

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 83

November 2005

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TENDER MERCIES

Mindarie Regional Council (MRC) has released tender documents to six previously short listed organisations inviting their submissions to build, own and operate the first stage of the MRC's Resource Recovery Facility in the Neerabup Industrial Area.

The short-listed companies are required to present their formal responses to the tender documents by

January 19 next year.

The MRC has appointed a Probity Auditor to formally oversee all aspects of the tender submission and review process.

It is expected that the successful tenderer will be announced next March. Construction of the facility is expected to take about a year and be completed in late 2007.

The formal commissioning of the plant is expected in March 2008.

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



DON'T MISS THE WARR

The State Government is close to completing drafting instructions for the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill* (WARR Bill). A workshop for interested Councils has been

organised with representatives from the Department of Environment and will be held on **Monday 28 November**.

Registrations close on **Monday 21 November**.

For more information and to register please visit www.wastenet.net.au/events/warr1

GET ON BOARD

The Waste Management Board (WMB) is seeking nominations from Local Government Elected Members.

The WMB reports directly to the Minister for the Environment; Science and provides advice on strategic waste management policy issues.

It also oversees the development of policies and strategies, and is

responsible for recommending expenditure from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Western Australian Local Government Association website www.walga.asn.au

Nomination forms should be addressed to Bernard Ryan, Municipal Waste Advisory Council, PO Box 1544, WEST PERTH WA 6872 or email

nominations forms to nominations@walga.asn.au by **4pm Friday 9 December 2005**.

For more information on the WMB please contact Michael Kerr, Department of Environment, on 9278 0925.



Clean Up Australia recently ran a competition to discover inventive ways people remember to take their 'green' reusable bags to the shops. The winner, from Dalyellup WA, puts her reusable bag in her knickers drawer.



(Source: Clean Up Australia, 6 October 2005)

PACKED AND READY

The Western Australian Local Government Association has now signed the National Packaging Covenant. Two outstanding issues which were delaying the signing have now been resolved. As a Covenant

signatory the Association through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), will now become actively involved in the governance of the Covenant. The allocation of the \$15 million in corporate funding will be a

key interest for MWAC, as will the State Government's matching contributions.

For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au/issues/npc

SUSTAINABILITY IS CHILD'S PLAY



GERALTON GREENOUGH
REGIONAL COUNCIL
WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

In March 2005 the Geraldton Greenough Regional Council (GGRC) officially launched its Environmental

Activities Grants Programme to assist regional schools to embark on, continue, or expand sustainability education initiatives.

As part of the Programme the schools share their stories,

these appear in a publication titled *Snapshots of Schools in the Midwest*.

For more information or a copy of the Publication please contact Linley on 9956 6693.

FEEDING WASTE & RECYCLE

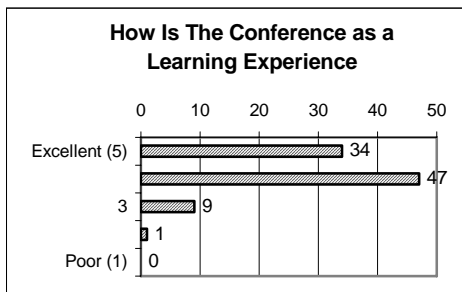
The Waste & Recycle Conference 2005 was attended by delegates from community groups, industry and Local, State and Federal Government.

Every year delegates are asked to fill in a survey rating the Conference. Feedback from participants included "valuable international perspective", and "exposure to how big the waste area really is, networking is great, a very good learning experience."

A Communiqué giving outcomes from the Conference is available from the Waste & Recycle Website, as are various presentations from the Conference.

Waste & Recycle 2006 will be held from the **18th to the 22nd of September**.

For more information about Waste & Recycle visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au



Of those who responded to the survey, 97% indicated they would attend the next Conference.

EMRC WORKSHOPS RESOURCE

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is embarking on a Resource Recovery Project for Perth's Eastern Region.

Currently, Perth's Eastern Region recycles over 32,500 tonnes of waste per year. However despite best efforts, 77% of material collected still goes to landfill.

EMRC's Resource Recovery Project Manager, Mr Stephen Fitzpatrick said, "The amount of waste sent to landfill can be reduced by up to 80% through

the use of resource recovery options."

As part of the community consultation, for the Project, the EMRC conducted several project information and feedback sessions in each of the member Council areas.

These sessions were followed by a Regional workshop on the 15th of October 2005, attended by over 100 participants.

The Regional workshop allowed community stakeholders to participate in the development

of resource recovery evaluation criteria and the identification of sites and resource recovery options.

Another Regional Workshop will be held in February 2006 where participants will be invited to weight the criteria they have helped to develop and recommend preferred resource recovery solutions. This will feed into EMRC's decision making process.

For more information visit www.rgang.org.au, or phone the R-Gang Hotline 1800 855 955.

JUST SAY CCC!

The Core Consultative Committee on Waste (3C) recently announced eight potential sites for establishing new hazardous/ industrial waste treatment precincts. 3C will facilitate a three and a half month public consultation process

on the sites, concluding in February 2006. The sites exhibited include four in the South-West Region, two in the Pilbara and two in the Goldfields. Following consideration of public input, the 3C will recommend three sites from the regions, to the

State Government for establishing precincts. It is anticipated that these precincts will mainly treat waste generated in their region.

For more information visit www.3c.org.au

NEW SITE FOR THE BOARD

The Waste Management Board (WMB) has updated its website to reflect its

ZeroWaste vision. To view the site visit www.wastewa.com



BORER SURVEILLANCE CONTINUES

The European House Borer (EHB) Program will continue its surveillance efforts over the summer months in order to monitor EHB movement during flight season (September to March).

To date, technical officers have door-knocked over 40,000 properties in known affected areas, completing

more than 28,000 surveys and removing more than 2,500 tonnes of waste pine material.

The EHB Program has also recently developed and distributed the first edition of the EHB Update, providing people in and around affected areas with up-to-date information on the program

and what they can do to help, to more than 70,000 homes and businesses in affected areas.

Copies of the update and further EHB information can be found online at www.ehb.wa.gov.au. If you suspect EHB in your area, contact the freecall hotline on 1800 084 881.

RECYCLING ARMADALE

Potty in Armadale

Following a story in the October *Information Bulletin*, Pot Recyclers, who recycle plant pots, have commenced discussions with the City of Armadale.

The discussions are aimed at forming a partnership between the environmental award-winning company and the Council to locate pot collection bins at the Hopkinson Road Landfill.

This initiative by the City of Armadale and Pot Recyclers means that an entire product line once dumped into landfill can now be eliminated in that area. For more information visit www.armadale.wa.gov.au or www.potrecyclers.com

Bring out your Dead and Win

To celebrate National Recycling Week, the City of Armadale in partnership with Amcor Recycling, are running a drive to save 25 tonnes of

cardboard from going to landfill in two weeks. All local businesses and organisations are being urged to take a trailer load of clean cardboard to the Hopkinson Landfill Site. By doing this they will receive a free Lotterywest Scratchy and the chance to win a dinner to the value of \$500 at the Araluen Gold Resort.

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

Plastic drink containers can be recycled into new drink containers, warm fleecy clothing, carpet underlay and lingerie.



(Source: Planet Ark.com)

RISING TIDE OF ILLEGAL RUBBISH

The Metropolitan Illegal Dumping Taskforce, in partnership with the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, has released results from a study that found illegally dumped rubbish was dangerous and a serious health hazard. Rubbish found in bushland near Armadale included 143 car

bodies, 62 tyres, 11 washing machines, a 12m barge, 44-gallon drums, piles of asbestos, construction and demolition waste, sheet metal and garden waste.

People who get caught dumping waste will receive a \$200 on the spot fine.

Unfortunately, due to funding cuts, the Taskforce will cease at the end of this year. Until then, if you want more information contact Amy Warner, Department of Environment on 6364 6451.

(Source: Comment News, 18 October 2005)

ALGA WINS ON WASTE STUDY

The Productivity Commission (PC) will examine the way Australia manages its waste and products over their life cycle.

The inquiry will investigate the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of a range of regulatory and

voluntary approaches to managing waste.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has formed a working group to prepare a submission to the PC. Keep an eye out for updates on its progress.

The PC will shortly invite

expressions of interest from anyone wanting to participate in the review.

For more information visit www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/waste

(Source: ALGA News 21 October 2005)

A US company has signed an agreement to install a hydrogen generation system for US fruit juice manufacturer, Welch Foods, using onsite waste organic matter as a fuel source.



(Source: Environmental Management News. 20 October 2005)

WOULD YOU LIKE BASEL WITH THAT?

At a workshop on Wednesday 9 November, Dr Greg Rippon, from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, presented an overview of the operation of the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*.

The Act controls the exports and imports of a wide range of materials that may be traded for recycling, reclamation or other recovery processes under the Basel Convention.

Topics covered included Australia's international obligations under the Basel

Convention, exporting to non-OECD countries and environmentally sound management.

For more information visit www.deh.gov.au/settlements/chemicals/hazardous-waste/

MEMO : RECYCLE THIS MEMO!

A recent audit conducted by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on nine office buildings throughout NSW, revealed the average employee generates 173 kg of waste a year.

the volume. The DEC audit found most buildings had paper recycling systems in place.

However, not all office recycling systems are equally effective and different set-ups will be useful in different situations.

Paper is by far the biggest component making up 55% of

The result was that less than half the paper was actually finding its way into the recycling stream.

For more information visit www.resource.nsw.gov.au/officebuildings

(Source: WME, 9 October 2005)

A FULFILLING SURVEY

The Waste Management Association Australia's (WMAA) recent national landfill survey received a good response representing a combined

disposal of 10.8 million tonnes of solid waste per year.

Next year the WMAA hope to increase the response rate and use the information to put

landfills of similar size in contact with each other to form interest groups.

(Source: InsideWaste October/ November 2005)

AUSTRALIAN'S LESS WASTED THAN US

Far-reaching reforms to the way our cities operate have been proposed in Canberra and supported by MPs from both sides of the House of Representatives.

Australians each create 620 kg of waste per year—second only to the US.

The report makes 32 recommendations that include the establishment of an Australian sustainability Commission and an Australian

Sustainability Charter.

For more information visit www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/enviro/cities/report.htm

(Source: WME, 9 October 2005)

A recent report, *Sustainable Cities*, revealed that

SHARP POINTS THE WAY

Sharp Corp, an electronics manufacturer, recently announced that it has succeeded in recycling indium from indium tin oxide found in liquid crystal display (LCD) panels.

Under the method, LCD panels are crushed and dissolved with an acid solution. The indium is then recovered by a new separation technology.

The process does not require large amounts of energy to recover highly pure indium and uses common chemicals.

(Source: Japan for Sustainability, 25 Oct 2005)

WELCOME TO THE MACHINE

Victoria-based company, Industrial Conveying (Aust) Pty Ltd (ICA), has used a \$1.5m AusIndustry Commercial Ready Grant to develop a solution for kerbside recycling. Based on a very fast conveyor sorting

system, the ICA solution takes fully laden recycling trucks which unload their mix onto the conveyor belt fitted with clever sorting and separating technology. Paper, plastic and metals are also sorted into

their own areas at various points along the conveyor belt.

For more information visit www.ausindustry.gov.au

(Source: Environmental Management News 10/05)

BETTER BUTTS?

UK company Stanelco has developed a biodegradable cigarette filter that is said to be better for smokers and the environment.

food-grade starch and decompose in approximately two months.

Asia about using them to replace existing filters.

(Source: New Scientist, 7 October 2005)

The filters are made from

Stanelco is in talks with cigarette manufacturers in Europe, North America and



PC JUNK OUT OF AFRICA

A report by the Basel Action Network, titled *The Digital Dump: Exporting Re-Use and Abuse to Africa*, charges US recycling firms donate useless equipment to developing nations as a way

to dodge the expense of having to recycle it properly.

divide are actually a 'cyber-age nightmare'. Most are broken or hopelessly obsolete and cause enormous environmental damage.

The computers, phones, televisions and other high-tech equipment that are touted as tools to bridge the digital

(Source: IOL 25/10/05)

SQUASH THOSE FLIES!

In the UK, new powers have been granted to local authorities to recover costs from fly-tippers, which amounts to almost 1 million pounds a week.

The new measures are evidence of how seriously the Government takes fly-tipping.

this environmental crime.

For more information visit www.defra.gov.uk

Fines of up to 50,000 pounds and five years in prison will apply for those found guilty of

(Source: DEFRA News Release 18/10/05)

JUNK CLEANS UP ITS ACT

Canadian company 1-800-GOT-JUNK?, featured on Oprah and Dr Phil, is bringing its franchise to Australia. With no shortage of hard

waste collection companies already operating, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? offers a 'branded' service that requires drivers wear neat uniforms, wash

their trucks daily and pass internal safety & customer service tests to qualify.

(Source: Insidewaste, Issue 8, August/September 2005)

Over the past 10 years, the Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling Centre in Queensland has shipped more than 650,000 pairs of spectacles to the Philippines, Sri Lanka, PNG, and Pacific Islands.

(Source: www.lionsclubs.org)



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 14 December, 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 / 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 22–23 November 2005 **The Business of Energy Efficiency 2005 Conference**
Melbourne
For more information visit www.bcse.org.au
- 23–25 November 2005 **International Symposium MBT 2005**
Hanover, Germany.
For more information visit www.wasteconsult.de
- 28 November 2005 **Workshop on WARR Bill**
Perth
For more information and to register your interest contact Mike Reid on 9213 2086 or email mreid@walga.asn.au
- 29 November–
2 December 2005 **CIA2005/ENW2005**
Including EnvironmexAsia 2005
Singapore
For more information visit www.environmexasia.com/
- 29 November–
2 December 2005 **Pollutec 2005**
Paris, France
For more information visit www.pollutec.com
- 12–13 December 2005 **Bioenergy Australia 2005 Conference**
Melbourne
For more information visit www.bioenergyaustralia.org
- May 2006 **2006 Buying Green Perth**
Perth
For more information please contact Peter Hoare, WALGA (08) 9321 5055 or email buygreen06@walga.asn.au
- 9–11 May 2006 **Enviro 06 Conference & Exhibition**
Melbourne Exhibition & Conference Centre
For more information visit www.enviroaust.net/e6
- 18–22 September 2006 **Waste & Recycle 2006**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2005 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 30 November 2005 **Discussion Paper on a New Legislative Framework for Public Health in Western Australia**
For more information visit www.newpublichealthact.health.wa.gov.au



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Setting the Environment 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.

