

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 78

June 2005

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WE WANT YOU!

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is seeking nominations from four Elected Members (three metropolitan and one non-metropolitan); and six Serving Officers (four metropolitan and two non-metropolitan).



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Putting the Environment Right"

The term of appointment for Elected Members is two years, effective August 2005.

The term of appointment for Serving Officers is one year, effective August 2005.

The nomination forms can be downloaded from the WA Local Government Association's Web site www.walga.asn.au

Danielle Witham, WA Local Government Association, PO Box 1544, West Perth 6872 or email nominations@walga.asn.au by close of business **Friday 15 July 2005**.

For further information, please contact Executive Officer, Municipal Waste Advisory Council, Bernard Ryan on 9213 2037.

Please address your nomination form to

SET THE MINISTER, WRITE

On the 1st of July 2005, a meeting will be held in Perth which will determine the fate of the National Packaging Covenant.

The Minister for Environment; Science, Hon. Dr Judy Edwards, will participate in this meeting of State and Federal Environment Ministers.

Work by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council has shown that Environment Ministers have been misinformed about the cost to Local Government of implementing the next National Packaging Covenant.

We strongly encourage all Local Governments to write to Hon. Dr Judy Edwards to

seek assurances about the implementation of the Covenant and the investigation of alternatives.

For further information about the issues and how to have input, please visit the Covenant page on WasteNet, www.wastenet.net.au/home/npc

RRRS PERIOD 14 OUTED

Application forms for Period 14 of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS) have been distributed to all Local Governments and Regional Councils in Western Australia.



Please submit your application forms by **Friday 29th of July 2005**.

Period 13 of the RRRS has been submitted to the Waste Management Board.

It is expected that cheques for Period 13 will be released before the end of 2005.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063.



MWAC NEWS & VIEWS

MWAC Submissions

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has produced three submissions on the detail of the National Packaging Covenant, collectively, identifying substantial shortcomings with the Covenant package.

The submissions cover

- *The Proposed Variation to the National Environmental Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure;*
- *The Proposed Revised*

National Packaging Covenant; and

- *The Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on Revised National Packaging Covenant.*

All three submissions are available on WasteNet, www.wastenet.net.au/home/npc

Policy Statement on Landfill Levy and Strategic Waste Funding

The Western Australian Local Government Association recently endorsed a *Policy*

Statement on the Landfill Levy and Strategic Waste Funding.

The Policy Statement sets out the conditions under which Local Government supports the Landfill Levy and articulates simple and sensible principles to be applied to both management of the Levy and the funds raised through it.

The Policy Statement is available at www.wastenet.net.au/Waste_Policy

Trials are under way using processed sand made from 100% recycled glass in golf course bunkers.



(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 20 May 2005)

MRFING ALONG NICELY

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has concluded its settlement with the Recycling Company of WA (RCWA) and the National Australia Bank.

The SMRC has also instituted a business plan to install a new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in approximately nine months.

"The SMRC business plan to develop and operate a new facility has been endorsed by all five participating councils in the Regional Resource Recovery Centre," said SMRC Chairman Cr Thompson, "this fact confirms our analysis that this is the best option for the region's current and future recycling needs."

According to SMRC Deputy Chair, Cr Clive Robartson, the

SMRC has now taken over operation of the MRF at Canning Vale. The former RCWA equipment lacks the capacity to meet the recycling needs of the region, however, it will be used in the SMRC's contingency plans while a new MRF is developed.

For further information, please contact Chuck Ellis on 9316 3988.

TWO TONE FROM TAMALA

The Mindarie Regional Council's (MRC) Tamala Park facility is now a collection point for the Paintback™ Program.

The Program is conducted in association with private enterprise and the Department

of Environment. August 2005. Paint taken to the facility will be delivered to Dulux, where it will be treated and enhanced.

From there it will be made available for purchase from Bunnings outlets in late

The paint will be available in two shades: Doeskin (light) and Iron Bark (dark).

For more information visit www.mrc.wa.gov.au



ECO OFFICE BY ASSOCIATION

The WA Local Government Association's Eco Office Team has been working hard to help the Association reduce its footprint on the Earth.

One of the major initiatives of the Eco Office Team has been a socially responsible disposal programme for old IT equipment.

The disposal process now involves three stages:

- Auctioning IT equipment to staff;
- Offering it to a non-profit organisation; and finally
- Recycling it through an ISO approved recycling company.

The money raised from the auctioning of equipment is used to offset the recycling cost.

Paper use in the office has also been targeted. One example is the use of duplex printing as standard. Since March, 66% of printing is duplex, compared to only 2% last year.

The Eco Office team is continuing to explore sustainable procurement and an energy audit, so watch this space!

TYRED OF ILLEGAL DUMPING?

The illegal dumping of used tyres has been an ongoing problem for the Shire of Murray.

To address the issue, the Shire has added a new section to their tip passes which allows residents to dispose of four car tyres for free, per financial year. For a nominal fee, residents can

also dispose of additional car, truck and tractor tyres.

During 2003/04 almost 1,000 tyres were disposed of by the Shire at a cost of \$4,000.

Since the introduction of this service, the number of illegally dumped tyres has significantly decreased, to

the benefit of both the environment and the visual amenity of the Shire. The service has been very popular with residents.

For further information, please contact Chris Wilson on 9531 7764 or email chrisw@murray.wa.gov.au



MULCH ADO FOR NOTHING

The City of Wanneroo will be distributing free mulch vouchers with its next Rates Notice. When the City conducted the programme last year, 1,547 residents used the vouchers.

The Council has approved the continuation of the programme for a further 12 months. Residents will be issued with a voucher, valid until 30th September 2005, entitling them to a free load of

mulch from the Wangara Greens Recycling Facility. For more information visit www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au

(Source: *Joondalup Community* 12/5/2005)

FINE ON VERGE

The City of Armadale is concerned with the increased exposure to public liability and degradation of the residential areas by greenwaste or household material placed on the verge outside official verge collection periods.

If residents do not remove the material on request, they could face a \$200 fine.

Scavengers/recyclers who leave the verge untidy during the verge junk collections could also face a fine if

residents are prepared to act as witnesses.

For more information visit the media release section of the City of Armadale website www.armadale.wa.gov.au

HARVEY RECYCLING

The Leschenault Catholic Primary School, in the Shire of Harvey, recently played host to the Shire's Health Department and recycling contractor, Greens Recycling.

Mr Sang Chi, of Greens Recycling, entertained the students for 20 minutes with do's and don'ts for recycling. Students received education

brochures reinforcing the recycling message.

The Shire of Harvey outlined its role in providing kerbside recycling and the substantial improvement in the participation rate, which has increased from about 28% with the bag systems to approximately 74% with the MGB service. The Shire of

Harvey is one of eight South West Councils which operate as a collective group with Green Recycling to provide a kerbside service in the South West.

For further information, please contact Scott Dandridge on 9729 0333 or email harvey@geo.net.au

Over 50 bulk and 150 individual orders have been received for paper made using kangaroo poo.



(Source: Environmental Management News, 30 May 2005)

WORMS SPARK DISCUSSION

Monthly displays at Subiaco's Sustainable Demonstration House by volunteer Earth Carers provide opportunities for householders to discuss composting, worm farming and better domestic waste management.

The working worm farms draw a lot of attention and spark conversations about the wider issues of waste in landfill and practical solutions that householders can use to turn waste into resources.

For further information about the WMRC's Earth Carers program, please contact Anne Pettit on 0419 098 748 or email [Anthea Paino anthea@townofmosmanpark.wa.gov.au](mailto:anthea@townofmosmanpark.wa.gov.au)

MOUNT TIDY TOWN

The 2005 Tidy Town Australia Award has been awarded to Mount Gambier in South Australia.

Kojonup, who were the WA of local government and the State Tidy Town winners, community.

received the Community-Local Government Partnership Award. This Award recognises the partnership achievements For more information on Tidy Towns visit www.keepaustraliabeautiful.org.au

AWARDING WA

Entries are now invited for the WA Environment Awards 2005.

including government leading by example, resource and waste management, and infrastructure or services. 29th of July 2005 and winners will be notified in November 2005.

Business, government and community groups can nominate in 14 categories

Entries close on the



For more information visit www.environ.wa.gov.au/awards/index.asp

FLOWERY SUCCESS

The winners of the Banksia Awards were announced on the 4th of June 2005.

Responsibility and Leadership Award. The award recognised Toyota's achievements, including a 30.5% reduction in

Toyota Australia won the Business Environmental

waste to landfill and a 26.5% reduction in water consumption.

For more information visit www.banksiafdn.com



GROUP APPLICATION

The Department of Environment has convened a working group to examine the standards for organics (including compost) applied to land.

The working group will provide advice to the Department of Environment on preparing draft guidelines for the application of recycled organics to land.

For more information on the working group visit www.wastewa.com

EXTENSIVE SUBMISSIONS

The Department of Environment recently released a summary of submissions made in response to its *Discussion Paper on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)*.

for the introduction of an EPR framework through new legislation on Waste Management.

permitting a wide variety of schemes to be implemented under the legislation.

The main points made by the submissions are expressed as a set of 15 propositions. The Summary Document shows that there is general support

Other commonly supported propositions include the desirability of national, instead of state-based schemes, the need for the legislation to permit mandatory schemes and the importance of

The views of the Department appear to align reasonably well with those commonly expressed by Local Government.

For more information visit www.wastewa.com

ATTITUDES SUCK

The Australian Institute has released a report titled *The Attitudes of Young People to the Environment*.

everything I can'. The lowest level of 'agree' responses were in the 14-17 age bracket, while the highest was in the 65+ age category.

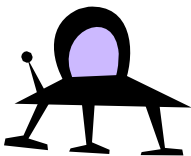
Australians are active participants in recycling schemes than consider themselves environmentalists".

One result from the Report was in response to the statement 'I try and recycle

Another interesting result was that "a higher proportion of

To view the Report visit www.tai.org.au

An Environment Group has issued a warning about the potential waste to landfill from Star Wars merchandise. Following the first film they estimate 5,700 tonnes of non-recyclable material from merchandise was sent to landfill.



(Source: Environmental Management News, 19 May 2005)

GOOD RAP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A reclaimed asphalt product (RAP) recovery facility has been launched in Victoria.



the plant will divert 6,200 tonnes of material from landfill and other markets with recycled asphalt.

When fully operational

The plant can supply both Local Government

For more information visit www.citywide.com.au

SIGNAGE OF THE TIMES

EcoRecycle Victoria has produced *Public Place and Event Signage Guidelines*.

The Guidelines follow testing of public place signage carried out by EcoRecycle in 2004.

For more information visit www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au

WASTE FOR EXPANSION

The Maltese Government is promoting sustainable waste policies to address previously unregulated landfill use.

One example is the use of construction waste for reclaiming land and creating

artificial islands. Construction waste is the largest component of total waste produced in Malta, and up to now has been disposed of in municipal dumps along with household and other refuse.

The policy is now in the final drafting stages.

For more information visit www.di-ve.com or www.business-line.com/business-weekly/archives/363/13.htm

GUM CHEWERS BEWARE



An initiative in the UK will see people who dispose of their chewing gum irresponsibly face on the spot fines. Trained wardens will be employed by local governments to issue the fines.

The aim is to change gum dropping behaviours and save money for local governments.

For more information visit www.number10.gov.uk

FULL OF IT?

The UK Environment Agency has completed a study titled *A life cycle assessment of disposable and reuseable nappies in the UK*.

The study found little or no difference in the overall environmental impact of the different types of nappies.

To view the report, visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk

BITE OF THE APPLE

Apple Computers recently launched a free-return programme for iPods.

The programme involves a sales package which provides a 10% discount towards the purchase of a new iPod when the old one is returned. (Source: Science Daily.com)

WEEE MAN

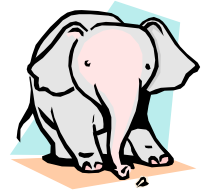
A sculpture has been unveiled in London to show just how much electronic equipment an average person throws away during

their lifetime. The sculpture, called the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Man, is 7m high and weighs three tonnes.

For more information visit www.weeman.org



A zoo in New York is looking to save energy costs by using the waste produced by its own animals – particularly elephants.



(Source: Environmental Management News, 6 May 2005)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 20 July, 2005

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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2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 20–22 July 2005 **NSW Waste Management Conference & Expo: Building the Vision**
Star City, Sydney
For more information visit www.nswwasteconference.com.au
- 23–26 August 2005 **Waste & Recycle 2005**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit 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
- 1–3 September 2005 **9th Conference on Environmental Science and Technology**
Rhodes Island, Greece
For more information visit www.gnest.org/cest/
- 7–9 September 2005 **Waste Q 2005: Creating Our Future**
Rydges Southbank, Brisbane
For more information visit 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
- 10–12 October 2005 **Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production**
Melbourne, Australia
For more information visit www.6aprspc.com
- 17–21 October 2005 **14th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**
Paris, France
For more information visit www.conference-biomass.com
- 1–3 November 2005 **WasteMinz Conference 2005**
Rotorua, New Zealand
For more information visit www.wasteminz.org.nz

2005 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 15 July 2005 **MWAC Elected Member and Serving Officer Nominations**
Nomination Forms can be downloaded from www.walga.asn.au
For more information please contact Bernard Ryan 9213 2037
- 29 July 2005 **RRRS Application Form Period 14 Due**
Return to address given on forms.
For more information contact Rebecca Brown 9213 2063
- 31 August 2005 **'The Challenge' Steel Can Recycling Council**
For more information visit www.cansmart.org



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Working for the Environment's Sights"

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.

