

Thursday, June 2

Veolia Environnement launches Australia's first multi-sector sustainable development report

Veolia Environnement (VE), represented in Australia and New Zealand by Veolia Water, Collex-Onyx and Connex, has taken a proactive step in its journey towards sustainability by producing the region's first environmental services sustainable development report, covering the water, waste management and transport sectors.

The *VE Sustainable Development Report 2004 – Australia and New Zealand* outlines environmental, economic and social sustainability benchmarks for its three operating divisions and was launched at this year's Banksia Awards on Saturday 4 June, the eve of World Environment Day.

"As an environmental services player, we are particularly responsible for taking care of the environment," said Mr Doug Dean, Collex-Onyx Managing Director.

"At the same time, we need to operate a profitable and viable business, in a very competitive market. The right balance is crucial."

"This inaugural report demonstrates that the VE businesses, in Australia and New Zealand, have made many inroads in becoming a more responsible corporate citizen," he said.

The report has identified key challenges for the company including controlling industrial water consumption, increasing the proportion of agricultural recycling of waste, controlling pollutant emissions, and increasing the percentage of renewable energies in global production. It also features success stories from the company's three divisions.

Collex-Onyx's main approach has been to grow its capabilities in resource recovery and develop and enhance skills/technologies in effective and safe disposal systems. Its resource recovery activities include developing material recovery facilities (paper, glass, plastics, metals), composting, construction waste recycling, advanced plastic recycling and energy recovery.

At Veolia Water, managing existing resources more efficiently and identifying new water sources to protect and sustain the environment are the company's core business strengths. It is setting industry standards through innovative wastewater reuse projects, efforts in combating the wastage of resources by improving the efficiency of water distribution networks, and ground-breaking research and development projects, such as aquifer storage and recovery.

Connex has become an industry leader in providing customer information using SMS technology. The company has also focused resources on building strong relationships with stakeholders and with the various communities in which it operates. For Connex, the biggest challenge in the public transport sector is the car culture – attracting commuters out of their cars and onto more sustainable forms of transport. Connex is addressing this area by providing a more accessible and reliable service – the most important factor in attracting passengers.

"Sustainable development is not just a corporate parlance at Veolia Environnement in Australia and New Zealand, it is a core component of our business," said Mr Dean.

"We are strongly committed to the establishment of a sustainable future for generations to come."

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