



# Media release

The Place To Be

From the Minister for the Commonwealth Games

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Thursday, May 26, 2005

## **SCHOOLS TO HELP VICTORIA BECOME 'WASTE WISE'**

The Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, today invited Victorian schools to take up the waste wise challenge in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games.

"The Commonwealth Games will be waterwise, carbon neutral and promote low waste," Mr Madden said.

"We want young people to lead the way, to educate and inspire their communities on how to minimise waste."

Mr Madden launched the Commonwealth Games Waste Wise and Sustainable Schools Awards that will grant two Victorian schools \$1000 for highlighting ways to reduce packaging, reuse materials and promote recycling.

"A school Waste Wise Event could be a sports day, fete or festival," Mr Madden said.

"We encourage students to promote the waste wise message within their own school and also to other schools and the wider community."

The Waste Wise Awards are part of a range of initiatives designed to minimise waste at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and encourage Victorians to change their waste habits.

Mr Madden said barges sweeping the Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers were part of the Commonwealth Games 'low waste' environmental program.

"By the end of this week the river barges will have removed 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of litter – enough to fill 4,000 wheelie bins," Mr Madden said.

Other initiatives in the strategy include:

- Reusing or recycling a target of 95% of construction and demolition waste from infrastructure projects such as the MCG redevelopment and the Athletes Village;
- a recycling system at Commonwealth Games venues to divert waste away from landfill;
- public litter clean-up days and an anti-litter campaign will be held leading up to the Games;
- Games suppliers will be encouraged to use packaging that is reusable or recyclable; and
- classroom resources will be developed to educate school students on environmental issues and sustainable behaviour.

EcoRecycle Victoria is partnering with the Bracks Government to deliver components of the 'low waste' strategy. Schools interested in finding out more about the Commonwealth Games Waste Wise and Sustainable Schools Awards should contact EcoRecycle at <http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au>.

**Media contact: Brent Hooley 9651 5799 or 0407 138 680 [www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)**

For more information on the Commonwealth Games Environment Program visit  
[http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth\\_games](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games).

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