

Bringing resource recovery and recycling to the fore

SEEKING to correct some misinformation circulating in the community about the proposed recycling park at Ebenezer, Wanless CEO Dean Wanless talks about the company's plans.

The official public notification period for this development closed on Friday 5 June 2020, but Wanless welcomes feedback from the community at any time.

Investing in resource recovery and recycling

"Some people in the Ipswich region have referred to Wanless' proposed facility at Ebenezer as a 'dump.' This ignores the fact that the bulk of the investment and employment at the site is in resource recovery and recycling. We have committed to a 45 per cent recycling rate across the site, and we will target waste materials currently sent directly to landfill, recovering resources that are currently buried," Mr Wanless said.

"We see this as just the beginning, and we know, based on a business model tried and tested in other parts of the country, that over time we can build up to diverting up to 80% of waste at full operations. To make this possible at Ebenezer, we will bring in world's best technology and best practice in recovery and recycling, so that we can reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Working with the community

"In 2019, before Wanless lodged its development application with the Ipswich City Council and before it was required to publicly talk about its plans for the Wanless Recycling Park, the company was already sharing information with the community.

"We made our plans available and openly invited the community to connect with us if they had any questions or concerns. We spent time listening to local people at community information sessions and resident group meetings and over the phone and email before submitting our development application. Based on the community and Council feedback, we have made changes to the design of the site, site access and the proportions and types of material we'll accept.

"Unfortunately, with COVID-19 restrictions, Wanless couldn't hold information sessions in the community during the current public notification period, but again we have openly asked the community for feedback.

"We're a family-owned business from this region, and we've put to our name to this facility because we believe it is the way forward in waste management.

"We know how important it is to keep the locals up to date and we're working to minimise the impacts on residents and neighbouring businesses.

Job opportunities for local people

"Our vision is to transform this degraded site at Ebenezer into a productive precinct that generates employment and training opportunities for local people. We want to maximise the local economic benefits so that this recycling park has a flow-on effect for local businesses and becomes an innovative resource recovery hub that will continue to evolve as new technologies emerge."



Wanless boss Dean Wanless (above with his father Ron Wanless) oversees recycling of metal and electronic equipment waste. Picture: Mark Cranitch

"Resource recovery and recycling require more investment and employ more people than landfill. They involve physical processes like sorting and the operation of machinery to separate, screen and classify waste, for example. New technologies and practices also create the need for additional training. This industry is evolving fast, and we want to make sure the Ipswich region has an opportunity to lead the way.

Using old mining voids

"We know the Ebenezer site has been disturbed by historical coal mining activities and includes three retained voids. Wanless has accelerated the remediation works for the old mine site.

"We have also undertaken what has been described by experts as the most detailed and extensive investigation for a project of this type in Australia's history.

"As part of the existing Environmental Authority across the site for the mining operation, there are limited rehabilitation requirements. As part of our development application, we propose to refill and rehabilitate the mining voids.

"The team have also identified koalas on site, and we've made sure our proposed design avoids disturbance to their habitat," Mr Wanless said.

Additional information about Wanless Management Company

Wanless is an Australian family-owned and operated company. It is not a subsidiary

of any other company. Long before recycling was a priority, Wanless understood its value. From automotive and metal recycling in the late 1950s in the Ipswich and western Brisbane regions, the company has grown to be a leader in its field. Today, it uses its vast experience in resource recovery to fight the war on waste by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. As well as providing solutions for industry, Wanless invests in education and engagement to promote a positive recycling

culture.

In 2007, Wanless built its first fully integrated recycling park in Sydney, New South Wales. Bringing all of its disciplines together, Wanless has created an innovative precinct, Sydney Recycling Park.

With resource recovery and re-use at the forefront of its operations up to 80% of the waste received at Sydney Recycling Park is diverted from landfill.

For more, visit www.wanless.com.au



The Sydney Recycling Park, where Wanless remediated an old industrial site and transformed it into an innovative resource recovery and recycling hub. Picture: Contributed

LET'S MAKE THE SWITCH TO BETTER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

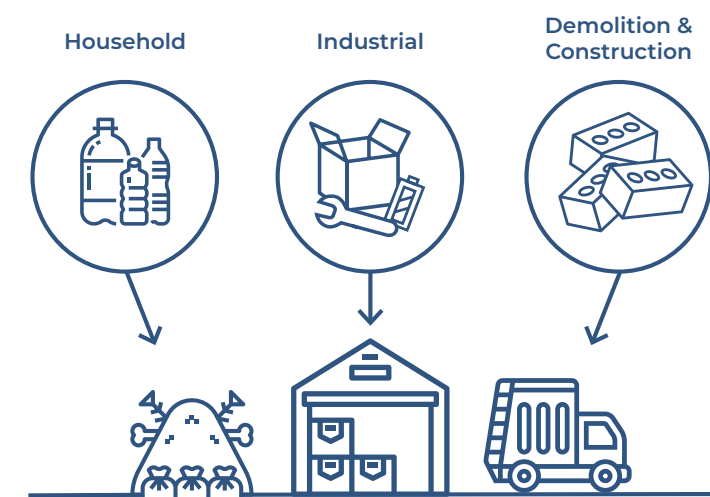


Wanless is proposing a new resource recovery and recycling development at Ebenezer, about 12 km southwest of the Ipswich CBD.

Our long-term vision is to transform a degraded, former mining site into a productive precinct, generating hundreds of jobs for the local Ipswich community. This is a model Wanless has successfully developed at Sydney Recycling Park, where up to 80% of waste is now diverted from landfill.

The facility will take waste material and redirect it to alternative use, where possible. Any residual waste will be disposed of through landfilling in the existing mine voids on site.

WRP will manage three types of waste



Waste is sorted into:

- soils • concrete and brick • timber • metals • plastics
- plasterboard • paper and cardboard • food and organics
- as well as many other recyclable materials, which will be sent to specialist recyclers for further processing. These specialist recyclers may be residents on site in the future.

What's next?

Wanless has lodged a development application with the Ipswich City Council for the Wanless Recycling Park. Before lodgement, Wanless shared its plans with the community and listened to its feedback and concerns, adjusting the design to minimise impacts on the environment and residents. During the public notification period, the community was also invited to formally submit its feedback to the Council. Next, the Council will review this feedback and may request further information if required.

We welcome your feedback.

Please email WRPenquiries@recyclingparks.com.au or visit www.wanless.com.au for more information.

What will happen on site?

Waste is sorted by physical processes only and will not involve any chemical processing. They will include manual sorting, hand picking, magnetic separation, screening, air separation and classification, crushing and shredding, baling and wrapping.

