



MEDIA RELEASE

\$1m funding boost to establish Warra-Li E-Waste recycling facility in Inverell

22 Apr 2016

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Member for New England Barnaby Joyce has congratulated Warra-li's Northern Region E-Waste Recycling Facility and Aboriginal Employment Initiative on receiving \$1,026,273 in funding from the Federal Government.

Mr Joyce said the funding would help to establish a Regional E-Waste Recycling Facility and Buy Back Centre in Inverell that will partner with eight local governments in the New England and North West, including Inverell, Narrabri, Moree, Gwydir, Tenterfield, Guyra, Glen Innes and Walcha.

Mr Joyce said he'd had several meetings with the Warra-li team in Tamworth, Inverell and Canberra and had been talking with Minister Scullion about this proposal for some time.

"I am pleased that Minister Scullion has taken my advice to support the local region and Warra-li with this significant grant to get the E-Waste Recycling Facility running," Mr Joyce said.

"This builds on the positive investment this Government has provided Warra-li over the past 12 months.

"Supporting adults into work is one of this Government's key priorities in Indigenous Affairs. That is why we have increased the investment it provides to small and medium Indigenous enterprises, particularly in regional and remote areas where our investment can deliver big results.

"Indigenous enterprises are more likely to support Indigenous employment and I look forward to seeing the Indigenous employment outcomes that Warra-li can deliver with this funding.

The project has been conceived and developed by Warra-li Resource Unit, an initiative of the Warra-li social enterprise. Warra-Li manager, Craig Cox said other key personnel included Warra-li project officer, Niel Barry and NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) Northern Region Councillor, Charles Lynch.

Mr Cox said the project is expected to deliver six full-time Aboriginal positions from its establishment including two senior staff and four trainees.

Principal Office - Tamworth

All Mail: PO Box 963, Tamworth NSW 2340
Shop 5, 259 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340
ph 02 6761 3080 **toll free** 1300 301 839
fax 02 6761 3380

Tenterfield Office

255 Rouse Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372
ph 02 6736 1099 **fax** 02 6736 1433





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He said Warra-li was budgeting on bringing 20 Aboriginal people into employment in the wider community within year one of operation.

Mr Cox said the organisation will utilise the Federal Government's VTEC program and the facility will be a "work-for-the-dole" site in partnership with its jobactive partner, Jobs Australia Enterprises Ltd.

The Warra-li proposal will provide a sustainable solution that is forecast to remove 150 tonnes of E-Waste in year one of operation and will provide a solution for E-Waste disposal for Government and private sector organisations with many already on-board to participate.

Mr Cox said the Inverell Shire Council will provide significant support to Warra-li as the host Council and site.

The E-Waste project will provide training and workplace skilling for up to 15 Aboriginal jobseekers on any day of operation with training provided in WHS white card, forklift ticketing, first aid certificate, as well as a warehousing and storage certificate.

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