

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 82

October 2005

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FUTURE RRRS

The Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme payments for Period 13 have been approved by the Minister for the Environment; Science, Hon. Judy Edwards.

These payments are sourced from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund, which is funded through the Landfill Levy.

The Minister said, "The State Government was

committed to recovering resources from waste and recognised the importance of implementing changes to the fund and Levy to better achieve this result."

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has produced a discussion paper on the proposed replacement to the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme. Once Council comments on the discussion paper are received, the

Municipal Waste Advisory Council will put a number of positions to the Waste Management Board regarding the structure and operation of a replacement scheme.

For more information and to view the discussion paper, please visit www.wastenet.net.au/programs/rrrs/replacement

SURVEYING UP A STORM

Dwelling on Waste

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has conducted an online survey on waste collection problems from multi-dwelling residences.

The survey, aimed at Local Government Officers, indicated that for the majority of respondents this was a significant issue.

Specific problems identified were:

- Disruption of traffic at some sites due to collection trucks slow progress down narrow roads; and
- Poorly designed or absent bin compounds.

What Wastes have Problems
Another online survey examined which domestic

waste material was considered most pressing by Local Government. Over half of the respondents indicated packaging waste was of most concern to them. With organic waste being nominated by a quarter of respondents.

For more information on the surveys visit www.wastenet.net.au

WORKSHOP ON WARR

A workshop for Local Government, to discuss critical elements of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill with Department of Environment representatives, is planned for **Monday the 28th of November**.

By the time the workshop is held, Cabinet is expected to

have signed off on a set of drafting instructions for The WARR Bill. Therefore, this workshop will be an opportunity to prepare for the release of the Draft WARR Bill and to flag with the Department those aspects which will benefit from detailed examination by Local Government. The Western Australian Government,

through the Minister for the Environment, has undertaken to allow a three month consultation period for the Bill, once it is released for comment.

For more information and to register your interest contact Mike Reid on 9213 2086 or email mreid@walgga.asn.au

MWAC WENT DOWN SOUTH

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council held their annual non-metropolitan meeting in Albany on the 23rd of September.

The meeting was part of a two-day programme which saw the Council travel by coach from Perth to Albany.

The programme included site visits to the Mandurah and Albany Materials Recovery

Facilities, the Wren Oil facility, Bridgetown Waste Disposal and Recycling Yard, the Dardanup Landfill and the Manjimup and Walpole Transfer Stations.

The programme also included two local issues forums held in Bunbury and Albany.

These forums were well attended and gave the



Municipal Waste Advisory Council a great opportunity to discuss waste issues with local representatives.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council would like to thank the City of Mandurah, Cleanaway, the City of Bunbury, Wren Oil, the Shire of Dardanup, the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, the Shire of Manjimup and the City of Albany.

In the United States town of Brattleboro some bins, where illegal dumping has been a problem, have been equipped with a camera and squawk box which says "It is illegal to dispose of trash around these containers. We have your photo. You will be prosecuted."



(Source : Waste News Daily, 22 September 2005)

STOCKS ORT TO BE UP

The Board of Organic Resource Technologies (ORT) has announced the signing of a Heads of Agreement between its subsidiary Organic Resource Technologies Limited and Perpetual Investments - one of Australia's leading infrastructure investment companies.



This Agreement is for both parties to enter into a detailed and exclusive due diligence phase which will, subject to investment approval, lead to the funding of the first trial stage of the Western Metropolitan

Regional Council Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).

The agreement with Perpetual provides ORT with greater certainty regarding the funding of the \$20 million RRF.

For more information visit www.ort.com.au

ON THE BUSES

During National Recycling Week the South East Metropolitan Regional Council, in partnership with the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare and supported by the Natural Heritage Trust through the Swan Catchment Council, is presenting the *Wise Up on Waste Bus Tour*. The Tour will visit four waste

management facilities in the South East metropolitan region, including the City of Armadale's Landfill and Recycling Facility and Junkbusters Drop 'n' Shop reuse centre.



The Tour is happening on **Wednesday the 9th of November**.

For more information and to register please contact Zoe Fulwood on 9458 5664 or email zoefulwood@sercul.org.au

BUNBURY RECYCLING SWELLS

The amount of material recycled in the City of Bunbury has increased by 21% over the past year.

Mr Tony Battersby, Manager of Waste Services said, "it appears residents are recycling more, but an increase in the population may have influenced the figures."

In order to increase the

amount of material recovered and recycled the City is also planning to introduce a mobile garbage bin (MGB) system for greenwaste.

A three-month pilot programme for commercial recycling, involving 26 businesses, has also been conducted.

The results of the programme indicated that the service would

be economically viable and the City plans to introduce a commercial recycling programme in the 2005/2006 financial year.

For more information contact Tony Battersby at the City of Bunbury on 9722 2720 or email tbattersby@bunbury.wa.gov.au

(Source: *Bunbury News*, 28 September 2005)

ISLAND TO BE DESERTED BY BAGS

Environment Minister, Hon. Judy Edwards, announced that retailers on Rottnest Island had entered into an agreement to use alternatives to plastic bags, as part of the *Away from Home Recycling Bag Smart* campaign. Supermarkets on the island will offer customers free home

delivery in boxes or a shopping basket on a \$5 deposit.

The Rottnest Island Authority will also provide a 'bag for life' free with every accommodation booking.

The plastic bag agreement will be written into business

leases in one of several new projects on Rottnest. The Authority will also be introducing biodegradable bag liners for rubbish bins in its accommodation.

For more information visit: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au

MAY THE DRAFT BE WITH YOU

The Western Australian Litter Prevention Taskforce, on behalf of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, has released a *Draft Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia*.

The Taskforce is currently seeking feedback on the Draft Strategy which is

available for public comment until **Monday the 14th of November 2005**.

The Strategy sets out a framework for effective litter and illegal dumping prevention and management in Western Australia, and provides strategic direction for the combined and consistent

efforts of community, industry and government.

To view the Draft Strategy please visit <http://litter.environment.wa.gov.au/taskforce>

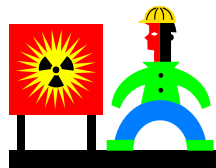
For more information please contact Susie Waller on 9278 0683.

EXCCITING DEVELOPMENT

The Core Consultative Committee (3C) will announce eight potential sites for the new hazardous/ industrial waste treatment precinct on Monday the 31st of October 2005.

The final eight sites will include four in the South West Region, two in the

Pilbara and two in the Goldfields.



Following the announcement of the sites, the public

exhibition period will commence. At the conclusion of the exhibition period, in February 2006, 3C will then present three or four sites to State Cabinet for consideration.

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

BEATING THE BORER

The European House Borer (EHB) Program is reminding Councils in affected areas that the best way to help beat the borer during this flight season is to bury any waste untreated pine to a depth of greater than one metre, chip it to fine grade

(less than 100cm in volume) or incinerate it.

The EHB Program is encouraging people to put waste pine out for verge side collection so it can be removed from people's properties and destroyed.

However, the program wants to discourage the public from salvaging any waste pine put out for verge side collections.

For more information on the EHB visit www.ehb.wa.gov.au

MINISTER AND POT PLANT UNVEILED

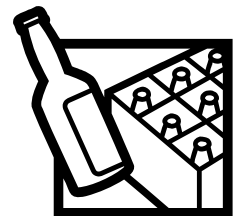
Australia's first plastic pot recycling plant was recently opened in Welshpool by the Hon. Judy Edwards, Minister for Environment; Science.

The pots are collected from participating garden centres, sorted, then shredded ready to be manufactured into new plastic pots.

For more information visit www.potrecyclers.com

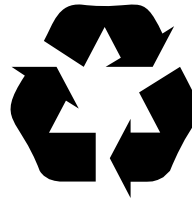
In its new budget Mexico plans to tax beer served in reusable bottles at a rate 72% lower than the rate for disposable bottles and cans.

(Source : World Environment News , 7 September 2005)



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WEEK

National Recycling Week will be happen from Monday the 7th to Sunday the 13th of November. This week offers Local Government an opportunity to



draw attention to the significant work they are doing in waste education.

For more information visit www.planetark.com

A popular German magazine, Bild, claims that AlphaKat has developed an organic biofuel mixture from cat corpses. The claim has been angrily denied by the company saying that they use only environmentally and morally sound feedstock for their biofuel.



(Source: Environmental Management News, 16 September 2005)

TRACKERS TO BE STANDARDISED

An Auditor General's report on the Department of Environment's Controlled Waste Tracking System (CWTS) was recently presented to Parliament. The Report on the internet based

tracking and transport controlled waste system has highlighted some areas for improvement.

Areas which will be targeted for improvement are standardising

measurement units across the system and an upgrade of the program so that it 'flags' incorrect data entries.

For more information www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au

AVOID DOMESTIC INJURY

A new Code of Practice has been released in NSW to provide guidance on preventing injury and illness to people involved in the collection of domestic waste. While the Code is specifically

designed to assist Waste Collection operations in complying with NSW regulations, many aspects of the Code are transferable to a WA Context.

To download a copy of the Code, visit the WorkCover NSW website www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/LawAndPolicy/CodesofPractice

SHARP PROTOCOL

At a meeting of the Waste Management Association of Australia clinical waste group, the majority of the clinical waste transporters and processors have agreed to adopt a self audit protocol. This protocol governs

compliance with the industry code of practice. Also supported was a standard colour for clinical waste bins, yellow with an orange lid.

For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au

(Source: insidewaste, Sept 2005, www.wme.com.au/insidewaste)



GET YOUR BAGS DOWN

A recent report from the Australian Retailers' Association shows lightweight plastic bag use has been cut

by 33.8% in three and a half years. Retailers are aiming for a 50% reduction in plastic bag use by the end of 2005.

For more information visit www.deh.gov.au

DON'T WASTE YOUR E

The Australian Information Industry Association's (AIIA) Environment Special Interest Group, in conjunction with Planet Ark Consulting, has released a report titled *E-Waste Program Development*

Phases. The Report was provided to facilitate solution oriented dialogue amongst industry and government stakeholders. The aim is to initiate an industry driven take back

scheme for end-of-life computers, printers and associated hardware products.

For more information visit www.aiaa.com.au



CERF'ING ALL THE WAY

The Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) Programme has been launched.

This Programme will allocate \$60 million funding

over four-years to develop collaborative work between Australia's environmental researchers.

The aim of the Programme is to advance the understanding of current and emerging

issues associated with the conservation and use of Australia's environmental assets.

For more information visit www.deh.gov.au/cerf

INDUSTRY SPREAD ALL OVER

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council has released a discussion paper titled *Development of a national approach – principles and guidance for assessing the beneficial reuse of industrial residues*

to land management applications.

The paper suggests that some residuals could potentially be used as soil conditioner, resulting in a reduction of material to landfill. Comment

on the discussion paper closes on **Friday the 4th of November.**

For more information visit www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/industrial_residue.html

In a recent study of two Sydney landfill sites to determine the length of time wood and paper survive, the paper material which survived longest were porn magazines, with 1979 issue of Playboy being discovered in mint condition.

DUMP 2006

Environment Victoria is revising the criteria used to judge the 2005 DUMP Awards. Some of the aims of the Awards include:

- Bring about a positive change in the way producers and retailers

view the environmental aspects of their packaging;

- Test different packaging products' conformance with the revised Environmental Code of Practice for Packaging; and
- Highlight any positive or

negative changes in packaging design.

Nominations for the 2005 DUMP Awards close on **Friday the 21st October.**

For more information visit www.envict.org.au

DANGLING THE CARROT

Millions of households across England will be tempted to recycle more of their rubbish and cut down on their waste as Local Authorities offer prize draws, cash rewards and community

gifts as incentives. Waste reduction will be a focus of the project. One Council is offering residents the chance to win organic food boxes weekly for six months if they don't throw food waste out.

For more information visit www.defra.gov.uk

(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 9 October 2005)



(Source: Environmental Management News, 19 August 2005)

SEPARATION ANXIETY

A study titled *Cleaning Plastic Contaminated Compost* was conducted to ascertain the best ways to generate a finished product with minimal plastic.

The study targeted municipal yard trimmings delivered in plastic bags as well as packaged food waste derived from the retail and manufacturing sectors.

For more information visit www.entecuk.com

(Source: BioCycle September 2005, Vol.46, No. 9, p.58)

WASTE WEB WORLDWIDE FOR KIDS

Japan for Sustainability has launched their Kids "Create Your Future" website with the aim of encouraging children worldwide to take

interest in and gain an understanding of environmental issues, and to think and act independently in response.

For more information visit www.kidsforfuture.net



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

- 25–29 October 2005 R'05 7th World Congress & Exhibition on Recovery & Recycling
Beijing, China
For more information visit www.r05.org
- 1–3 November 2005 WasteMinz Conference 2005
Rotorua, New Zealand
For more information visit www.wasteminz.org.nz
- 5 November 2005 Red Hill Open Day
Red Hill Landfill, Perth
For more information visit www.emrc.org.au
- 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
- 7 November 2005 Junkbusters AGM
Harold King Community Centre, Kelmescott
For more information please phone Muriel 9526 2453 (Friday to
Sunday only)
- 15 November 2005 Junkbusters Drop 'n' Shop Open Day
Hopkinson Road Landfill and Recycling Facility, Brookdale
For more information please phone Muriel 9526 2453 (Friday to
Sunday only)
- 28 November 2005 Workshop on WARR Bill
For more information and to register your interest contact Mike Reid
on 9213 2086 or email mreid@walga.asn.au
- 18–22 September 2006 Waste & Recycle 2006
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2005 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 21 October 2005 DUMP Awards 2006
For more information visit www.envict.org.au
- 14 November 2005 Draft Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia
For more information visit <http://litter.environment.wa.gov.au/taskforce>
- 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.

