

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 108

December 2007

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## WARR FOR X-MAS



The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) and Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (WARRL) Bills have passed through both Houses of parliament.

The WARR Bill underwent several amendments in the Legislative Assembly but was passed unchanged through the Legislative Council. The WARRL Bill went through both Houses without amendment. The Bills are now awaiting royal

assent, by the Governor of WA, it is likely this will occur in the coming weeks.

Regulations for the Bills are now being drafted. It is anticipated that the Bills will be implemented in 2008.

The contribution of WALGA and Local Government to shaping the Bills was acknowledged in parliament.

A key priority for Local Governments is to ensure the WARR Bill's provision for Extended Producer

Responsibility Schemes (EPR) be utilised—where necessary. Similar Legislation has been in force in NSW for five years but has not yet taken advantage of its powers to place the responsibility on producers.

For more information please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063.

The Bills are available from [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)

## WORKSHOPS ZEROING IN

In November and December 2007 Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) Workshops were held in Geraldton, Narrogin and Busselton.

The Workshops were effective in identifying issues that are arising in the ZWP development process.

Further workshops are planned for 2008:

- ◆ **15 January** - Gingin;
- ◆ **17 January** - Wagin;
- ◆ **21 January** - Kalgoorlie; and
- ◆ **24 January** - Albany.

More information on these workshops will be distributed

to Local Government in the near future. Private industry and consultants are also invited to attend the workshops.

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

## WE WANT YOU

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is seeking nominations to fill a casual vacancy for a Serving Officer (metropolitan). The term is from 1 February 2008 to 1 August 2008.

Nomination forms can be

downloaded from the WA Local Government Association website [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au) and should be signed and emailed to

[nominations@walga.asn.au](mailto:nominations@walga.asn.au) The closing date for nominations is **Friday 25 January 2008**.

For more information on MWAC activities visit the WasteNet Website [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

For more information about nominations contact MWAC Executive Officer, Rebecca Brown, on 9213 2063.

## MWAC HELLOS AND GOODBYES

**New MWAC Elected Members**  
The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) would like to extend a warm welcome to its new members:

- ◆ Cr Gerry Pule (Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council);
- ◆ Cr Kevin Trent (South East Metropolitan Regional Council);
- ◆ Cr Phil Jacobsen (Western Metropolitan Regional Council); and
- ◆ Cr Ron Ashplant (City of Geraldton-Greenough).

MWAC would also like to thank previous members Cr Barry McKenna, Cr Ron Hoffman, Cr Paul Kelly and Cr Elizabeth Re for their hard work and dedication whilst on the Council. MWAC wishes them the best of luck in their future pursuits.

**New MWAC Staff Member**

Also new to MWAC, is Waste Management Policy Coordinator, Ms Judy Scott. Judy comes to MWAC with eight years experience in the waste industry private



sector. Judy is passionate about waste, gardening and animals, qualities that will hold her in good stead for dealing with the challenges ahead.

Judy studied environmental science at university and is looking forward to working with Local Government from the other side of the fence.

To contact Judy Scott phone 9213 2086 or email [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)

The Yangtze River in China has had a record 30.5 billion tonnes of industrial, farming and human waste dumped into it in the last year.



(Source: [www.uk.news.yahoo.com](http://www.uk.news.yahoo.com))

## SEASONAL GIFTS

**National Packaging Covenant (NPC) - Project Approvals**

Three WA Projects have been awarded funding under the latest round of National Packaging Covenant Funding. These projects were from the Shire of Ashburton, Shire of

Kulin and Bunnings. The shire of Ashburton and Kulin received funding for infrastructure.

**NPC—Next Round of Fun**

The next round of funding for the NPC is now open. Expressions of Interest are

being sought by **COB Friday 14 March 2008**. For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au) or contact Reuben Gregor on 6467 5391.



## A CHRISTMAS COOPERATION

The new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Wanneroo is unlikely to be completed until February 2008. The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) called a meeting of the major recyclers in Perth to find a solution to this problem.

In a Christmas cooperative effort between the major recyclers in Perth, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) will be restructuring its workforce to provide a double shift at its new Canning Vale MRF to help cope with the estimated additional 6000 tonnes of

recyclables per week over the holiday period.

For more information contact Chuck Ellis at the SMRC on 9329 2700.



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

## WALPOLE—TIDIEST TOWN

Walpole has taken out the Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Award for 2007 at the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Award Ceremony.

Walpole won the Award for its commitment to educating its residents about water conservation, weed removal and waste reduction.

Walpole is now a contender for the national Tidy Towns-Sustainable Communities Awards to be held in Hobart in April 2008.

Regional winners were also announced at the State awards ceremony:

- ◆ South-West - Walpole;
- ◆ Pilbara - Cocos (Keeling) Islands;

- ◆ Kimberley - Djarindjin;
- ◆ South Coast - Hopetoun;
- ◆ Great Southern - Cuballing;
- ◆ Central Wheatbelt - Wongan Hills;
- ◆ Mid-West Gascoyne - Badgingarra; and
- ◆ Goldfields - Kambalda.

For more information visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)

## INDUSTRY TIME TO SHINE

Expressions of Interest are sought for an industry member on the WA jurisdictional projects group (JPG) for the National Packaging Covenant (NPC). The appointment is for 2 years.

If you are interested in nominating for the position, please address the following selection criteria:

- ◆ Is the company you work for a signatory of the National Packaging Covenant?
- ◆ What experience do you have in waste management and/or resource efficiency?
- ◆ What industry sector do you represent and what is your experience in the industry sector? Please provide examples.
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment and ability to regularly attend meetings.
- ◆ What is your capacity to represent the interests of industry?

Selection criteria and contact details should be email [reben.gregor@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:reben.gregor@dec.wa.gov.au) by **COB 31 January 2008**. For more information on the activities of the NPC contact Reuben Gregor on 6467 5391.

## MIDNIGHT OIL



With the change of Federal Government the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) will be sending correspondence requesting financial assistance for used motor oil

recycling collections for Local Government to the new Federal Minister for the Environment, Hon Peter Garret and Minister for Climate Change, Hon Penny Wong.

Local Governments are encouraged to do the same.

For more information please contact Shelley Inglis on 9213 2062 or email [singlis@walga.asn.au](mailto:singlis@walga.asn.au)

## MUSTERING THE FARMERS

With the grace period for contaminated sites finished, drumMUSTER and its WA processor have teamed up with the WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) to help farmers with their existing chemical drums and cleaning

up their farms. Between October and December 2007 they will be offering on farm processing to get the drums off farms and stop the creation of further contaminated sites.

For more information contact:

- ◆ Graeme Passmore on 0429 933 307 (Southern WA); or
- ◆ Bevan Henderson on 0429 089 780 (Northern WA).

## KITS FOR COMPOSTING

The Minister for the Environment has released a home composting brochure kit for use by Local

Government and anyone else interested in making their own home composting brochures.

The kit is available on the ZeroWaste WA website [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au) or as a CD.

## PARTY WITH THE YP'S

### Nominate Now for YP's Committee

Nominations are now open for members on the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) Young Waste Professionals Committee.



The forms are due by **COB Thursday 17 January 2008**.

### Post-Xmas Party AND Annual General Meeting

The YP's are having a post-Xmas Party and their first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on: **Friday 18 January 2008**.

rumour the party (and AGM) will be wild west themed.

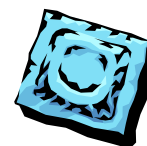
Please RSVP for the Post-Xmas Party by **COB Friday 11 January 2008** to James Ladyman—[jladyman@clawenvironmental.com](mailto:jladyman@clawenvironmental.com)

For more information on the nominations, party and AGM please contact James on 9333 4888.

All those who are currently members of the group were emailed a nomination form.

All are welcome to attend. More details will be provided in early January. There is a

Used condoms are being recycled into hair bands in southern China, threatening to spread sexually transmittable diseases they were originally meant to prevent. The recycled bands are being sold in local markets and beauty shops for a substantially reduced price.



(Source: RRF, 16 November 2007)



## 12 DAYS OF A GREEN X-MAS



On the twelfth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Twelve native trees for the garden  
Eleven bags of compost  
Ten rechargeable batteries and a recharger

Nine gift vouchers (including one for a goat)  
Eight bokashi compost bins  
Seven slave credits around the home  
Six reusable shopping bags  
Five carbon credits to offset the family fleet

Four presents wrapped in recycled wrapping paper (or newspaper)  
Three Christmas E-Cards  
Two offices with all of the office equipment switched off at the power point and  
A potted Christmas tree.

## REWARDING ENVIRONMENT

The Western Australian Environment Awards 2007 were held in November.

Midland Brick Reuse and Recycling Project won the Resource and Waste Management Award for their

successful brick recycling program to reuse all imperfect products made at their sites and collect waste from building sites.

Amcor Recycling WA won the Small Business Leading by

Example Award for their efforts in addressing low levels of recycling among WA workplaces and it's Recycle @ Work campaign.

(Source: The West Australian, 19 November 2007)

## STAY CHEM ALERT



The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Total Purchasing Solutions has appointed Chem Alert as the preferred supplier of MSDS Chemical Management

Software to Local Government in Western Australia.

Significant discounts of up to 60% off the standard pricing are available.

For more information contact Kristi Warren on 9213 2070 or email [kwarren@walga.asn.au](mailto:kwarren@walga.asn.au)

For more information on Chem Alert visit [www.chemicalert.com.au](http://www.chemicalert.com.au)

## GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAD

The Total Environment Centre (TEC) has proposed an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme which imposes a refundable deposit on car batteries sales to ensure they are recycled.

TEC estimates that 1 million lead acid batteries are disposed of into landfill

annually. The proposed EPR Scheme, developed by Warnken ISE, would be National and requires the federal government to introduce legislation to make it mandatory.

The report disputes the claim by the Australian Battery Industry Association of a 96% recovery rate for Lead Acid Batteries. It

claims this is more likely about 80%, which it says is largely due to the lack of a deposit-based return system for the DIY market.

For more information visit the Total Environment Centre website [www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au)

## TIMBER TARGETS

The National Timber Stewardship Group (NTSG) has set a target to double used timber recovery to one million tonnes a year by 2017.



retailers with input from State Governments.

The National target is set at recycling 65% of timber products.

for recovered timber in applications from reuse and recycling to energy recovery, as well as education about existing reuse and recycling operations.

The NTSG is made up of representatives from the timber industry associations, importers, wholesalers and

Actions proposed include improved manufacturing and ordering processes to minimise waste, development of markets

(Source: Environmental Management News, 19 November 2007)

The top 10 'stupidest' Christmas gifts for 2007 in the US have been unveiled. The list is available [www.stupid.com](http://www.stupid.com) Some examples include the Slingshot Monkey, Inflatable Moosehead, Electronic Yodeling Pickle and Get Off the Phone Excuse Machine.



(Source: [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com))



## HOME AND AWAY

A new Litter and Away from Home Training Program, developed and funded by the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF), has been developed.

The training is available in two separate courses – public place recycling (for Local Government) and events recycling (for events organisers/Local and State

Government Officers).

The sessions are run by Sustainable Learning

Australasia, are free and will take one full day.

The Perth events recycling session will be held **12 March 2008** and the Perth public



place recycling session will be held **13 March 2008**.

To register email [lorraine@sustainablelearning.com.au](mailto:lorraine@sustainablelearning.com.au)

For more information phone Lisa Shadforth on 1300 799 938.

## VICTORIAN UPDATE

### New money for old problem

Over the next four years the Victorian Government will spend \$1 million to encourage safe handling and disposal of asbestos. Under the new plan up to 20 new disposal sites, funded by the landfill levy, will be created.

Funding will be provided to Local Governments and operators of local transfer stations to ensure that WorkCover regulations are met.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 23 November 2007)

### Progress for Victoria

A report from Sustainability Victoria found that 60% of all Victoria's solid waste was recycled in 2005-06.

The Report *Towards Zero Waste Strategy Progress Report for 2005/06* is available from [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)

### Trampled under foot

The Carpet Institute of

Australia (CIAL) is conducting a study on resource efficiency with Sustainability Victoria.

The Study will involve an independent consultant working with the carpet industry to audit resource use and waste produced. It is estimated that 80% of the 56 million squares of carpet supplied in Australia currently ends up in landfill.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 28 November 2007)

It has been reported that 4,000 NSW public servants have been told to stop drinking bottled water – because it is bad for the environment. Bottled water will no longer be provided at the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) offices, buildings and functions.



(Source: [www.news.com.au/perthnow](http://www.news.com.au/perthnow))

## SYDNEY RATES IT

A new green rating tool is proposed for multi-storey residential and commercial developments in Sydney to rate how they meet environmental standards.

Sydney City Council is considering the tool which requires buildings to be rated on their use of building materials, waste and recycling, landscaping, storm water

management and solar access.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 5 December 2007)

## TYRES OF ADELAIDE

Reclaim Industries has won a \$567,500 grant toward a tyre recycling plant in Adelaide.

The company has signed a preliminary joint venture agreement with Chinese technology investor Shou Zhou secures exclusive rights to a patented 'pyrolysis' technology to process waste

tyre rubber and plastics into diesel, petrol and other by products.

The \$1.1 million Reclaim facility will granulate up to 6,000 tonnes commercial truck tyres a month to produce a range of



new rubber derived products for applications in grouts and adhesives.

(Source: Inside Waste, November/December 2007)

## GREEN CONTAMINATION IN SA

### Contaminated Sites

New Contaminated Sites Legislation has been passed in South Australia.

The Legislation, *Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Bill 2007*, has been ten years in the making and assigns responsibility for site contamination, establishes a

statutory audit system for South Australia and gives the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) powers to deal with site contamination.

For more information visit [www.wmaa.com.au](http://www.wmaa.com.au)

(Source: WMAA E-News, November 2007)

### Kerbside Greenwaste

Zero Waste SA has developed a report laying out the business case for councils to collect food organics in with kerbside greenwaste.

The report is available [www.zerowastesa.gov.au](http://www.zerowastesa.gov.au)

(Source: Inside Waste, November/December 2007)

One persons trash—another persons treasure!  
Below: Amanda Van Loom, Community Engagement Manager with the Department of Environment and Conservation at Meru Landfill in Geraldton



## CHOO CHOO

Veolia has won both the national WMAA landfill and transfer station awards. The winning projects are a part of the companies Woodlawn

Bioreactor landfill and the rail. Clyde transfer station.

Clyde is the first facility in Australia to transport waste by

(Source: Inside Waste, November/December 2007)

## AN AB FAB CHRISTMAS

New figures reveal that households in England will create an additional three quarters of a million tonnes of waste over Christmas – including over one billion Christmas cards.



Absolutely Fabulous star, actress Joanna Lumley, is the latest celebrity to team up with Recycle Now and the Woodland Trust to deliver a festive reminder to recycle.

### Fun Festive UK Facts:

◆ The extra festive household waste created is equivalent to generating 1.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – the same as producing enough energy as that required to fly Santa in a plane around the

world on Christmas Eve a quarter of a million (273,330) times.

◆ Each family creates at least 68kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from the extra waste which would produce

enough energy as that required to power home fairy lights continuously for 18 years.

Visit [www.RecyclingNearYou.com](http://www.RecyclingNearYou.com) to find out what you can recycle this festive season.

Check out the Love Food – Hate Waste website [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for tips on ways to reduce food waste over the Christmas period.

(Source: [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk))

## DOING IT IN PUBLIC

The New Zealand Government has allocated NZ\$4.6 million over three years to establish around 600 public recycling

bins throughout New Zealand. The pilot projects, recently launched by the Government in four Councils, will cost NZ\$1.5

million in the first year, to install, operate and publicise.

(Source: RRF, 16 November 2007)

## WHAT A GAS?

Refgas is a UK company specialising in waste to energy, recycled fuel gasification. Utilising in house design, their objective is to develop moderate scale, advanced gasification plants fuelled by RDF (refuse derived fuel) and various

sources of biomass to produce electricity. The RDF fraction would be waste, after all recyclables had been removed.

Initially the Refgas medium term objectives are to demonstrate the viability of the technology and the

business model in the UK and then expand worldwide.

For more information visit [www.refgas-uk.com](http://www.refgas-uk.com) or contact John Reilly on 9756 8030 or email [reillyjohn@bigpond.com](mailto:reillyjohn@bigpond.com)

## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The European Commission is aimed at Europe's Local cities themselves. The guide has released a guide on Governments and is based on is available [www.ccre.org](http://www.ccre.org) integrated environmental examples of best practice (Source: RRF, 16 November management. The publication developed by the towns and 2007)

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE UK

### Local Authorities

Defra in the UK has published the municipal waste statistics for all Local Authorities in England in 2006/07.

It was found:

- ◆ 83% of local authorities collected less household waste than in 2005/06;
- ◆ 94% of authorities recycled and composted more of their household waste than in 2005/06; and
- ◆ 88% of disposal authorities landfilled less of their municipal waste than in 2005/06.

For more information visit [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) (Source: RRF, 30 November 2007)

### Scotland

Statistics show that Scotland has been recycling



29.8% of municipal waste, almost reaching the 30% target it has been set to achieve by the end of 2008. Scotland has traditionally been one of the poorer performing European countries but has taken significant steps to reduce its waste to landfill.

(Source: [www.edie.net/news](http://www.edie.net/news))

### See right through you

Householders in the UK have said they are being shamed into recycling after a Local Council issued them with transparent rubbish bags.

Leaflets were distributed with the bags, warning residents that they may face legal action if paper, glass and cans are put in the bags instead of their recycling crates.



The new transparent bags are biodegradable and only available in controlled numbers in a bid to reduce waste and increase recycling in the area.

(Source: RRF, 23 November 2007)

## CHINA TACKLES E-WASTE

The Chinese Government has proposed increasing support for a formal e-waste recycling industry to compete with

unlicensed collectors. It has picked four cities to trial treatment plants, which it will

support through tax breaks, funds and technology.

(Source: Inside Waste, November/December 2007)



(Source: Engine, 7 December 2007)

## STEEL JAPAN



### Steel Can Recycling

The Japan Steel Can Recycling Association, a non-profit organisation established by steel producers and can manufacturers, has indicated that the nation's recycling rate for steel cans in 2006 was 88.1%, maintaining the world's highest level.

(Source: [www.japanfs.org/db](http://www.japanfs.org/db))

### Plastic Bag Surveys

Two Surveys were conducted in May 2007 on plastic bag utilisation. The surveys found:

- ◆ 85% of customers received free shopping bags;
- ◆ 60% of shoppers utilised reusable shopping bags;
- ◆ 40% of retailers had set targets for reducing the number of plastic bags distributed; and
- ◆ The greatest majority (46%) of respondents supported a charge for plastic bags.

(Source: [www.japanfs.org](http://www.japanfs.org))

### Construction Sludge

Two Japanese companies have developed a technology to treat and recycle construction site sludge containing cement.

The technology uses microorganisms to neutralise the sludge on-site and treat it to make it harmless enough to use in backfilling soil.

(Source: [www.japanfs.org/db](http://www.japanfs.org/db))

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 20 February 2008

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)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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#### MWAC Policy Coordinator

Ms Judy Scott

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WEST PERTH WA 6005

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WEST PERTH WA 6872

## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 15 January 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Workshop**  
Gingin  
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063
- 17 January 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Workshop**  
Wagin  
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063
- 21 January 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Workshop**  
Kalgoorlie  
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063
- 24 January 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Workshop**  
Albany  
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063
- 2 March 2008 **Clean Up Australia Day**  
For more information visit [www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)
- 5-7 March 2008 **Enviro 08**  
Melbourne  
For more information visit [www.enviroconvention.com.au](http://www.enviroconvention.com.au)
- 5-8 June 2008 **Going Green Expo**  
Melbourne  
For more information visit [www.goinggreenexpo.com.au](http://www.goinggreenexpo.com.au)
- 25-31 August 2008 **Keep Australia Beautiful week**  
For more information visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)
- 8-12 September 2008 **Waste & Recycle 2008 Conference, *The Heat is On: No Time to Waste***  
Esplande Hotel Fremantle  
For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)
- 10-16 November 2008 **National Recycling Week**  
For more information visit [www.planetark.com](http://www.planetark.com)
- 19 December 2007 **Low Emissions Energy Development Fund**  
For more information visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)
- January 2008 **Comments on the Waste Management Board Landfill Levy Review**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 14 March 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme (Possibility for deadline to be extended to September 2008)**  
Phase Two  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

## 2007/2008 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS



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

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



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL



SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

## WHAT IS THE MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL?

