

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 119

November 2008

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HAZARDOUS TENDER—OUT NOW

The Household Hazardous Waste Program has progressed, with the Request for Tender advertised on Saturday 8 November 2008.

The Tender is available on the web at

www.tenderlink.com/walga/ and closes on **Tuesday 9 December 2008**.

The successful tenderer will undertake Temporary HHW Collection Days and collect material from permanent HHW Drop off sites, it is

anticipated the Tender will be awarded and running by mid January 2009.

For more information on the Program or Tender contact Kellie Field on kfield@walga.asn.au or 9213 2062.

MWAC NEEDS YOU

Nominations are open for both officers and elected members to become part of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC).

Joining MWAC 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.

MWAC are seeking:
Local Government Officers

- Three (3) non-metropolitan Officers;



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

and

- Three (3) metropolitan Officers.
- Appointments to the Officers Advisory Group (OAG) is for two years.

The Officers Advisory Group meets on the second Monday of every month (except January).

Elected Member

- One (1) metropolitan or non-metropolitan elected member.

Appointment to MWAC is dependent on the expiry of their elected term. MWAC meets on the third Wednesday of every second month.

Nominations close **Friday 23 January 2009**. Nomination forms can be found at www.walga.asn.au or www.wastenet.net.au

MWAC Induction seminars will be held early February for newly appointed members and officers.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or rbrown@walga.asn.au



RECYCLING DOWN UNDER

The global economic downturn has affected the waste industry with the reduction in demand for post consumer plastic,

glass, paper, cardboard and scrap metal. MWAC, DEC and industry professionals have met to discuss strategic options to address the effects on WA. The Waste Authority has also been briefed by

recycling industry representatives.

For more information contact Jill Lethlean on jill.lethlean@dec.wa.gov.au or 6467 5305.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

WALGA has contracted ARRB Group to investigate the use of recycled materials in road construction, and to identify reasons why their has been limited used of recycled materials in road construction.

The aim of the workshop is to:

- Report on some current initiatives in the use of recycled materials in road construction;
- Receive feedback on the potential of other recycled materials that have been used, investigated or considered by

other Councils or organisations;

- Examine reasons why the uptake of recycled materials in road construction has had limited success; and
- Provide information on the lifecycle greenhouse emissions and environmental benefits of recycled materials

The Workshop is being held at the City of Canning Works Depot, 47 Fleming Ave, Wilson on **Wednesday 3 December 2008** (9.30am–12.30pm).

Any local governments who have used (or rejected using) recycled materials are strongly encouraged to attend.

For more information contact Erin Fuery on efuery@walga.asn.au or 9213 2050.

Please RSVP by **4pm Thursday 27 November 2008** to Cheryl Bulford on cbulford@walga.asn.au or 9213 2059.



The Waste Authority has released draft Environmental Guidelines for Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities

For more information visit the Waste Authority Website at www.zerowastewa.com.au

TOP OF THE VOX POP

The Waste & Recycle Conference 2008 Organising Committee recently received feedback from conference delegates via an online survey.

Over 75% of respondents thought that the general Conference content was excellent or above average.

85% of respondents believed that the quality of Keynote Speakers was excellent or above average. With all 4 keynote speakers receiving above average or excellent ratings.

The vast majority of delegates found the Conference excellent or above average as a

networking event and a learning experience.

Four lucky respondents won \$50 each for completing the survey.

Diary note: **Waste & Recycle 2009 (14–18 September)**.

ODOUR REPORT OUT

On the 31 October, the DEC released its *Final Reports from odour investigations around the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale*.

The DEC have directed the SMRC to prepare an odour

abatement plan. The DEC's Report is available from www.dec.wa.gov.au.

Since it commenced operation the RRRRC has diverted 470,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and reduced the amount of material going to landfill by approximately 70%. The RRRC

provides residential waste services around one third of the population of the metropolitan region.

For more information contact Chuck Ellis at the SMRC on 9329 2700 or email cellis@smrc.com.au

YES MINISTER

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council were congratulated by the Minister for Environment, Hon. Donna Faragher, for their successful battery recycling program.

In addition, the Minister congratulated Bayswater



Primary School on their contribution to the Program. Since 2005, the school has collected over 1.3 tonnes of batteries, with 621kg collected in 2007.

Last year EMRC received nearly 3 tonnes of batteries from schools, drop off bins at

libraries, council offices and shopping centres.

The battery collection program is funded by the EMRC.

For more information visit www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=130882

DEADLY WASTE

City of Stirling employees were evacuated from the Councils Balcatta Recycling Center last week after an individual inappropriately disposed of the pesticide Chloropicrin; this pesticide is predominantly known for its use as a chemical weapon during WWI.

A hazardous waste disposal

company was called to the facility to safely remove the material. Inhalation of Chloropicrin at very high levels, even briefly, can lead to pulmonary oedema, unconsciousness and even death.

The chemical is registered for use as a pesticide in Australia and is mainly used as a

fumigant to control pests in the soil. Mayor David Boothman said that the incident was a reminder for residents to follow the correct procedures for handling toxic waste.

(Source: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and *Guardian Express*, pg 8, 11/11/2008)

HOW FRIENDLY IS YOUR BEACH?

Keep Australia Beautiful WA and Surf Life Saving WA are supporting WA's Clean Beach Challenge 2009.



The categories include

Friendly Beach Award, Community Action Award, Protection of the Environment, Natural Resource Management and WA Litter Prevention.

Nominations close **Friday 20 February 2009.**

For more information visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au www.mybeach.com.au or call 6467 5143.



TOOLS GET READY

Re-tooling for Climate Change Is a \$75 million competitive grants Program, which aims to help small and medium sized Australian manufacturers to reduce their environmental footprint, by improving the energy and/or water efficiency of their production processes. Grants of \$10,000 to \$500,000 are available to cover up to one third of the cost of each project.

Application periods close:
Round 2—**16 February 2009**
Round 3—**1 June 2009.**

Applications close 5pm (local time).

Climate Ready

Is a competitive grants Program, under the *Clean Business Australia Program*, providing small grants (from \$50,000 to \$500,000) and large grants (\$500,000 to \$5million) on a matching funding basis.

Climate Ready aims to encourage innovation through increasing the level of research and development, proof of

concept and commercialisation activities to develop solutions to climate change challenges. Application periods close
Round 2—**4 December 2008**
Round 3—**12 March 2009**
Round 4—**25 June 2009.**

For more information Visit www.ausindustry.gov.au quick search for "climate change" and see the fact sheets for "Re-tooling for Climate Change" and "Climate Ready".

Woolworths has become the first major retailer to stop selling incandescent light bulbs.

(Source: ALGA News, 24/10/2008)



TRASHY TV

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) have signaled their awareness of the community and industry's desire in recycling end-of-life TV's and computers.

If 75% of the 1.5 million TV's discarded annually were recycled, it would result in a national saving of approximately 23,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, 520 mega litres of water,

400,000 gigajoules of energy and 160,000 cubic metres of landfill space. It is estimated that computer recycling would generate similar benefits.

The key test as to whether a Product Stewardship or similar arrangement will be put in place is if the Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) would result in a "net benefit" to the community.

For more information visit

www.ephc.gov.au

As electronic waste was raised by Local Government in a recent survey as a key material in need of a Producer Responsibility Scheme, the acknowledgment of the importance of the issue by the EPHC is welcomed.

For more information visit the WasteNet website www.wastenet.net.au

COMMUNICATION WITH THE NATION

The Environmental Protection Heritage Council (EPHC) is comprised of Ministers from all Australian States, Territories, as well as the Australian, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Governments.

The EPHC met on 7 November 2008 in Adelaide to brainstorm



and cement frameworks to tackle key environmental challenges.

Climate Change **Carbon Capture and Storage Guidelines**

Ministers were pleased with the release of the draft *Environmental Guidelines for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Geological Storage* for public comment.

Methane Emissions from Landfills

Ministers considered a number of options for improving the management of landfill gas emissions. They also recognised that it was important that management activities must complement the Carbon Pollution

Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and they agreed to reconsider the options available after the release of the White Paper on the CPRS.

Waste Management

National Waste Policy

EPHC supported the development of a national waste policy and the compilation of a comprehensive report on waste. Such a policy will allow the opportunity to discuss waste in a wider context of climate change and sustainability.

Product Stewardship

Council supported initiatives to improve the management of priority waste issues including product stewardship policy at the national level. The Minister's agreed to develop a Product Stewardship Framework to facilitate the decision making process to assess when product stewardship is appropriate and the elements required for an effective and efficient model. The Minister's agreed with the Terms of Reference for the reviewed National Waste Framework.

Plastic Bags

Council has endorsed expenditure to underpin Australian standards

development for degradable and biodegradable plastics. Based on the outcomes of Victoria's trial, charging 10 cents per plastic bag, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and the Northern Territory will develop a proposal to be considered at the next meeting of Council.

National Packaging Covenant

Ministers agreed that the findings of the National Packaging Covenant Mid Term Review, provided a firm basis for discussion about extending the Covenant arrangements beyond June 2010.

Litter Management in Australia

Despite the growth in overall waste volumes, the National Index since 2005-06 indicated that litter volumes are stable or in decline. The Council endorsed a report on Litter Management in Australia which investigated a diverse range of activities being undertaken by community and governments to reduce litter.

For more information visit www.ephc.gov.au



Nestle Waters announced plans to develop a bottle made from 100% recycled material by 2020.

(Source: www.environmentalmanagementnews.net/StoryView.asp?StoryID=447547)

POLL DANCING

The Australian National University (ANU) Poll is a quarterly survey of Australian public opinion. The topic of each survey is an issue of national importance.

The ANU Poll places public opinion in a broad policy context and benchmarks Australia against international opinion.

The ANU released Poll results for the Environment on 29 October 2008. The Poll found

that Australians view global warming as the most serious threat to the future well-being of the world.



Over 50% believe the Government is doing too little to protect the environment.

The majority of the public have made small changes to their behaviour in order to assist the environment, for example 92%

regularly participate in recycling household rubbish. More substantial changes such as

greater use of public transport were less common.

54% support the Emissions Trading Scheme, whilst 34% opposed it. The majority surveyed said that they are prepared to pay higher prices or to accept reduced living standards in order to protect the environment.

For more information visit www.anu.edu.au/anupoll

(Source: ANU Poll: Public Opinion Towards the Environment, Report 3, October 2008).

THE SIGN OF FORUM



PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP FORUM

The Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) has initiated a signage support program for Local Government.

The Program aims to provide

communities with free planned campaign/ roadside signage, posters, as well as waste and recycling bin stickers.

The initiative is aimed at supporting councils in their current or new litter abatement and resource recovery initiatives.

To apply, local governments should complete a short application form detailing the

planned campaign/ promotional support activity.

To apply for free *Do the Right Thing* signage, visit the PSF website www.afgc.org.au/psf and print out an application form.

First round applications close **Friday 5 December 2008**.

GLOBAL WINE

WRAP (Waste & Resource Action Programme) is focusing the second phase of the GlassRite Wine project on Australian, USA and European wine sectors.



The aim is to encourage bulk importation of wine into the UK and reduce the total glass wine bottle weight.

The international environmental consultancy,

WSP Environmental, will lead this stage which will also:

- Forecast and quantify the potential demand for bulk importation in the UK, and determine UK manufacturing and filler capacity to handle the increase in volumes;
- Encourage the increased use of recycled content in UK manufactured glass bottles;
- Trial and produce a 300g wine bottle that the wine industry will use; and

- Investigate the option of lightweight champagne and sparkling wine bottles.

All companies involved in supplying wine to the UK are invited to participate.

For more information visit www.wrap.org or contact Mark Richmond at WSP Environmental on 0113 395 6636 or Mark.Richmond@WSPGroup.com

Time for a break?

Visit the Packaging man game



www.nofreereliefs.org/files/packman/packman.html

LESS WASTE, MORE INTEREST

A Local Credit Union in Japan has accepted deposits for its sixth Eco Term Deposits.



interest rate will rise in proportion to the reduction of waste production in the community.

The one term deposit scheme was available to individuals and companies

The conditions of the Eco Term deposits is that the equivalent \$950 to

\$28,570.

For more information visit www.japanfs.org/en/pages/027205.html

(Source: Japan for Sustainability, 28/10/08)

EPR = ZERO WASTE

The Ontario Ministry of Environment has released a discussion paper *Towards a Zero Waste Future: Review of Ontario's Waste Diversion Act 2002*.

The discussion paper includes descriptions of a variety of different Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and its advantages as an approach to zero waste.

To download the paper visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2008/010-4676.pdf

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 10 December 2008

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

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2008/2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 December 2008

Recycled Materials Workshop

City of Canning Works Dept, Wilson

RSVP to Cheryl Bulford on cbulford@walga.asn.au. For more information contact Erin Fuery on efuery@walga.asn.au or 9213 2050

15 December 2008

WALGA Environmental Management Training Module

For more information or to register contact Brenna Heagney 9213 2098 or email bheagney@walga.asn.au

14-18 September 2009

Waste & Recycle Conference 2009

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2008/2009 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

4 December 2008

Climate Ready—Round 2 Closes

For more information visit www.ausindustry.gov.au "Quick search" for "climate change" and see the fact sheet for "Climate Ready".

5 December 2008

Do the Right Thing signage

For more information visit www.afgc.org.au/psf

9 December 2008

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Recycling Tender

For more information contact Kellie Field on 9213 2062 or kfield@walga.asn.au

23 January 2009

MWAC and OAG Nominations

For Nomination forms visit www.walga.asn.au or www.wastenet.net.au. For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or rbrown@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

For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au

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.



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Setting 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



City of Geraldton-Greenough
Climate of Opportunity



Reducing. Reusing. Recycling.



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL



South East
METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL