

Lifeline means statues won't be lost in waste

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A temporary home has been found for the famous Dublin protest sculptures - creating a lifeline for the ageing statues - but the search goes on for a volunteer group to refurbish them.

One year from when the Plains Producer first reported on the search for a new home for the anti-dump statues, pig farmer Andrew Gosse has put up his hand to temporarily host them at his property between Lower Light and Dublin.

The new location is further north between Long Plains Road, Carslake Road and Port Wakefield Highway. Coalition of Coastal Communities secretary Alvin Jenkin said with the potential help of items on loan from a local earthmoving business, the plan was to relocate the sculptures in the new year.

The statues were created from farming scrap metal in the 1990s to publicly protest against the decision to build the IWS dump. Many tourists stop alongside Port Wakefield Highway to take photos with the cockroach, rat, fly, toilet, spaceship, Ned Kelly and the Environmental, sometimes even jumping the fence to get closer with the sculptures.

Adelaide Plains Council elected member and Coalition of

Coastal Communities chairperson John Lush said a permanent home for the statues would be part of the Dublin Masterplan and Adelaide Plains Tourism and Economic Development Strategy.

"We're looking to develop tourism right along the coast and part of that is developing campgrounds, updating parks and gardens and, of course, the statues that were along Port Wakefield Highway originally created a huge amount of interest right across Australia from tourists," Cr Lush said.

The primary challenge now is to find a community group, volunteers or men's shed to help restore elements of the sculptures that have deteriorated over the past three decades.

The Coalition of Coastal Communities is passionate about preventing them from being discarded as scrap metal.

"Given that they created so much interest when they were first established, we recognise the tourism potential as a bit of a drawcard and an added point of interest to the areas along the coast and it would really be a pity if we didn't capitalise on that interest that they've created and some of them were really good," Mr Lush said.



Coalition of Coastal Communities secretary Alvin Jenkin with Adelaide Plains Councillor John Lush.

Buy a Bale aid program is back again

THE dire flood crisis continuing to grip huge areas of land and communities within South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria has prompted the urgent relaunch of Rural Aid's Buy a Bale rescue campaign in the lead up to Christmas.

Thousands of rural families face a bleak festive season, with recovery from what has been deemed Australia's most expensive flood event hampered by ongoing rain across more than 130 local government areas already declared disaster zones.

Rural Aid has now made an urgent plea for donations through the Buy a Bale program, which first came to prominence when it raised \$100 million for drought-affected farmers between 2015 and 2020.

Rural Aid CEO, John Wartlers, said the scale of this disaster made it necessary to bring Buy a Bale back.

"These floods have had unprecedented impact on rural Australians," Mr Wartlers said. "Families are losing their homes and livelihoods and entire towns are being wiped out. Hay supplies are running out and stranded animals are drowning and starving; crops are rotting in the ground."

Mr Wartlers said it was time to bring Buy a Bale back to not only provide much-needed fodder deliveries, but also to offer financial assistance, clean drinking water, and volunteer and counselling support to Aussie farming families facing this crisis.

With concerns the extent of the disaster has not been fully communicated to policy makers, corporate Australia and the broader community, Mr Wartlers is urging governments and private donors to commit to prioritising the wellbeing of affected communities.

"We're ready to execute an extensive recovery support program based on a tried and tested approach."

Year 12s pitch in with Riverland efforts