



NEWS LEADER

All power to green businesses

ENERGY OUTPUT

By **Jodie Davies**

REDUCING power consumption and implementing environmentally-efficient practices are important to 15 businesses across the New England North West.

They've gone beyond Earth Hour in March and intend to never give up on their mission to reduce their carbon footprint.

With the help of the Northern Inland Sustainable Business Network (NISBN), the businesses are in the process of developing long-term solutions as part of the sustainability advantage program, which has been made available by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW.

For Tamex Transport Services in Tamworth, its goal is to reduce both water and energy consumption and improve waste management.

In February, the company adopted a new recycling program for cardboard, foam, glass, plastic and shrink wrap.

It is also trialling new LED lighting.

Operations manager Brendan Rixon said Tamex Transport Services was passionate about a number of green initiatives.

"We're also looking at purchasing vehicles with the latest environment compliancy to reduce our energy output and to become more fuel-efficient," he said.

"Tamex is also interested in buying land and planting trees. A forestry project or something similar would suit us.

"It's an education process that we've started. We're doing whatever we can to reduce our impact

on the environment.

"We want to be carbon neutral."

Meat production company Bindaree Beef in Inverell has also adopted a green attitude and is most keen to reduce its power bill.

Financial controller Phillip Kelly said more than 600 employees were notified last month and were instructed to be conscious about switching off unnecessary lighting.

"It may seem small but when you have a need for heavy use of electricity and the cost is massive, any small percentage

change in habit can make a big difference," he said.

"This is an ongoing commitment of Bindaree Beef to reduce electricity use and our involvement in the sustainability advantage program will assist in identifying and managing additional energy saving strategies."

NISBN project officer Lauren Zell said the businesses on board were all open to being innovative and positive in making changes for the better.

Among those are recreational businesses Wests Entertainment Group, Tamworth Golf Club and Armidale Bowling Club, food

production companies Bindaree Beef and Grain Products Australia and the local councils of Armidale and Moree Plains.

"Each of our 15 businesses are working on different areas of their sustainability advantage journey, but are doing this in conjunction to supporting their fellow cluster members," she said.

"We are seeing partnerships, synergies and projects beginning to emerge between some of our businesses, and last week we were fortunate enough to have our first group meeting together in Armidale."

BUSINESSES TAKING PART in the sustainability advantage program and their focus:

- **Armidale City Bowling Club** - carbon
- **Armidale Dumaresq Council** - energy
- **Bindaree Beef, Inverell** - energy
- **Forsyths Accounting** - paper and waste
- **Community Mutual Energy** - paper and fuel
- **Grain Products Australia** - water, energy and waste
- **Moree Plains Shire Council** - energy and waste
- **Phoenix Foundry, Uralla** - energy and waste
- **Photo Create** - energy
- **Tamex/RBT** - water, energy and waste
- **Tamworth Golf Club** - water, waste and energy
- **The Ascent Group** - energy and waste
- **Wests Entertainment Group, Tamworth** - energy, water and waste
- **University of New England** - energy, water and waste