

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 121

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MUNICIPAL WASTE INQUIRY

The Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs resolved in late 2008 to inquire into Municipal Waste Management in Western Australia.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are:

- Current municipal waste management practice and methods in Western Australia, and in particular:
 - The function, effectiveness and efficiency of rural and Metropolitan Regional Councils with respect to the management of waste; and
 - The role of the Waste Authority under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 in municipal waste management.
- Resource recovery



The key points in the draft scope include:

- Recognition of waste management as an 'essential service';
- Shifting the focus from municipal to all waste streams;
- The importance of focusing on production and implementation of Product Stewardship/ Extended Producer Responsibility;
- The need to define roles and responsibilities for waste management in the

future;

- Consideration of the life cycle of products;
- Independence, transparency and accountability of the Waste Authority;
- Leadership by state and Local Government including green procurement and recycling options included in tendering activities; and
- Outcomes-based regulation to allow innovation and adaptation to different circumstance.

Comments or examples for inclusion in the Submission are requested from Local Governments. Please provide comments by **4pm Friday 30 January** to Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste & Recycling on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The first stage of industry and community met consultation for the on Wednesday 21 January to development of the State discuss the aims, objectives, Waste Strategy has targets and a framework for commenced. the Strategy.

Representatives from Local Government, State Government,



It is anticipated a draft Strategy will be developed and released for public comment in February this year. The

comment period will be 12 weeks.

For more information please contact Michael Reid at the Department of Environment and Conservation on 6467 5327.

Bushism

A memorable quote by George Bush in Washington, D.C. March 13, 2001:

"There are some monuments where the land is so widespread, they just encompass as much as possible. And the integral part of the--the precious part, so to speak--I guess all land is precious, but the part that the people uniformly would not want to spoil, will not be despoiled. But there are parts of the monument lands where we can explore without affecting the overall environment."

(Source:

www.environmentalmanagementnews.net/StoryView.asp?StoryID=448054

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

WALGA President, Cr Bill Mitchell, outlined the current situation regarding the decreasing price of some recycled materials in an advert in *The West Australian*.

"One of the State's most successful environmental actions of the past decade has not been to save the whales or end old growth logging but the take up of recycling by households.

Since 2001 and despite a significant increase in population, the amount of waste going to landfill has been reduced by 8.5% as a result of communities working with Local Government to separate recyclable and green waste."

Cr Mitchell highlighted the

value of individual action, "As individual consumers we can consider the products we buy in terms of packaging maintenance and eventual disposal.

We can encourage companies who demonstrate responsibility for their products' environmental impact beyond the point of sale and can support State Government in identifying alternative markets for any recyclable materials that can't be stored.

The environmental benefits of recycling and alternative waste treatment were identified by Cr Mitchell. "Many Councils though their membership to Regional

Councils have invested in alternative waste treatment plants, which turn household waste into compost. Through diverting this waste from landfill these plants have stopped the release of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Whilst the value of recyclable materials on commodity markets may decrease, the value to communities in maintaining their focus on sustainable living continues to increase."

The full article is available from the WALGA website www.walga.asn.au



GET FIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Get fighting fit in Local Government and pencil in your New Years resolution.



Local Government House, West Perth. This module enhances the knowledge base of Elected Members so that they may be assured of a more informed decision-making process regarding Environmental Management.

WALGA has released its dates for Elected Member Training and are happy to announce that Introduction to Environmental Management (Module 17) will be held on Thursday 19th March 2009 at

Elected Members are given an understanding of key legislative frameworks in Environmental

Management, given a review of contemporary environmental issues and are educated on such topics as Natural Resource Management, Waste and Recycling and Climate Change.

For more information contact Brenna Heagney on 9213 2 0 9 2 or bheagney@walga.asn.au

MONEY FOR PACKAGING

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) have announced the dates for the next round of Covenant funding. The project priorities include:

- ◆ C&I recycling projects;
- ◆ Substantial supply chain projects;
- ◆ Design of bins or collection systems for restricted space.

- ◆ Improving existing recycling services;
- ◆ Litter prevention strategies;
- ◆ Substantial increase in glass recycling.

For a full list of the project priorities visit the NPC website. Applicants are urged to discuss proposed Eols with the respective State Jurisdictional Projects Group representatives.

Expressions of Interest (Eols) Close with JPGs on **Wednesday 25 February 2009**

To download the Eol guidelines, funding priorities, details of current and completed projects, visit www.packagingcovenant.org.au and follow the "Projects"

LITTER, LITTER, EVERYWHERE

Business keen to assist Local Government

The KAB Council has been approached by businesses interested in doing clean ups on Clean Up Australia Day. KAB are requesting Local Government nominate sites which need cleaning up so these businesses can contribute effectively to Clean Up Australia Day.

Contact Jennie Anderton at KAB on 6467 5130 or jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au

Dob in a Dumper

The number of Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Litter Reporters has continued to grow. If new sign ups continue at the current rate, the Litter Reporter Scheme should have 3,000 reporters by the end of January 09.



If your Local Government has any sites it would like to put forward please email the name, location, type of problem and a contact name and details in your organization to Jennie Anderton at KAB. These details will be passed on to participating businesses. If the site is an illegal dumping area where clean up is more onerous than normal, this should be given in a description of the problem.

Online litter reporters were recently surveyed about the scheme and indicated that they wanted more feedback about the Program. KAB is working towards making this happen in the future.

In November 2008, KAB received the most reports for 2008 with 524 reports, resulting in 458 fines issued. The fines that weren't issued were due to inaccurate details reported and/or not all

mandatory fields completed. If your Local Government, group or club would like to receive a talk on the Litter Reporters Scheme, contact Colin on 6467 5138 or email colin.harte@dec.wa.gov.au

To become a litter reporter phone 6467 5129. For more information on Keep Australia Beautiful visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au

Event Recycling Infrastructure

Keep Australia Beautiful WA and the Product Stewardship Forum have joined together to support event recycling in WA, by providing recycling infrastructure.

For more information visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au and click on the "event recycling" link.

Sydney: landfill levy

Set to increase levy to \$10/tonne July 2009. Projected to increase the levy by \$10 each year to 2015/2016.

(Source: WME Magazine, December 2008,pg 6)

BEAT THE DRUM

Recently retired CEO of the Shire of Williams, Jim Epiro, was awarded a certificate of appreciation from drumMUSTER.



The Shire of Williams adopted the drumMUSTER scheme in 2000 and it continues to work effectively today.

The award was given in recognition of Jim's enthusiastic support of the national Programme, which recycles agricultural and veterinary chemical containers.

In WA, drumMUSTER have collected and recycled over two million drums. The Programme operates through Agsafe Ltd, a non-government, not for profit organisation which promotes good farm management. Their aim is for cleaner safer land

use practices, for now and into the future.

For more information contact Graeme Passmore, southern Western Australia consultant on 0429 933 307. Alternatively, contact drumMUSTER on 1800 008 707 or visit www.drummuster.com.au

(Source: drumMUSTER Media Release, drumMUSTER Champion Retires)



NEW YEARS GREENOLUTION

Make it a year for the planet

Visit www.planetark.org/greenresolutions and sign up to receive a weekly "Green Resolutions" email. Planet Ark will send you practical solutions on how to live a cleaner, greener



lifestyle and a plan on how to do it.

Festive Recycling ... something we can all address Pick up a limited edition recycling bin sticker from participating Australia

Post outlets. It has details on how to access recycling information and a space for people to address their bin.

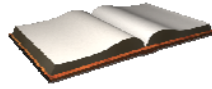
(Source: <http://festiverecycling.planetark.org/news/display/40>)

WMAA BATTLING XMAS BULGE

The New Year has brought with it a bulging calendar of submissions and events. Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) Papers out for comment include:

- ◆ *Industry Standard for Recycled Construction & Demolition Materials (Draft 8);*

- ◆ *Report for the National Construction and Demolition Waste Division Asbestos Management Plan;*
- ◆ *The National Landfill Division has prepared a Bioreactor Landfill Technology Discussion*



Paper; and

- ◆ *The Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Group (SPIG) Discussion Paper No. 3.*

These documents can be downloaded from www.wmaa.asn.au

“Our Product is Crap”

This is the tagline that Pixlz eco-printed products company is considering for their new line of paper that is made out of elephant dung.

The new line of paper comes in a variety of colours, does not use toxic chemicals and is free of bleach and acids.



(Source: www.environmentalmanagementnews.net/StoryView.asp?StoryID=448066)

GET THE SKILLZ

Green Skills Inc are holding nationally accredited training in Home Sustainability Assessment.

The 7 day course trains people to undertake home sustainability assessments of

energy, water, waste and transport.

The course runs in early February 09 at Edith Cowan University, Bunbury.



For enrolment information contact Annabelle Newbury on 9360 6667 or anewbury@greenskills.org.au

SA BAG EXTINCTION

The South Australian Government has introduced a ban on some plastic bags. It will prohibit all retailers selling or giving away bags with handles made of polyethylene polymer less than 35 microns thick.



provides a retailer with bags they know are banned, they will be guilty of an offence with the maximum penalty \$20,000.

Bags allowed:

- ◆ Compostable bags that are Australian Standard AS4736-2006 compliant;
- ◆ Biodegradable bags;

The ban will be effective from 4 May 2009, also if a supplier

- ◆ Barrier bags (rolled dispensed), such as used for loose fruit and vegetables;
- ◆ Paper bags;
- ◆ Heavier retail bags;
- ◆ Department store bags; and
- ◆ Sturdy bags for multiple use.

(Source: RRF Wins#52-2008-December 31, 2008)

BOTTLES, CANS OR KEG?

In Australia, the most popular alcoholic beverage is beer. In Queensland's Fosters Yatala brewery, 1.8 billion cans and bottles are being produced annually— 25% of Australia's total production.

In 2005, a Spanish study found that the greatest single contributor to the total greenhouse gas emissions generated through the beer production cycle is packaging. Beer is often packaged in glass bottles, aluminum cans and in steel kegs.

A joint study by CSIRO and the University of Sydney found that the production of 1kg of aluminum requires 211MJ of energy, 26MJ for steel and 10-14MJ for glass. All materials are recyclable, with possible energy savings over virgin products being 93% for aluminum, 79% for steel and 57% for glass.

The packaging weight also plays an important part on the environmental impact of transport. One 330ml can

weighs 15g compared to 145g for a glass bottle.

All three packaging materials have their environmental pro's and con's, however kegs are the winner. A keg can last 20 years, refilled on average 22 times a yea, which is equivalent to a saving of 58, 000 individual cans or stubbies.



(Source: Beermatt.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/bottlescankegs.pdf, 13/1/09)

STEPPING UP

Fuji Xerox Australia and Dell are taking steps to be more sustainable.

Fuji Xerox : Australia

30 out of 40 Fuji Xerox dealers across the nation have voluntarily signed up to its Dealer Sustainability Program.

Dealers will work towards objectives such as identifying

local recycling solutions for end-of-life products, purchasing sustainably source paper and identifying ways to reduce energy and water use.

(Source: WME magazine, December 2008, pg 7)

Dell: Global

Dell are moving to remove Styrofoam packaging and

replacing it with post consumer HDPE.

The computer manufacturer is aiming to eliminate 10% (9 million kilograms) of its global laptop and PC packaging material over the next four years.

(Source: www.australianit.news.com.au, 16/12/08)

Bushism

A memorable quote by George Bush in Washington, D.C., June 8, 2005:

"We're spending money on clean coal technology. Do you realize we've got 250 million years of coal?"

(Source: www.environmentalmanagementnews.net/StoryView.asp?StoryID=448054)



The Australian Tyre Industry Council (ATIC) are expecting their proposed product stewardship scheme to be approved at the

AUSSIE TYRES

November 2009 Environment Protection and Heritage (EPHC) meeting. Silvio de Denaro said that the industry expected approval at the latest meeting, however Ministers

commissioned a review of data, such as flow of goods, following public consultation in June and July 2008.

(Source: WME Magazine, December 2008, pg 8)

SEDO FUNDING

Funding applications are invited for innovative sustainable energy projects under the next funding round of the Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO) Grants Program. The SEDO Grants Program provides

grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for: community-based sustainable energy projects; and sustainable energy research and development projects. The next funding round closes **5pm Friday 27 February 2009**.

Further details on the program, including guidelines and application forms are available at www.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/grants.asp

YOUTH ACTION

In 2003, Japanese non-profit organisation "Green Bird" was launched by a group of youths who picked up litter from the streets.

Teamed with their slogan "Clean Town, Clean Spirit", trendiness and free participation, it is inspiring more people to join Green

Bird. Green Bird focuses on litter collection, public relations and fundraising.

On its website it encourages public participation with the slogan "Once you declare that you won't throw litter or cigarettes on the street, you are a member of Green Bird".

Green Bird's aim is to convince 40 million people by 2010 that littering is a bad behaviour. It promotes its activities through 16 local teams around Japan and the concept has expanded to a group in Paris, France.

(Source: www.japanfs.org/en/pages/028606.html)

GO USA!

Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company (MRM), a USA e-waste recycling service for manufacturers, announced it has established national recycling infrastructure.

MRM operate a national take-back and recycling program

that is open to all manufacturers.

In 2009, MRM will provide 280 locations for recycling e-waste, with at least one facility in every State. MRM projects that it will expand to 800 drop off locations by 2011.

MRM currently works with Local Governments, charities and private waste management companies to offer consumers convenient drop off locations. For more information visit www.calpsc.org

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 18 February 2009

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Local Government House

Check out the WA Local Government Association Website at www.walga.asn.au



Visit WasteNet www.wastenet.net.au

CONTACT DETAILS

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WEST PERTH WA 6872

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 20 February 2009 **WA's Clean Beach Challenge 2009**
For more information visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au or www.mybeach.com.au or 6467 5143.
- 1 March 2009 **Clean Up Australia Day**
For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au/au
- 4-6 March 2009 **Managing Waste in a Changing Climate: Tasmania Waste and Climate Change Conference**
Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, Tasmania
For more information contact Kylie Hood on 02 8746 5044 or kylie@wmaa.asn.au
- 1-2 April 2009 **Waste 2009 Conference: Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery**
Novotel Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW
For more information contact Impact Environmental Conferences on 02 6583 8118 or waste2009@impactenviro.com.au
- 3-9 May 2009 **International Composting Awareness Week**
For more information visit www.compostweek.com.au
- 3-5 June 2009 **WasteQ 2009: Can you afford not to...?**
The Sebel Citigate King George Square, Brisbane, Queensland
- 14-18 September 2009 **Waste & Recycle Conference 2009**
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2009 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 30 January 2009 **Litter Act Review**
For more information contact Bienne Argent on 9213 2069 or bargent@walga.asn.au
- 30 January 2009 **Waste Inquiry—Feedback for WALGA Submission**
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or rbrown@walga.asn.au
- 13 February 2009 **CPRS White Paper WALGA Submission**
For more information contact Melanie Bainbridge at mbainbridge@walga.asn.au
- 16 February 2009 **Re-tooling for Climate Change—Round 2 Closes**
For more information visit www.ausindustry.gov.au "Quick search" for "climate change" and see the fact sheet for "Re-tooling for Climate Change"
- 18 February 2009 **Environmental Guidelines for Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities; and Organic Waste Recycling**
For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.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

