

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 80

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Performance Based RRRS<br>RRRS replacement workshop                                     | 2 |
| Price Reduction for Old Bags<br>Differential charging on rates                          | 2 |
| KalBould is Crate<br>New recycling initiative in the City<br>of Kalgoorlie-Boulder      | 2 |
| Stirling Goes a Long Way<br>Greenwaste bags from Stirling                               | 2 |
| No Tip to the Country<br>Fremantle tip movement   | 3 |
| Plastic Surgery Removes Bags<br>Esperance plastic bag reduction                         | 3 |
| Not Totally Controlled<br>Compliance with Controlled Waste<br>Regulations in WA         | 3 |
| Got the GIS?<br>Map of locations of sites<br>nominated                                  | 3 |
| Beauty and the Bin<br>Activities by the KABC  | 3 |
| E Export Trade<br>New criteria for electronics export                                   | 4 |
| Lets Get Loopy<br>CSIRO review of recycling in<br>Australia                             | 4 |
| A Fair Swap<br>Scrap for Schools Program  | 4 |
| Modelling Contract<br>Model for Waste and Recycling<br>Collection Contract              | 4 |
| You'll Never Never Glow<br>Location for Radioactive Waste                               | 4 |
| Viagra for Tyres<br>Product to prevent punctures  | 4 |
| Biodegradable by Association<br>Association to promote bioplastics<br>to be established | 5 |
| Music = Zero Waste<br>Waste Free Music Festival   | 5 |
| Bags to be Banned<br>Plastic bags to be banned in SA                                    | 5 |
| NIMBY Does Italy<br>Study on NIMBY  | 5 |
| Prevention is Always Better<br>EU Report on Recycling                                   | 5 |
| eCycling In US<br>Trial of Product Stewardship in US                                    | 5 |

## WASTE & RECYCLE 2005 REGISTER NOW!

The Waste & Recycle Conference 2005 is fast approaching and registrations are still open. The Conference will be held from the 23rd to the 26th of August. To register visit the Waste & Recycle website [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)



## NEW AND BLUE WASTENET

The WasteNet website has been given a facelift and its new incarnation is ready for business.

The new website has been made more versatile and user-friendly.

The structure of the website was reviewed and a range

of new features added.

These features include a special section for Municipal Waste Advisory Council members and an *Information Bulletin* Archive.

The new Wastenet website is available at the same URL – [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

To keep-up-to date on waste issues subscribe to *The WasteNet Update* by sending an email to [enquiries@wastenet.net.au](mailto:enquiries@wastenet.net.au) with "Subscribe: WasteNet Update" in the subject line.



The screenshot shows the WASTE NET website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for About, Policy, Issues, Programs, Information, Newsletter, and Events. Below this is a "Welcome To The New WasteNet" section with a brief introduction. The main content area is divided into three columns: Information, Policy, and Members, each with a brief description and a corresponding icon. On the right side, there is an "Events Calendar" for July 2005 and a "Latest News" section with a link to "Training Opportunities at Waste and Recycle 2005".

## PERFORMANCE BASED RRRS

On the 29th of July, the Waste Management Board hosted a workshop to provide information and receive comments on the proposed replacement to the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS).

The Chair of the Board discussed his expectations for

the replacement scheme, currently named the Resource Recovery Incentive Scheme (RRIS). Some of his comments about the Scheme included:

- basing it on a rebate model (similar to that of the RRRS);
- accessed by industry; and
- criteria including some measure of how well the recipient recycles/recovers

value from the waste stream – hence 'performance based'.

No commitments were made regarding how the development process would proceed.

## PRICE REDUCTION FOR OLD BAGS

The City of Wanneroo intend to lobby the State Government for a pensioner discount on the rate charged for rubbish collection.

Currently, under the *Rates and Charges Act*, eligible pensioners and seniors receive a rebate on their general rates and Emergency Services Levy of up to 50%.

However, this rebate does not apply to domestic refuse charges. Lobbying State Government is one of three possible strategies being developed by the City of Wanneroo.

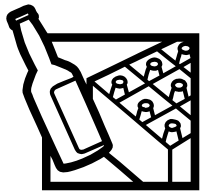
The other two options are the provision of smaller bins for pensioners or incorporating the collection costs into the general rates.

A report from the Council indicated that of the 29 Perth metropolitan Councils, 10 include the collection costs in the general rates, not as a separate charge.

For more information, please contact the City of Wanneroo on 9405 5000.

(Source: *North Coast Times Community*, 26 July 2005)

In Germany, a company is offering to fit silencers to existing bottle banks to ensure they comply with noise emission requirements.



(Source: International Waste News, May 2005)

## KALBOULD IS CRATE

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has announced that in the 2005-6 financial year they will introduce a new recycling initiative.

The City intends to make available to residents 3,000 sixty litre yellow recycling crates. These crates will be given to residents free of charge.

Residents will be encouraged to place their recyclables into the crates and take them to the recycling depots which are located throughout the City.

The City sees this process as one of education for residents in the management of recyclable household material.

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



## STIRLING GOES A LONG WAY



The City of Stirling estimates that to date, over 200,000 reusable greenwaste bags have been distributed. However, there never seemed to be enough bags to meet demand.

The picture shows one of these bags hard at work on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

These very popular bags are used to store greenwaste before

vergeside collection, with the aim of reducing the number of plastic bags used for greenwaste storage as they often contaminate the mulch.

For more information visit the City of Stirling website [www.stirling.wa.gov.au](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au) or contact Viet Nysen on 9345 8555 or email [nysen.viet@stirling.wa.gov.au](mailto:nysen.viet@stirling.wa.gov.au)

## NO TIP TO THE COUNTRY

The City of Fremantle has rejected a proposal from Pindan Pty Ltd to purchase, remediate and develop the South Fremantle landfill site, following a Council decision on the 27th of July 2005.

The commercial proposal aimed to achieve

remediation by completely removing contaminated material by rail to a private landfill site in the Shire of Dardanup, and replacing it with clean fill.

Mayor Peter Tagliaferri said, "Given the community feedback the City has already

received, it was felt that the Pindan proposal would not be supported by the community, so Councillors, thought it was best not to continue down this path."

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

## PLASTIC SURGERY REMOVES BAGS

The Shire of Esperance is aiming to become plastic bag free by December 2005. Figures gathered by the Bag Smart Committee show that, of the 70,000 plastic bags used weekly in Esperance, 90% come from the four major retailers. In light of this, the Council recently

voted to encourage major retailers to meet the deadline. Another initiative to reduce bag use are plastic 'bag free weeks' held every month.

The hard work of the Shire has paid off, with anecdotal evidence suggesting a reduction in the number of

plastic bags in waterways and airborne bags at the Wylie Bay rubbish tip.

For more information contact Carmel Breaman on 9071 0666 or email [carmel.breaman@esperance.wa.gov.au](mailto:carmel.breaman@esperance.wa.gov.au)

## NOT TOTALLY CONTROLLED

A recent investigation of compliance with the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations*, found 6% of businesses were noncompliant.

The Department of Environment investigated 482 business premises, 43 waste carriers and 16 disposal sites.

The controlled waste category includes all liquid waste and some solid waste, such as

tyres and contaminated soil.

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

## GOT THE GIS?

The Core Consultative Committee (3C) has launched a web based mapping system to show the locations of the 936 sites nominated as



potential hazardous/ industrial waste treatment precincts.

The map also shows the essential site

selection criteria using a geographic information system (GIS).

To view the map visit the 3C Website [www.3c.org.au](http://www.3c.org.au)

## BEAUTY AND THE BIN

### Adopt a Bin

The Metropolitan Illegal Dumping Taskforce (MIDT) is working with Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) in WA has started an 'adopt a bin site' programme.

The Programme aims to stop illegal dumping at Charity bins. In this case, any material deposited outside

the bin is considered illegal dumping. In order to address the issue, the KABC is suggesting people 'adopt a bin site' and report any illegal dumping.

For more information please contact Amy Warner on 9278 0641 or email [amy.warner@environment.wa.gov.au](mailto:amy.warner@environment.wa.gov.au)

### Do it five ways

Keep Australia Beautiful Week will be held from the 30th of August to the 3rd of September 2005. Each of the five days has a different theme: work; school; home; recreation and travel.

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

In Imari City, Southern Japan, the world's first house with walls made from eggshells has been built. The walls are hazard free and fireproof. The company also produces wallpaper made from eggshells.



(Source: Japan for Sustainability, 5 July 2005)

## E EXPORT TRADE

Senator Ian Campbell, Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, has announced that dealers and exporters of used electronic equipment will have to comply with more stringent criteria to prevent the unauthorised export of electronic waste.

Australia has been exporting about \$20 million a year worth of used electronic equipment to China, India and other Asian countries.

However, there has been increasing concern that these exports may breach legal

obligations under the Basel Convention.

To view the new criteria visit [www.deh.gov.au](http://www.deh.gov.au)



A first for Latin America occurred with the opening of a PET recycling plant in Mexico. Mexico is the worlds' largest per capita consumer of Coca-Cola.

The CSIRO recently conducted a review of recycling in Australia. One area highlighted was the high level of support that recycling receives in Australia, with 96% of Australians saying that

recycling services are important to them.

Three key issues identified to increase recycling rates are:

- Design for recycling;
- Better recycling policies and regulations; and

- Extended product responsibility (EPR) or stewardship.

The review titled *Closing the loop?* is available from [www.publish.csiro.au/ecos](http://www.publish.csiro.au/ecos)

## LETS GET LOOPY

## A FAIR SWAP

A school in Wallangarra, Queensland, is having a scrap drive to raise funds.

year of operation, but could potentially raise thousands of dollars for the school.

who will pay the school for any scrap steel donated.

The *Scrap for Schools Program* is only in its second

The school has gone into partnership with Smorgon Steel,

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



(Source: WME Weekly, 21 July 2005)

## MODELLING CONTRACT

The New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation has released a model Waste and Recycling Collection Contract.

The package comprises a series of documents and instructions designed to assist Councils to produce sound tenders, advertisements and contracts for

their waste collection services. Copies can be obtained from Danyelle Carter on (02) 8837 6064 or email [danyelle.carter@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:danyelle.carter@environment.nsw.gov.au)



## YOU'LL NEVER NEVER GLOW

The Federal Government has finalised a list of possible locations for a future Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility,

for low to intermediate level radioactive waste. These locations include Department of Defence properties in the Northern Territory.

For more information on these locations visit [www.radioactivewaste.gov.au](http://www.radioactivewaste.gov.au)

## VIAGRA FOR TYRES

Annoyed by tyre punctures on vehicles used at your landfill?

One possible solution is Arnco's flatproofing polymer.

The patented liquid is pumped into the tyre through its valve

system, the liquid 'sets' within 24 hours. Tyres filled with this polymer have a life of two to five times longer than air filled tyres, according to Mr Richard Blacker of Arnco. One limitation of the polymer is a speed limit of 80 km/hour.

For more information, please contact Richard Blacker on (02) 9688 8888 or email [richard@bearcat.com.au](mailto:richard@bearcat.com.au)

(Source: Roads, June/July, 2006)

## BIODEGRADABLE BY ASSOCIATION

The soon to be launched Australasian Bioplastics Association will represent industry in Australia and New Zealand in the promotion of plastic that is biodegradable, compostable and based on renewable resources.

The Association will seek to establish labelling and standards for bioplastics consistent with international practice.

Another aim of the Association is to work with government and other relevant stakeholders to assess the

requirements of compost processing and to market bioplastics as a compostable product.

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

(Source: Ferret.com.au)

## MUSIC = ZERO WASTE

The WOMADelaide 2005 music festival was declared a Zero Waste event. Only biodegradable crockery and

cutlery was permitted. A survey of the disposed material found 37% paper and card from catering and 22%

paper and card from other sources.

(Resource Recovery Forum, 9 July 2005)

## BAGS TO BE BANNISHED

The State Government of South Australia has introduced a three-year deadline, after which single use plastic shopping bags will be banned. Zero Waste

South Australia reported that the State Government will encourage reusable bags as a replacement. To replace plastic bin bags, the State Government is promoting

biodegradable cornstarch bags. For more information visit

[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 9 July 2005)

## NIMBY DOES ITALY

A study from Italy titled *NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)* was published recently. The two-year study tracked 190 plants which had encountered public opposition.

Of these, 65% were related to the disposal of waste. The main reasons for opposition were health fears (18%), environmental impacts (17%) and negative quality of life (6%).

The Report is available (in Italian only) from [www.nimbyforum.net](http://www.nimbyforum.net)

(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 17 July 2005)

## PREVENTION IS ALWAYS BETTER

A new report from the European Union regarding what local and regional authorities can do to reduce waste, suggests that waste prevention receive priority over recycling.

The Report suggested that since waste results from consumption, waste prevention should also address lifestyle and patterns of consumption. The Report, *Voluntary actions supported*

*by local authorities to encourage waste prevention in Europe*, is available from [www.acrr.org](http://www.acrr.org)

(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 20 June 2005)

## ECYCLING IN US

A recent trial conducted by the US EPA, the Product Stewardship Institute and an electronics retailer, Staples, has shown that junk

consumer electronics can be collected at a low cost.

The recycling service was provided via a 'reverse

logistics' system using Staples existing product distribution network.

(Source: WME Weekly 21 July 2005)

The offshore Semakau landfill in Singapore has recently been launched for recreational activities.



(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 23 July 2005)

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting (Ordinary)

Date: 23 September, 2005

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: Council Chambers, City of Albany

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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## 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 23–26 August 2005 **Waste & Recycle 2005**  
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle  
For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)
- 30 August–3  
September 2005 **Work Aware, Sustainable School, Environmental Care at Home,  
Green Play and Travel Clean Days**  
For more information visit [www.keepaustraliabeautiful.com.au](http://www.keepaustraliabeautiful.com.au)
- 1–3 September  
2005 **9th Conference on Environmental Science and Technology**  
Rhodes Island, Greece  
For more information visit [www.gnest.org/cest/](http://www.gnest.org/cest/)
- 7–9 September  
2005 **Waste Q 2005: Creating Our Future and Landfill 2005**  
Rydges Southbank, Brisbane  
For more information visit [www.wmaa.asn.au](http://www.wmaa.asn.au)
- 3–7 October 2005 **Sardinia 2005: 10th International Waste Management & Landfill  
Symposium**  
Cagliari, Italy  
For more information visit [www.sardiniasymposium.it](http://www.sardiniasymposium.it)
- 10–12 October 2005 **Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and  
Production**  
Melbourne, Australia  
For more information visit [www.6aprspc.com](http://www.6aprspc.com)
- 11–14 October 2005 **AUSPACK 2005**  
Sydney, Australia  
For more information visit [www.auspack.com.au](http://www.auspack.com.au)
- 17–21 October 2005 **14th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**  
Paris, France  
For more information visit [www.conference-biomass.com](http://www.conference-biomass.com)
- 1–3 November 2005 **WasteMinz Conference 2005**  
Rotorua, New Zealand  
For more information visit [www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz)
- 6–8 November 2005 **ISWA 2005: Towards Integrated Urban Solid Waste Management  
System**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
For more information visit [www.iswa2005.ars.org.ar](http://www.iswa2005.ars.org.ar)

## 2005 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 26 August 2005 **WA Environment Awards**  
For more information visit <http://awards.environment.wa.gov.au>
- 31 August 2005 **'The Challenge' Steel Can Recycling Council**  
For more information visit [www.cansmart.org](http://www.cansmart.org)



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*Working for the Environment's Right*

## WHAT IS THE MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL?



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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.

