



MEDIA RELEASE

New Waste Management App supports the work of Regional Council staff

Aboriginal Field Officers from Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional Councils now have access to a Waste Management App specifically designed to help them manage remote landfills.

The App utilizes a graphic tablet interface and intuitive touch screen actions that enable a range of factors relating to the landfill condition to be assessed and a photo taken of each in order to track the status of the landfills week by week. The landfill report is generated automatically, and can be uploaded immediately using either a 3G or WiFi connection to a designated cloud storage location. The report can then be accessed and analyzed remotely to trigger appropriate management and remedial actions.

The design enables employees to complete core work tasks with much less paper work and much less emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills. Its use will enable the two Regional Councils to improve landfill audit processes and resource effective waste management strategies in remote areas.

The App was field-tested at the Yuendumu landfill by Field Officers, their supervisors and Regional Council staff to ensure functionality and ease of use. Many Field Officers are well versed in using smart phone and tablet devices and incorporating these skills into daily work tasks through use of the App enhances their capacity to do their jobs well.

CAT Project Manager Andrew Crouch said “We took care in developing the App to maximize the use of images to represent various landfill conditions, and to minimize the need for text to be either displayed or entered by the operator. All of these images are complemented by audio descriptions, which can be selected at the press of an on-screen button. After a few minutes of introduction at the field trial, Aboriginal field staff took to the App very quickly and clearly enjoyed using it.”

The Regional Councils initiated a partnership with the Centre for Appropriate Technology to develop the App. “For us, the benefit has been proving that our staff, who have limited English literacy and numeracy skills, are willing to use such an App for reporting purposes. It opens the possibility for other Apps to be developed for other areas of our operation” said Glenn Marshal, Director Works at CDRC.

The App has been developed by the Centre for Appropriate Technology and App programmer Spinifex Valley in close cooperation with the Central Australian Regional Waste Management Program and with financial support from the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority.

More information

Andrew Crouch (CAT) 08 8959 6144; Glenn Marshall (CDRC) 08 8958 9250

Media Contact

Metta Young 0404 467 814