



### News and Current Activities

Australian food and beverage companies, NPC signatories and government agencies are partnering with the Sustainable Packaging Alliance (SPA) in a project to develop a prototype rapid packaging environmental impact assessment tool, PIQET<sup>®</sup>.

The Packaging Impact Quick Evaluation Tool prototype project will establish the methodology to convert complex life cycle assessments (LCA), environmental data and packaging waste management and recycling data into a business tool. By using the tool companies will be able to evaluate packaging from raw material extraction, packaging manufacture, filling and product/package distribution through to packaging disposal, re-use and material reclamation. The tool will report against a range of environmental indicators including depletion of non-renewable resources, generation of greenhouse gases, energy use, landfill and litter, the National Packaging Covenant (NPC) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the Environmental Code of Practice for Packaging (ECoPP).

The use of PIQET<sup>®</sup> will demonstrate to company stakeholders such as customers, suppliers, shareholders and government, a continuous improvement approach to packaging sustainability. PIQET<sup>®</sup> will inform NPC Action Plans and assist in the reporting of specific NPC Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including:

- setting individual NPC targets (KPI 29);
- demonstrating the systematic application of the Environmental Code of Practice for Packaging (KPI 22) which will be embedded within the tool; and
- providing a scientific basis for supporting and quantifying changes in packaging (KPI 4) and or demonstrating and quantifying improvements in packaging (KPI 3).

### Successful grant funding

In April 2006 we were successful in receiving two Federal government funding grants:

- The Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts as part of their Information Technology Online Program (ITOL) [http://www.dcita.gov.au/ie/ITOL/previous\\_itol\\_rounds/round\\_14](http://www.dcita.gov.au/ie/ITOL/previous_itol_rounds/round_14)
- Department of Environment and Heritage

The above adds to investment in PIQET's development from Sustainability Victoria, Simplot Australia, Masterfoods Australia New Zealand, Cadbury Schweppes, Nestle Australia and Lion Nathan.

### Excel prototype tool development

Research is progressing well with the development and completion of the Excel prototype tool version of PIQET. The structure of the tool, input, embedded and output data and their relationships and the interface for the tool is being established. This version of the tool will be completed by September 2006.

### Case study data collection

Each of the company sponsors is finalising data collection with respect to their nominated case studies which will model an existing SKU packaging system and alternative packaging formats. These will be entered into the Excel version of the tool and reports prepared. An example of what data is being collected is presented below.

Packaging components, materials, and quantities	Recycled content of materials	Number of detachable components in retail unit	Transport modes and distances for packaging components and filled product packaging system	Percentage of retail units sold through grocery and impulse channels	End of life waste management of packaging components
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### Want to know more?

If you would like to have a presentation made to your group on PIQET please contact Robert Jordan, PIQET Business Development Manager on p: 03-9681 8199 or [robert@birubi.com.au](mailto:robert@birubi.com.au)