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New recycling era

Processing plant promises to be market leader



Queensland Recycling Technologies directors Ed Bull and Todd Pepper are investing more than \$30m to build a processing plant at Pinkenba.

TECHNOLOGY CHRIS HERDE

A NEW venture aims to leverage off an era of transition in the recycling industry with a state-of-the-art recycling and resource receiving processing plant in Brisbane's northeastern suburbs.

Queensland Recycling Technologies (QRT) – a joint venture between Alceon Qld and Brisbane Recycling Consortium – has acquired the recycling components of a private recycling business based at Pinkenba.

The deal also includes

their commercial waste recycling transfer stations at Pinkenba (12ha) and a river sand quarry (25ha) at Waterford south of Brisbane.

Industry sources say the \$60m-plus deal was with Byrne Resources Group, a family-owned and run recycling and resource business which has been operating since 1996 primarily focused on construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

QRT is headed up by Alceon Qld's Todd Pepper and BRC's Ed Bull, both experienced property and investment operators.

Mr Pepper said QRT

would spend more than \$30m on the new processing plant at Pinkenba to transform it into a market leader in the recovery of C&D waste that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

"We have already started the design and development of a new waste material recycling recovery facility which will take the recovery of demolition and construction material from 70 to 75 per cent to in excess of 95 per cent, possibly 99 per cent at some stage in the future," he said.

"This will also improve the quality of recovered products

for re-sale, and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill."

Mr Pepper and Mr Bull have rebranded the new business RINO and it will be based at 45 Eagle Farm Rd, Pinkenba.

In the past, without the intervention of subsidies, the cost of collecting and sorting recyclable waste in Australia has been significantly higher than sending it to landfill.

However, since July 1 Queensland has introduced a waste levy of \$85 per tonne which will increase by \$5 every year. Mr Bull said the industry was in transition.

"The introduction of the Queensland landfill levy, improved recycling processing technologies and a genuine need for sustainable options in this industry has already increased competitiveness of recycling for waste disposal," he said.

"With a 25-year and almost \$65bn pipeline of infrastructure development planned for Brisbane, including major works such as Queen's Wharf, Cross River Rail, Brisbane Metro, Brisbane Live and more, the demand for considered, cost effective C&D waste is only set to rise."

Firms rent out parking spaces to offset costs

TRENDS
CHRIS HERDE

WITH office workers opting to work from home, Queensland businesses have turned to an online platform to rent out their empty vehicle berths, potentially adding thousands of dollars a month to their Covid-19 hit bottom line.

Parkhound, a marketplace that helps people find places to park their car or store their vehicles, has seen unprecedented growth during the Covid-19 pandemic as more Australians work from home, while at the same time workers avoid public transport.

Parkhound chief executive Michael Rosenbaum said in Brisbane during August there were more than 200 new commercial partner spaces added to the platform and in the same month a 110 per cent increase in bookings, compared to last year.

The platform has seen a 30 per cent increase in the number of listings created since June.

The spike in rentals has also been mirrored in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as other cities across the country.

Mr Rosenbaum said much of the interest in the platform had been from CBD commercial businesses needing to offset some of their operating costs.

"Businesses operating in the city centres have been slammed – a lot are looking at what they can do to cut back on some of their costs," he said.

"An extra \$5000 or \$10,000 a month can make a big difference."

Parkhound is owned by self-storage company Spacer.