher up and running at Norfolk Island Waste Management Centre. The glass crusher was built by Glass Aggregate Systems of Minnesota, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of glass aggregation and recycling systems. It was supplied through *Its Green* ([www.itsgreen.com.au](http://www.itsgreen.com.au)), the industry leader in waste management in Australia. The new machinery was tested at Waste Management Centre last week, and is now fully operational.



The new Glass Aggregate Systems crusher at the Waste Management Centre

The glass crusher is a fairly simple but highly effective way of turning waste glass into useful products at a reasonable cost. Glass bottles and jars are fed into a hopper and travel up a conveyor into a breaking unit. The crusher now installed at Waste Management Centre is essentially a standard model, with a modification consisting of a wider conveyor system to minimise the risk of blockages.



Bottles travelling up the conveyor system into the breaking unit

The broken glass falls into a mesh tumbler which rotates on an angle. The glass drops through to a pulverising unit, while the vast majority of bottle tops, jar lids and paper labels are retained in the tumbler and gravity fed into a waste bin. The pulverising unit reduces the glass to a fine end product, some of which is a sand-like powder, with up to two thirds being tiny smooth glass fragments less than 2.5 mm in size.

This product will be used in the first instance as an aerating additive to garden mulch. The sand-like aggregate can be screened from the coarser material to derive a product which may be usable instead of the finite resource of beach sand including possible use in construction, road base and concreting.

The glass crusher can process one tonne of waste glass per hour. This will mean that it will be capable of processing the current rate of glass delivered to the Waste Management Centre in about half a day each week. All crushing processes are completely enclosed as a safety measure, and the crusher can be run safely by a single trained and safety equipped operator.

Funding for the glass crusher was provided by the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage Trust, which has since been wound up by the Australian Government. The Norfolk Island Government will take responsibility for the operation and ongoing maintenance of the equipment.

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare has thanked the Commonwealth for funding the glass crusher. She also acknowledged the hard work of Mr Bell, Rowland & Associates engineer Charlie Gray, and all professional and waste management staff involved in the tendering, installation and operation of the new recycling system.

“This is another step on the way toward reducing our waste stream and recycling discarded materials into useful products”, Mrs Jack said. “I congratulate all involved and now look forward to further innovations in ensuring that we minimise waste and take all possible opportunities to facilitate recycling”.



Final trials of the new glass crusher: left to right George Plant (Administration CEO); André Nobbs (Chief Minister); Charlie Gray (Rowland & Associates); Alan McNeil (Planning Officer); Nicole Diatloff (Environment Officer); Mal Snell (Waste Management Supervisor); Hadyn Bell (Automotive Service Centre)

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