

Media Release



17 July 2000

OLYMPIC CUTLERY FEEDS GARDENS OF THE FUTURE

Cutlery, plates and bags will feed the gardens of the future in an innovative Sydney 2000 waste recycling project.

The project, one of the largest for a single event in the world, will see foodware and food waste at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games converted into compost, and sold through gardening outlets or used to restore degraded land.

The aim is to recycle up to 80% of waste at Games venues. To ensure this process, plates, cutlery and bin liners supplied to Games venues will be biodegradable. Sydney 2000 provider Visy is supplying cutlery made from corn starch and plates made from sugar cane fibre. Cleanevent is supplying rubbish bin liners made from corn starch.

The total amount of waste produced over the 60 days of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is estimated to total 10,000 tonnes. This is enough to fill 11 Olympic-size swimming pools. Of this, 4000-5000 tonnes of food waste, cutlery and paper packaging is planned to be composted at the Waste Service NSW depot at Eastern Creek in Sydney's west. Over 12-14 weeks, the compost will be screened to extract any contaminants and then mixed with other garden waste and allowed to breakdown into soil-enriching compost. The end product is then packaged and then sold for gardening and landscaping, or used in bulk as a soil conditioner.

Sydney 2000 is committed to controlling the materials accepted at Olympic venues; thereby controlling what ends up in waste streams. Every effort is made to recycle. Significantly, all plastic cups and food containers at the Games will be made of recyclable PET plastic.

This 'closed loop' approach to waste management will see colour-coded recycling bins located throughout Games venues. The public and athletes will be encouraged to place food and paper in the maroon-coloured compost bins - and plastic, glass and aluminium in the yellow recycling bins. Caterers and suppliers will follow a similar system, but with more targeted bins for larger waste products such as cardboard boxes.

The project's key stakeholders - Sydney 2000; Olympic waste sponsors Visy, Cleanevent, Pacific Waste Management and Waste Service (NSW); composters Australian Native Landscapes and catering suppliers as well as NSW's peak environment groups including Green Games Watch and the Beverage Industry Environment Council - are working together toward the goal of closed loop recycling at public events in NSW.

The Olympic Games project will serve as an excellent example for the public, local councils and industry of how even the largest public events can manage their waste in an environmentally friendly manner. A web demonstration of the recycling process designed for schools is available at www.olympics.com/eng/kids/greenzone from July 17.

Media contact: Steven Andrew at Sydney 2000, contact 02 9297 2111 or 0417 665 649.

15 August 2000

Mr Steven Andrew
C/- Olympic Co-ordination Authority
Director-General's Unit

Dear Mr Andrew

As Games time approaches, the focus of all those responsible, in whatever capacity, for Olympics' planning and delivery is firmly on the task at hand.

OCA employees and contractors are to be congratulated on their significant contribution to the variety of tasks assigned over the past years. Effective preparations for the Games could not be achieved without the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment of so many people.

The tasks you have been undertaking on behalf of OCA in a temporary capacity will be completed over the next months. While I am aware that your commitment to OCA and the Games will occupy your time and attention over this time, I consider it important that you receive early confirmation of the date on which your engagement with OCA will cease. In your case, the date is 30 November 2000.

I thank you for your contribution to the fulfilment of OCA's objectives over the period of your engagement.

The time ahead holds enormous challenges for all of us and I look forward to working with you to achieve a highly successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Yours sincerely



David Richmond
Director General

memo



DATE 30 September 2000
TO ALL OCC STAFF
C.C.
FROM Steve Brien
SUBJECT Thank You !

SYDNEY ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES
COMITE D'ORGANISATION DES JEUX OLYMPIQUES DE SYDNEY
SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC HEADQUARTERS
235 JONES STREET ULTIMO 2007 NSW AUSTRALIA
MAIL LA POSTE GPO BOX 2000 SYDNEY NSW 2001 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE TELEPHONE 61 2 9297 2000
FACSIMILE TELECOPIE 61 2
DIRECT TELEPHONE LIGNE DIRECTE 61 2

The fact that the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games has gone smoothly ... from a public perception ... is due to a number of factors.

A major influence, in my opinion, has been the outstanding work done by all staff within the Olympic Communications Centre both in the lead-up to the Games and over the past few weeks of what at times has been frantic activity.

I know it hasn't been easy. Everyone has learned to make instant decisions, to back their own judgements and to put their professionalism to the fore. The enormous amount of work accomplished in the planning and cluster stages ensured that our target audiences were always well equipped with the right messages.

In a sense, the difficulties and magnitude of working on an Olympic Games is the reason why each and every one of you was chosen for this demanding task. You have all shone and delivered far beyond what could reasonably be expected of you.

On a personal basis, I applaud your achievements. I am sure your work here at the OCC will stand you in good stead for any future tasks you may care to accept, and I once again thank you for your dedication and professionalism.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Brien
Director
Olympic Communications Centre

ENVIRONMENT INFO SHEET



Key initiatives

COMMITMENTS

Sydney is the first host city to include a comprehensive commitment to the environment as part of its bid to host an Olympic Games. The Environmental Guidelines for the Summer Olympic Games contain more than 100 commitments based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Environmental considerations are integrated into all aspects of planning and staging of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, including design, construction and operation of venues, remediation, transport, catering and waste management. Five key performance areas are addressed: energy conservation; water conservation; waste avoidance and minimisation; pollution avoidance and protection of significant natural and cultural environments. The Olympic Movement has officially made the environment the "third pillar of Olympism"

What are some of the key environmental initiatives at the Sydney 2000 Olympics?

- **Energy.** The Olympic Village at Newington is one of the world's largest solar-powered suburbs, with photovoltaic solar energy panels fitted to 665 permanent houses. The Sydney Superdome, home to the Olympic gymnastics and basketball, features one of Australia's single largest photovoltaic solar energy systems. The Novotel Hotel at Olympic Park has the largest solar hot water system in the southern hemisphere. The 19 lighting towers that light up the main Olympic Boulevard at Olympic Park are powered by photovoltaic solar cells. A total of 400 solar-assisted electric carts will help transport athletes, media, police, equipment and sponsors within Olympic venues and precincts
- **Waste management.** The Sydney 2000 integrated waste management solution aims to compost or recycle up to 80% of waste generated during the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To ensure this process, all plates, cutlery, bin liners and bags at the Games will be biodegradable. The public will be encouraged to take personal responsibility at the Games by placing food and paper in maroon-coloured compost bins - and plastic, glass and aluminium in yellow recycling bins. Caterers and suppliers will follow a similar system, but with more targeted bins. Some organic waste will be eaten by worms in farms at the Main Press Centre, the International Broadcast Centre, the Novotel Hotel at Olympic Park and Sydney 2000 Headquarters.
- **Olympic Landcare.** More than 2 million trees will be planted throughout Australia between 1998 and the close of 2000 in Australia's largest community landcare project involving tens of thousands of Australians and hundred of Olympians. The project will leave a legacy of regenerated land and improved water quality in 500 sites throughout Australia.

- **Transport.** Sydney 2000's transport policies will minimise car use by having all spectators travelling by public transport. This will significantly reduce potential pollution levels and reduce

emissions of greenhouse gases. The Games ticketing system has been designed so that with the purchase of a ticket to an event, the ticket-holder also receives free transport on Olympic routes for the entire day. Buses fueled by natural gas will be used in the Olympic Village; other buses will be fueled by low emission, low sulphur diesel.

- **Land remediation.** An extensive remediation program has been undertaken in the 450 hectare Millennium Parklands, which surrounds the main Olympic Park. The site was used as a rubbish dump in the 1970s. The remediation program saw the treatment of nine million cubic metres of industrial waste; enhancement of wetlands, and planting of hundred of thousands of native shrubs, trees and grasses. An area previously lost to the community is now used for recreation and conservation. After the Olympic and Paralympic Games, monitoring and management of remediated lands will continue. Computer-mapping and monitoring techniques are the main features.
- **Biodiversity.** Sydney 2000 was awarded Australia's leading environment award this year for its program to save a colony of endangered Green and Golden Bell Frogs at Olympic Park.
- **Water recycling.** The Water Reclamation and Management Scheme (WRAMS) at Homebush Bay will reduce by 50% the site's demand for water from Sydney's water supply. Recycled water will be used for irrigation and toilet flushing.
- **Design.** Life cycle analysis of construction materials was undertaken at Olympic Games sites. New techniques reduced demolition and construction waste by 95%, with significant cost savings. Use of PVC was minimised. Solar power and water recycling facilities were installed in many of the venues. Much of the temporary furniture, including desks, bookshelves and tables, at the Games is made from cardboard and will be recycled after the Games. Olympic licensees are producing merchandise made of alternative materials (cases for the Olympic coin collection being made from polypropylene rather than PVC).
- **Torch design.** The innovative techniques developed by the University of Adelaide and Fuel Combustion Technology enables gas vapour pressure to remain relatively constant throughout the burning cycle, resulting in high luminosity from the least amount of gas, compared to any previous Olympic Torch.

Media inquiries may be directed to Sydney 2000 Communications Manager, Environment Michael Bland on 0408 947 545 or Sydney 2000 Media Adviser, Environment Steven Andrew on 0417 665 649.