



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 86

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STOP JPG BEING VACANT

Nominations are sought from one metropolitan and one non-metropolitan Local Government Officer for the WA National Packaging Covenant Jurisdictional Projects Group (JPG).

The Jurisdictional Projects Group (JPG) oversees the allocation of project funding under the National Packaging Covenant.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has produced a range of

principles to guide Local Government representatives on the JPG, these can be accessed by visiting www.wastenet.net.au/programs/npc



of the Western Australian Local Government Association's website www.walga.asn.au

Nominations should be in by **COB Friday 3rd of March 2006**.

For further information on the position please contact Jenny Campbell, Department of Environment on 9278 0959 or email jenny.campbell@environment.wa.gov.au

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the committee vacancies section

BOARD PAPERS: PLEASE DISCUSS

The Waste Management Board recently released two discussion papers, one concerning changes to the Landfill Levy and the second concerning how to spend funds raised through the Levy to promote resource recovery and waste avoidance.

The papers can be downloaded from www.zerowastewa.com.au

The Board organised several information forums in the first half of February 2006. These forums provided additional briefing regarding the content of the discussion papers.



Councils must now provide the Board with their responses by **Friday 3rd of March 2006**.

There are a range of issues relevant to Local Government which need to be addressed during the Board's review of the Levy and the incentive schemes it funds. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has produced a draft submission to the Board covering these issues, including:

- ◆ how the level of the Levy should be set;
- ◆ the rules and principles for allocating Levy money; and
- ◆ how the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Bill should be modified to give Local Government greater

confidence in the management of the Levy funds.

The draft submission will be available from the WasteNet website as of Monday 20th of February 2006 www.wastenet.net.au

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is holding a Local Government Forum to discuss the Waste Management Boards Discussion Papers on **Monday 27th of February 2006**. If you are a Local Government Officer or Elected Member interested in attending the forum please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au



WMRC PICKS PIKOR



WESTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL



Mr Peter Pikor was appointed the Western Metropolitan Regional

Council's (WMRC) Chief Executive Officer at the Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd of February 2006.

Previously, Mr Pikor was the Manager of Infrastructure Services at the City of Joondalup

and is looking forward to contributing to the waste management initiatives at the WMRC.

The team at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council would like to welcome him aboard.

SUBMISSION IS PRODUCTIVE

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has produced a comprehensive submission to the *Productivity Commission Inquiry into Waste Generation*

and Resource Efficiency. This submission reflects two parallel priorities for Local Government, advancing sustainability and improving service delivery.

To access the Submission visit the WasteNet website www.wastenet.net.au/policy/reports

In 1776, the first metal recycling in the United States occurred when patriots in New York City melted down a statue of King George III and made it into bullets.



(Source: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/timeline)

TANKS!

In the final phase of the Used Oil Program, administered by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, the Shire of Carnarvon has received a 4,500 litre Used Oil Collection tank for its Coral Bay facility.

industry, airstrip users and resort generators.

The new facility will help to conserve a valuable resource and reduce threats to the environment and human safety.

It is estimated that 150 litres of oil was going to waste each week in Coral Bay, from activities including the marine

The tank is shown being inspected by Cr Graham Murphy (left) and Mr Terry Rowley, Director of Works and Services.



WORKING TYRELESSLY

The Waste Management Board's (WMB) vision of Zero Waste is one step closer with the recent release of the draft *Used Tyre Strategy for Western Australia*.

and economically sustainable used tyre recycling industry in Western Australia.

The Board intends that the strategy will set the groundwork for the introduction of the National Tyres Product Stewardship Scheme and provide direction for the

industry. Submissions close on **Sunday 26th of February 2006**.

For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au/communication/news/tyrestrategy

The aim of the Strategy is to encourage the development of an environmentally, socially

BUTT IT'S LITTER!

Although cigarette butts are only little, as litter they are not only unsightly but in large numbers can have negative environmental effects.

people still throw their cigarette butts on the ground.

Under the *Litter Act*, on-the-spot fines of \$75 can be imposed on those who litter with cigarette butts.

To become involved in reporting this offence you can become a registered litter reporter by visiting www.warangers.asn.au/kabc.htm and completing the online registration form.

In the Shire of Carnamah almost every business has a cigarette butt disposal unit near its entrance. However, despite the provision of adequate butt bins, some

More severe are the fines and possible jail terms under the *Bush Fires Act* for throwing cigarette butts from vehicles.

For more information please contact Valerie Miller at Department of Environment on 9267 0683.

EXSITING NEW DRAFT

The Department of Environment has released their draft *Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) Guidelines: Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills*. This document covers issues to

assist in reducing the environmental impacts of landfills. Comments for the submission close on **Friday 31st of March 2006**.

holding a workshop to discuss this BPEM on **Thursday 2nd of March 2006**.

The Waste Management Association of Australia is

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

LAST FULL PERIOD

In Period 15 of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS), 71 Local Governments submitted an application.

This is the last period of the RRRS with full funding. In Period 16 the funding will be halved.

Period 14 of the RRRS has been submitted to the Waste Management Board and cheques are expected before the end of the financial year.

NO MORE BATTERY IN MELVILLE

The City of Melville has installed household battery drop-off bins at the Civic Centre and Operations Centre in an effort to reduce the quantity of batteries going into the household waste stream. Initially, the trial was carried out in conjunction with All Saints

College, who took the collected batteries and carried out research at Murdoch University to break them down into their chemical components.

However, due to the success of the drop-off bins the service will be continued beyond the

trial and kept on an ongoing basis.

For more information contact Stuart Edwards, City of Melville on 9364 0270.



AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN CCC

Just a reminder, the Core Consultative Committee (3C) announced in December an extension to the public exhibition period for the eight potential hazardous/ industrial waste treatment precinct sites. The extension

means the exhibition period will now end on **Friday 17th of March 2006**.

The 3C will visit communities near all eight exhibited site areas again in March.

A document summarising the questions and providing answers to the questions raised at the 3C public meetings can be obtained at www.3c.org.au

COMPOSTABLE NAPPIES HIT WA

Eco-friendly nappies have reached WA. The Nappy Tree is the local distributor for a German brand of degradable nappies. While there is an ongoing debate about the advantages of disposable versus cloth, degradable nappies may be a step in the right direction.

Mr Viet Nysen, who is responsible for waste minimisation at the City of Stirling, commented that, "With more Local Governments and Regional Councils in WA moving towards Resource Recovery, degradable nappies would be advantageous as they would compost rather better than current disposable ones."

He added that, "If degradable nappies are going to landfill, it is important that an education process also occurs so that parents understand not to wrap the nappies in plastic, as this inhibits decomposition."

For more information on nappy availability visit www.thenappytree.com



(Source: www.wasteonline.org.uk/topic)

In the UK, babies' nappies makes up about 2% of the average household rubbish. This is equivalent to the weight of nearly 70,000 double decker buses each year. If lined up front to end, the buses would stretch from London to Edinburgh.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION?

Packaging magazine has launched the inaugural Evolution Awards program. The aim of the Awards is to recognise and reward brand owner excellence in packaging waste management under the National Packaging Covenant. The magazine intends to use the Awards process to help manufacturers, through the use of packaging, to profitably and environmentally responsible products. It also seeks to promote and support industry self-regulation through monthly articles on related issues.

(Source:www.ferret.com.au)

QLD MINISTER GAME TO MATCH

Queensland Environment and Local Government Minister, Desley Boyle, has announced the State Government will contribute \$67,600 to match contributions from Local Government, to perform major investigations into the management of various landfill sites and waste management facilities. A total of nine waste management facilities will undergo investigations to assess the potential environmental harm caused by past dumping practices.

For more information visit www.lgp.qld.gov.au

(Source: EMN 19/12/2005)

Americans throw away enough aluminium every three months to rebuild the entire US commercial air fleet.



(Source: www.wastediversion.org/PressRecyclingFacts.htm)

NO INDIGESTION WITH UR-3R

The UR-3R household waste recycling project at Eastern Creek in Sydney, illustrates the advantage of using glass-fused-to-steel from which both the digesters and all the water storage reservoirs are built. The plant could be operated for 25 years without being subject to maintenance shutdowns. The plant sorts and recovers pure streams of plastic, glass, paper and metal recyclable materials. It diverts household garbage from landfill to 90% recycled product and is capable of handling around 12% of Sydney's household waste or 256,000 tonnes per year.

(Source: Waste Streams Dec 2005/Jan 2006 Vol.1 No.5)

STOP WINE WASTE

An environmental study fund has been established to encourage research in the area of wine waste management. Industry professionals and students interested in developing new solutions for wine effluent disposal are being urged to apply for the \$20,000 grant. For more information visit www.tarac.com.au



(Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200601/s1554998.htm>)

GAS SMELLS

Fine for Smell
Operators of the Clarinda Landfill in Melbourne have been fined almost \$10,400 for allowing odours to escape the landfill premises and failing to place appropriate solid cover on the landfill at the end of daily operations.

Sniffing out Landfill
Meanwhile, researchers at the University of Manchester in the UK have developed a monitoring system that measures methane and other unpleasant odours arising from landfill operations.

for profiling, with the data transmitted in real-time via an embedded GPS modem to a remote computer.

For more information visit the University of Manchester website www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/pressreleases/electronicnose/

The odour originated from a large volume of green waste that had been stockpiled on site for some time.



The device is designed to "suck" in air at regular intervals

(Source: EMN 16/1/2006 and 13/1/2006)

BAGS TO RICHES

The government of South Korea will raise the price of plastic garbage bags by 40% (about 55 cents) over the next 3 years to encourage businesses and households to generate less waste. Korean households and businesses are required to purchase and use specific garbage bags issued by their local government when disposing of waste. They also need to separate recyclable items from conventional waste.

households still illegally incinerate and dump garbage to avoid paying for the bags. A reward is offered to those who report these illegal activities.

(Source: RRF WINS#03 21/1/2006)

A substantial number of

DARWIN CAPTURES METHANE

Darwin City Council has commissioned the Northern Territory's first methane gas power plant at the Shoal Bay Waste Disposal Deposit site. The plant will also reduce the leaching of toxic materials into the ground and cut offensive odours from the site.

by-product from the landfill waste. The plant is expected to produce enough energy to power about 1,000 homes and will save more than 46,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

(Source: EMN 3/1/2006)

The Plant harvests methane

CHEWY CHEWY

In Ireland, chewing gum makers will spend EUR 6 million on an anti-litter education campaign and EUR 1 million on a research programme aimed at making chewing gum that is less difficult to clean-up. Originally, the Irish Government proposed a 10 per cent tax on chewing gum in 2004, with the proceeds earmarked for cleaning up litter, but changed their mind after strong lobbying from chewing gum manufacturers.

(Source: RRF WINS # 04 28/1/2006)



MELT IN THE RAIN

Amcor and Plantic have signed a new alliance to develop a biodegradable confectionery wrapper. The patented plastic material will rapidly dissolve on contact with water. Does this mean it will be okay to eat the wrapper as well as its contents?

(Source: WME Weekly 19/1/2006)



PILGRIMAGE NOT WASTEFUL

A solid waste management scheme was launched in Shravanabelagola, India, aimed at turning an expected 1,200 tons of solid waste, generated at a month long festival, into organic manure. During the festival green and white garbage bins will be set up all over the town as part of the initiative. These will be crucial for preventing outbreaks of epidemics and other health hazards, as well as protecting the environment.

(Source: <http://news.webindia123.com/news>)



FINES FOR BATTERY

California's mandatory battery recycling law comes into effect in February 2006. Although Californians have had four years worth of preparation time and warnings, apparently few even know about the law's existence. Now, if they throw household batteries into their trash they will be breaking the law.

(Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/14106400p-14936107c.html>)

Since October 2005, some restaurants in Takamatsu City in western Japan have been offering a variety of special services, such as free coffee refills and an additional dish free-of-charge, to customers who bring their own reusable chopsticks instead of disposable wooden ones.

(Source: www.japanfs.org)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date : 22 March 2006

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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2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 27 February 2006 **MWAC Local Government Forum on WMB Discussion Papers**
For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au
- 2 March 2006 **WMAA Workshop on Landfill Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines**
EMRC 226 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont
For more information email adam.johnson@emrc.org.au
- 28–31 March 2006 **Waste 2006**
Coffs Harbour, NSW
For more information visit www.impactenviro.com.au/waste2006/
- 9–11 May 2006 **Enviro 06**
Melbourne Exhibition & Conference Centre
For more information visit www.enviroaust.net
- 25–26 May 2006 **2006 Buying Green**
Perth, Western Australia
For more information contact Peter Hoare on 9321 5055 or email buygreen06@walga.asn.au
- 29-31 May 2006 **Bureau of International Recycling World Recycling Convention 2006**
China World Hotel, Beijing China
For more information visit www.bir.org
- 31 May–2 June 2006 **Towards Zero Waste: Achieving Practical Solutions**
Stamford Grand Glenelg, South Australia
For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
- 18–22 September 2006 **Waste & Recycle 2006: "Crisis? What Crisis?" - Are we fiddling while Rome burns?**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2006 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 26 February 2006 **Used Tyre Strategy for Western Australia**
For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au/issues/tyres
- 3 March 2006 **Discussion Paper on the Landfill Levy and the Programs it Funds and Discussion Paper on Re-Investing Landfill Levy Funds in Zero Waste Incentive Schemes**
For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au/issues/landfilllevy
- 3 March 2006 **Nominations for the Jurisdictional Projects Group**
To download the nomination form visit www.walga.asn.au
- 31 March 2006 **Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines: Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills**
For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au



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.

