

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 126

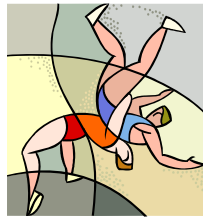
June 2009

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## LANDFILL LEVY GYMNASTICS

In what has been described by some as a 'backflip' the State Government will now not be bringing in the increase in the Landfill Levy until 1 January 2010.



The increase in the Levy will be as currently stated in the Regulations: \$8 / tonne for putrescible and remaining at \$3 / cubic metre for inert.

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill 2009* has been introduced into Parliament.

This Bill, if passed, will mean the Landfill Levy can be used to fund the normal ongoing operations of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The removal of hypothecation of the Levy to waste management activities effectively makes the Levy a tax.

The Environment Minister has also announced an increase in the penalties for littering and created a new offence for illegal dumping.

The Minister indicated a new offence for illegal dumping will be created under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* with fines of up to \$62,500 for an individual or \$125,000 for a body corporate.

While this is welcome, it should be noted that in the last four years the State Government has only prosecuted two people for large scale littering (illegal dumping); only one of these was convicted.

A survey of Local Governments in the metropolitan area and surrounds indicates Local Government spends in excess of \$4 million annually on clean up costs from illegal dumping.

WALGA will continue to advocate strongly on the Levy issue. For more information contact Rebecca Brown, 9213 2063 or email [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

## 205 TONNES OF E—WHAT A BUZZ!

The Free Electronic Waste Day held on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June was a very successful event.

There were nine collection locations throughout the Perth metropolitan area.

The event attracted over 4,000 attendees and collected over 205 tonnes of e-waste over the 2 days.

The event was funded by Apple Pty Ltd with the



logistics being carried out by InfoActiv and the recycling by Sims E-recycling.

The support of Apple Pty Ltd is greatly appreciated.

For more information on electronic waste recycling and a potential WA Product Stewardship Scheme visit the Waste Authority website [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

The Shire of Esperance have reduced their weekly use of plastic shopping bags by 75%.

In January 2003 the Shire used over 100,000 plastic bags every week. In July 2006, the number was down to 27,272 per week.



For more information visit [www.esperance.wa.gov.au](http://www.esperance.wa.gov.au)

## OAG NEEDS YOU

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) is seeking non-metropolitan Local Government Officers who work within waste management to join the Officers Advisory Group (OAG).



Joining OAG gives you the opportunity to contribute to important Local Government waste management programs and the development of policy. Involvement in MWAC is also a valuable networking opportunity with State Government and waste industry professionals.

The Officers Advisory Group meets on the second Monday of every month (except January) and provide recommendations to MWAC.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9 2 1 3 2 0 6 3 or [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

## MONEY FOR OLD OIL

Local Governments and Regional Councils who have used the WALGA Preferred Arrangement with Wren Oil, are now eligible to apply for the first rebate period (1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009).

The claim form was recently sent to all WA Local Governments.

The closing date for the rebate period is **4pm, Monday 20 July 2009.**

of the claim form, contact Judy Scott on 9213 2086 or [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au) or Bienne Argent on 9213 2069 or [bargent@walga.asn.au](mailto:bargent@walga.asn.au)

For more information or a copy



## WINTER CHEMISTRY

The winter schedule for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days is:



Park Oval Carpark (cnr Roberts Road and Bishopgate Street, Lathlain).

carpark (Challenger Parade, City Beach).

- ◆ **Saturday, 27 June** (SMRC) Hosted by the Town of Kwinana at the Requatic Centre carpark (Chisham Avenue, Kwinana).
- ◆ **Saturday, 25 July** (MRC) Hosted by the Town of Victoria Park at the Lathlain

- ◆ **Saturday, 8 August** (SMRC) Hosted by the SMRC at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (Ranford Road, Canning Vale).
- ◆ **Saturday, 15 August** (MRC) Hosted by the Town of Cambridge at the City Beach

There are also seven sites around the Perth metropolitan area where you can safely dispose of household hazardous waste at any time.

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

## SUNSHINE ON A CLOUDY DAY...

### Climate Change Policy Statement



The WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement has been endorsed by State Council and is now available on the WALGA website at [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

For more information on the Policy Statement contact Melanie Bainbridge, on 9213 2 0 3 9 or email [mbainbridge@walga.asn.au](mailto:mbainbridge@walga.asn.au)

### Climate Change Consultancy Panel

WALGA is delighted to announce it has appointed a Panel of Qualified Consultants for Climate Change.

The Panel is to deliver services in:

- ◆ Risk Management;
- ◆ Adaption Planning; and
- ◆ Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and support for Mandatory Reporting and compliance requirements.

The Panel consists of the following companies:

- ◆ SMEC
- ◆ Greensense
- ◆ Cardno
- ◆ Coffey Environments
- ◆ Coastal Zone Management Pty Ltd
- ◆ Strategen

For more information contact Geoff Alcock on 9213 2035 or [galcock@walga.asn.au](mailto:galcock@walga.asn.au)

## RECYCLED GREENERY

### Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) Discussion Paper

MWAC has endorsed an AWT Discussion Paper. The Paper outlines the key AWT Technologies and identifies issues for decision makers to consider.

The Paper is available from the Waste Net Website [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

### Organic Paper

The Waste Authority has released a Draft Position Paper on Recycled Organics for comment. MWAC has developed

a Submission on the Position Paper.

A copy of the Submission is available from [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au) For more information contact Judy Scott 9213 2086 [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)

## AVOID RISK, BE AN EARLY BIRD

Avoid the risk of disappointment and get in early for the Waste & Recycle Conference 2009. Early bird registrations are now available!



The theme for the Conference this year is *The Business of Risk or just plain Risky Business?*

To register or for more information visit the Waste & Recycle Website [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)

## MERRIDIN CLEANS UP

The Shire of Merredin recently rehabilitated a site which was used for storage of inert storm damage waste from several



years worth of storm damage. The material comprised concrete kerbing, demolished concrete slabs, outhouses,

tree storm damage, culverts and the like. Sims will be removing approximately 500 tonnes of steel from the Merridin Landfill site. The photos show condition before works commenced and after the final raking. The site will be further rehabilitated with trees and contouring.



The materials will be used to stabilize the base of Cohn Creek which is the main water course through the town of Merredin.

The Shire of Merredin's Jim Garrett, Executive Manager of Engineering Services and John Mitchell, Executive Manager of Development Services, have rehabbed nearly fifteen sites over the last four years.

For more information contact Jim Garrett on 9041 1611

## SO HOT RIGHT NOW

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) recycling facility burnt down in early June.

It has been estimated that rebuilding the facility will take around 18 months. Whilst this occurs, SMRC are looking at re-opening an existing plant in Coogee.

SMRC Chairman Cr Doug Thompson said "Although the

facility has been closed for 3 months, it has the capacity to handle the region's recycling.



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With careful planning, the plant could be up and running in just four weeks."

The SMRC continues to recover other materials at it's Regional Resource Recovery Facility and both the greenwaste and compost plants are fully operational.

For more information visit the SMRC website [www.smrc.com.au](http://www.smrc.com.au)

(Source: SMRC eNews Issue 5: Mythbusting)

In Uganda, people caught using plastic bags post January 2010 could go to jail for up to 3 years or pay a fine (or both).



(Source: RRF WINS #23-2009-June 19, 2009)

## DEC BARES FRUIT

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has been working on its long term recruitment strategy and the MWAC Team would like to congratulate the

following members of DEC on their contribution:

- ◆ Geraldine Busby on the birth of her son Fionn;
- ◆ Megan Graham (former MWAC Policy Coordinator) on

the birth of her daughter Charlotte Abigail; and Chantelle Cummins on the birth of her son Nicholas Terry.



In an Australian first, local company A&C Packers has won a DuPont award for better performing packaging that promotes sustainability – in its “Easy Pour Barrier Containers”.



(Source:www.environmentalmanagementnews)

## DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

In the past Resources Safety has written to Local Governments advising them when dangerous goods storage licenses have been granted in their Local Government area. Resources

Safety has recently received legal advice that it has no legislative authority to provide this information to Local Governments. Consequently Resources Safety will no longer provide this information.

For more information contact Department of Mines and Petroleum, Andrew Kempton, Manager Business Services on 9358 8028 or email Andrew.kempton@dmp.wa.gov.au

## AWARD WINNING BEHAVIOUR

The 2009 WA Environment Awards nomination period has officially opened. Why not nominate yourself or others? Entry is free and nomination forms are available online. This years 11 categories are:

- ◆ Community achievement— Individual/Volunteer Group
- ◆ Community Energy Efficiency
- ◆ Prevention of Littering and Illegal Dumping
- ◆ Environmental Education and Communication
- ◆ Government Leading by Example
- ◆ Small Business Leading by Example
- ◆ Coastal, Marine and Estuarine
- ◆ Bush, Land and Waterways
- ◆ Resource and Waste Management
- ◆ Corporate Business Leading by Example

Nominations close on **Friday 24 July 2009.**

For details visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards) phone 6467 5147 or email [awards@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:awards@dec.wa.gov.au)

## SPOT LAUNCHED

Keep Australia Beautiful WA (KAB WA) recently launched community litter prevention program Adopt-a-Spot, which encourages individuals, school, community and business groups to 'adopt' a site in their local community to keep litter-free.

Adopters agree to look after a site for two years and KAB WA provides clean up tools, an



adoption certificate, volunteer insurance, safety information and recognition on the Keep Australia Beautiful website honour roll.

It's a great way to get involved in your community, meet new people, get physically active and help keep your neighbourhood and WA litter-free.

For more information or to register your interest, please call 6467 5122 or email [kabc@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kabc@dec.wa.gov.au).

## SIGN FOR FREE

The Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council has announced the second round of its signage support program for Local Government and community organisations. The *Do the Right Thing* program

provides free roadside signage, waste and recycling bin stickers and posters to reduce litter and increase recycling.

To be eligible for support, applicants must complete a short application form with

details of planned campaign/ promotional support activity.

To apply visit the PSF website [www.afgc.org.au](http://www.afgc.org.au) Applications close **Friday 3 July 2009.**

## SLIPPERY UPDATE

The Australian Government with the aim of increasing used oil recycling. PricewaterhouseCoopers to review the Product Stewardship for Oil (PSO) scheme. The PSO Scheme was introduced in January 2001

The *Second Independent Review of the Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000 Final Report* reviews the effectiveness and appropriateness of the PSO Act, and regulations and legislation under the Act.

For more information visit [www.oilrecycling.gov.au/](http://www.oilrecycling.gov.au/) publications

## VITAL STATISTICS

An Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey found that 82% of Australians were satisfied with their current waste collection services in 2007-08.

People in Western Australia (21%) and the Northern Territory (19%) were the most likely to be dissatisfied with their waste collection services.

84% of Australians sorted recyclable from non-recyclable waste



materials all or most of the time.

One-third of Australians (33%) composted or recycled kitchen or food waste all or most of the time.

For more information visit [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

A UK tabloid (the Daily Mail) have launched a 'Not In My Front Yard' campaign against the introduction of recycling bins.

## EPA TAKES RISK

The South Australian EPA has published a draft standard for the production and use of MSW compost.

The draft standard describes the information and processes that are required in order to support the

application of MSW derived compost to agricultural land.

The standard takes a risk-based approach and aims to provide clarity to industry and the community on the issues surrounding application of MSW derived compost to land.

For more information visit [www.epa.sa.gov.au/pdfs/guideline\\_waste\\_soil.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/pdfs/guideline_waste_soil.pdf)

(Source: RRF WINS #23-2009-June 19, 2009)



(Source: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/))

## LIFE OF CARTON

A Europe-wide life-cycle assessment (LCA) for food metal cans, glass jars, carton packs and pouches has now confirmed that using carton packaging saves CO2



emissions and fossil resource consumption by up to 60 per cent. The recent, study conducted by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (Ifeu) sees the overall weight and the material of the packaging as the main drivers

for the environmental impacts of a packaging system for ambient food products (such as soups and tomato products).

(Source: RRF WINS #23-2009-June 19, 2009)

## RECYCLE, OR ELSE

San Francisco, have approved the most stringent recycling and composting laws in America. It will be illegal to throw food into the waste bin that could be recycled. Fines

will apply for illegal disposal, initially capped at US\$100 per offence.

The cities proposal is a bold move to cut greenhouse gas

emissions and have the city sending nothing to landfill or incinerators by 2020.

(Source: RRF WINS #23-2009-June 19, 2009)

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 19 August 2009

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Local Government House

Check out the WA Local Government Association Website at [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)



Visit WasteNet [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

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## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 27 June **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Southern Metropolitan Regional Council  
Requatic Centre Carpark, Chisham Avenue, Kwinana
- 25 July **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Mandarie Regional Council  
Lathlain Park Oval Carpark, Cnr Roberts Road and Bishopgate Street, Lathlain
- 8 August **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Southern Metropolitan Regional Council  
Regional Resource Recovery Centre  
Ranford Rd, Canning Vale
- 22 August **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Rivers Regional Council  
City of Gosnells Operation Centre  
Canning Park Avenue, Maddington
- 26–28 August **3rd National Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference:**  
Hobart, Tasmania  
For more information visit [www.wmaa.asn.au](http://www.wmaa.asn.au)
- 15-18 September **Waste & Recycle Conference 2009**  
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia  
For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)
- 9–15 November **National Recycle Week**  
For more information visit <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/>
- 28 November **Buy Nothing Day—A Global Holiday from Consumerism**  
For more information visit [www.buynothingday.co.uk](http://www.buynothingday.co.uk)

## 2009 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 3 July **PSF Funding for Signage**  
For more information visit [www.afgc.org.au](http://www.afgc.org.au)
- 20 July **WALGA Used Oil Rebate Scheme: Period 1 Application Form**  
For more information phone Judy Scott on 9213 2086 or Bienne Argent on 9213 2069
- 24 July **2009 WA Environment Awards nomination period**  
For more information visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards)
- 31 July **Submissions for Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards**  
For more information phone 6467 5131 or email [tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au)



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*"Getting the Environment Right"*

## WHAT IS THE MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL?



The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) is a standing committee of the Western Australian Local Government Association with delegated authority on municipal waste issues.

MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management). This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

MWAC focuses its work in three main areas:

- The proactive development of policy on priority issues;
- Comprehensive representation of Local Government views on legislation, regulations, administrative policy and related matters; and
- The delivery of grant funded programs consistent with Local Government priorities.



WESTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

