



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 92

August 2006

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Player in the Hot Seat Mayor Paddi Creevey as new Chair	2
Pick up in the South New kerbside recycling services in South	2
Attraction is Attention Seeking Fridge Magnets have arrived	2
Biodiesel Gets Taxed Out Changes to fuel tax system	2
Organic Consultation WMB seeks comment	2
Sundays in the Park MRC free asbestos drop-off day	3
New Kid on the Block Bussetons new Waste Management Officer	3
Zeroing in on Communities WMB funding and household chemical disposal	3
Only Type III Need Apply Landfill BPEM Guidelines	3
Butts out in the Cold New anti-smoking laws	3
MRC Knows How to Put Out Extinguishing fires at the MRC	4
DEC to be Contaminated Contaminated Sites Act	4
Big Foot(print) in WA Keep Australian Beautiful week	4
Victorian Responsibility EV getting EPR on LG agenda	4
Substance Abuse Hazardous substances in electronic products	4
Transparent Benchmarking in NZ Glass recycling plant and Benchmarking in Zero Waste	5
WEEE in the UK New electronic laws in UK	5
Powering Europe Battery Directive and Green Diesel	5
Lightweights ACR+ report into plastic bags	5
Mo Shows the Way to Go Biodegradable cups in Japan	5

## WALGA'S WORKIN IT

The Western Australian Local Government Association Members and officers the (WALGA), in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), is holding a series of workshops to discuss significant upcoming changes to waste management in Western Australia.



They will cover waste management legislation; Zero Waste Plans (ZWP); and Container Deposit Systems (CDS).

The workshops will give

Local Government Elected Members and officers the opportunity to work through issues with DEC representatives and provide input into the Local Government response to these key potential legislative and regulatory changes for management of waste in WA.

Workshop dates and locations are:

- ◆ **Tuesday 5 September** - Bunbury;
- ◆ **Wednesday 6 September** - Albany;
- ◆ **Thursday 7 September** -

Narrogin;

- ◆ **Friday 8 September** - North Metro;
- ◆ **Tuesday 12 September** - Northam;
- ◆ **Wednesday 13 September** - Geraldton;
- ◆ **Thursday 14 September** - Broome;
- ◆ **Friday 15 September** - Karratha;
- ◆ **Monday 18 September** - South Metro

Please RSVP by **30 August 2006** to [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au/issues/wasteworkshop](http://www.wastenet.net.au/issues/wasteworkshop)



## WARR DECLARED



*The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill* has been officially released for public comment by the Minister for the Environment. The Bill contains prescriptive provision with respect to Local Government waste management plans-

however it is not clear, at this stage, how they will relate to zero waste plans. Workshops for Local Government comment will be held throughout September in afore mentioned locations and dates.

The Municipal Waste Advisory

Council will be using feedback from these workshops to formulate a response on behalf of Local Government.

For more information visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) or [www.wastenet.net.au/waste\\_bill](http://www.wastenet.net.au/waste_bill)

## CRISIS TIME

Waste & Recycle 2006 Conference, *Crisis? What Crisis? Are we fiddling while Rome burns?*, is getting closer and closer (Tuesday 19 to Friday 21 September 2006).

Early bird registration closes

**Friday 25 August 2006.** Registration forms have been distributed to all Local Governments and are also available from the Waste & Recycle Website. Highlights of this year's conference include a Container Deposit Systems Workshop on Tuesday 19

September using scenario planning run by Clem Sunter. Other highlights include keynote speakers from the USA and South Africa. For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)

## NEW PLAYER IN THE HOT SEAT

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council would like to congratulate Mayor Paddi Creevey on being unanimously elected as MWAC Chair.

As well as being Mayor of Mandurah, Mayor Creevey is also a member of the Waste Management Board and the

Western Australian Local Government Association State Council.

Mayor Creevey was recognised at the recent WA Local Government Week for Long and Loyal Service. Other members of MWAC who were recognised included Cr Paul Kelly, Town of

Claremont, for Long and Loyal Service and Cr Jeff Munn, City of Armadale, who was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for Personal Commitment.

MWAC would like to thank Cr Bruce Stevenson for his good work as past MWAC Chair.

## PICK UP IN THE SOUTH

New kerbside recycling services have recently commenced in the Shires of Gnowangerup and Tambellup, while the Shire of Broomehill had their service upgraded.

Starting in early July, the Shire of Gnowangerup's kerbside recycling collection services about 500 bins. To encourage recycling, users are only paying

half the cost, with the other half covered by general revenue.

Thus far, the service is going very well, with pre-emptive education campaigns proving to be highly successful.

The Shire of Tambellup's kerbside recycling collection commenced in August 2006. Approximately 120 bins are

serviced in the fortnightly pickup.

The Shire of Broomehill upgraded their recycling service in early August, with approximately 80 bins serviced.

For more information contact Eva Crockenberg on 9827 1007.

## ATTRACTION IS ATTENTION SEEKING

Promotional fridge magnets, ordered as a part of the Used Oil Program, have arrived.

50,000 magnets are currently being distributed to local governments. Additional

magnets are being held by Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

These magnets will be available to local



For disposal options [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

governments on an ongoing basis.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

## BIODIESEL GETS TAXED OUT

The Federal Government has made changes to the fuel tax system by applying regulations consistently to all relevant fuel and fuel uses. This change affects biodiesel because currently it is exempt from fuel tax as an alternative fuel.

The biodiesel industry estimates it will lose 75% of its

target market through these changes. The major issue for the waste management industry in WA is the loss of potential markets for waste products.

In response to this change, the Municipal Waste Advisory Council is writing to Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell expressing the waste management,

community and environmental consequences of the decision to change the fuel tax.

For more information contact Megan Graham on 9213 2086 or email [mgraham@walga.asn.au](mailto:mgraham@walga.asn.au)

## ORGANIC CONSULTATION

The Waste Management Board is seeking comment on the recently released draft *Organics Strategy* and draft *Interim Standard for Organics Applied to Land*.

Several consultation workshops are going to be held. The Workshops will be held on **Tuesday 29 August 2006** in the Metro area and **Tuesday 26 September** in

Busselton. Submissions close **Monday 16 October 2006**.

For more information contact Jill Lethlean on 6364 7006.

The dangers of wasting time became all too clear when two waste collection operators in the UK only just escaped from their vehicle before it burnt to the ground. It is believed a rogue item in the recyclables is to blame for starting the fire.



(Source: [www.letsrecycle.com](http://www.letsrecycle.com))

## SUNDAYS IN THE PARK

Mindarie Regional Council is offering a free Asbestos Drop-off Day on the last Sunday of each month at the Tamala Park Recycling Centre.



Householders are welcome to drop off up to three full sheets of asbestos or the equivalent in large-sized plastic bags.

It is heavily stressed that asbestos must be delivered completely wrapped and securely

tied and sealed in heavy-duty plastic sheeting or plastic bags or it will not be accepted

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

## NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Alan Miller is the first full time Waste Management Officer for the Shire of Busselton.

First on his agenda is the minimisation of waste going to landfill through education both in schools and the community about recycling. He is also researching different uses for the huge

volume of greenwaste generated in the region.

Alan has found when developing new waste and recycle initiatives, the biggest barrier is gauging community attitudes and values .

Coming from a background of journalism, Alan is completing a degree via correspondence

from Murdoch University in Environmental Science. He is no stranger to Busseltons problems, having been a resident for 17 years and has strong aspirations for the future of waste and recycle in the area.

For more information contact Alan on 9781 0359.

## ZEROING IN ON COMMUNITIES

Community based groups including local interest groups, schools, environmental groups and individuals are invited to apply for grant funding available through the Waste Management Boards Community Grants Scheme

(CGS). Funding will be provided for successful local-community scale projects which are consistent with the Board's Statement of Strategic Direction for Waste Management in Western Australia. The Waste Management Board has listed

simple steps for the disposal of household chemical waste, including drop off depots in the Perth Metropolitan Area which are free of charge.

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

## ONLY TYPE III NEED APPLY

The final draft of the *Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills BPEM Guidelines* has been released.

Although generally well written, the Western Australian Local Government Association has some concerns that the document needs to make it clear that the

Guidelines only apply to Type III landfills.

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au/issues/BPEM](http://www.wastenet.net.au/issues/BPEM)

## BUTTS OUT IN THE COLD

As of 31 July 2006 patrons lighting up in Western Australian clubs and pubs face a \$2,000 fine. These legislative reforms banning smoking in enclosed places will push smokers outside to smoke, often with no facilities or education to manage cigarette butt litter. Many local governments in other states have introduced requirements for

businesses to provide windproof ashtrays for outdoor dining or local laws specifying the provision of a butt litter receptacle in order to stop large increases in outdoor littering.

Local Government has generally welcomed the ban but are concerned that they could be out of pocket in policing the new

regulations, which is in contravention of the recently signed inter governmental agreement (IGA).

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

For more on the IGA visit [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

(Source: [www.litter.vic.gov.au](http://www.litter.vic.gov.au) and *Guardian Express* 9/8/06)

A man has been sent to jail after bragging about money he made through illegal waste management in a Channel 4 documentary in the UK. (Source:



[www.letsrecycle.com](http://www.letsrecycle.com))



## MRC KNOWS HOW TO PUT OUT

A subterranean landfill fire recently occurred at the Tamala Park landfill. Following detection and attempts to extinguish the fire using water, a fire-fighting additive called Kilfire was used. Kilfire creates a reaction that

absorbs oxygen, thereby cutting the fire's fuel supply.



MRC officers found the product to be highly effective in extinguishing the fire.

For more information, contact Mike Tolson on 9305 5246.

MWAC staff recently had the opportunity to see Municipal Waste, a thrash metal band from the USA at a Perth hotel. Songs such as 'I want to kill the President' and 'Drunk as #\$\$%' have such universal appeal that MWAC staff were moved to invite them to perform at the next MWAC meeting.



Unfortunately due to busy performance schedule they had to decline and we can only hope to catch them next time.

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

## DEC TO BE CONTAMINATED

The *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* will come into effect on **1 December 2006**.

The Act provides a legal framework for the management of contaminated sites in Western Australia, and introduces mandatory reporting of known or suspected contaminated sites to the Department of

Environment and Conservation (DEC).

The Act also introduces mechanisms for providing and transferring information on contaminated sites. Information on confirmed contaminated sites will be available via the Contaminated Sites Database.

Environment Minister the Hon. Mark McGowan said the Act established a hierarchy for

assigning responsibility for remediation and allowed the transfer of that responsibility. The Minister also said that the State Government was establishing a contaminated sites committee to make decisions on responsibility for remediation.

For more information visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) or phone 1300 762 982

## BIG FOOT (PRINT) IN WA

The first week of spring each year (28 August to 3 September) is time for Keep Australia Beautiful week.

The theme for this year is: *Save the World. Start at Home.*



Amongst other promotions Keep Australia

Beautiful will be encouraging Australians to assess how sustainable their households are, using the Ecological Footprint Calculator.

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

## VICTORIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Environment Victoria is attempting to get extended producer responsibility and zero waste product design onto the Local Government waste agenda in Victoria.

They have organised a forum in mid-September for local governments with Product Policy Speakers from North America to speak about how local governments can advance

producer responsibility for waste. Please note these speakers will be at Waste & Recycle 2006.

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

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Greenpeace International has released research into the use of hazardous substances in electronic products and a ranking of the companies doing the most to reduce toxic chemicals in their products. Sony, Nokia, Hewlett-Packard,

Dell, Sony Ericson, Samsung and LG have done the most, while Acer, Apple, Fujitsu-Siemens, IBM, Lenovo, Motorola, Panasonic, Siemens and Toshiba have done only the minimum required by law to

remove hazardous substances from their products.

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

(Source: [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org))

## TRANSPARENT BENCHMARKING IN NZ

### Solution in Sight

Glass manufacturer, Owens-Illinois of Ohio, is to proceed with its \$78 million plant expansion at Penrose, Auckland. When completed later next year, the plant will give some relief to the glass recycling crisis in New Zealand.



### Benchmarking

The Zero Waste NZ Trust have developed *Milestones on the Zero Waste Journey*, a benchmarking scheme which gives Councils the chance to see how their waste minimisation compares with other Councils across New Zealand.

Using many of the goals of the

2002 New Zealand Waste Strategy, the programme allows Councils to check off their achievements, and score their place on a staged journey.

For more information visit [www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz)

(Source: Zerowaste July 2006)

## WEEE IN THE UK

### WEEE has arrived

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive will see producers become responsible for recycling electronic waste produced in the UK from 1 July 2007.

The Directive, which has been placed on hold in the UK since August last year,

remains a controversial introduction despite its successful implementation in Ireland in August 2005.

### Rubbish Trial

A single mother has been cleared of contaminating her recycling bin in the first case of its kind in the UK.

The Local Council of Exeter who

brought six charges against Ms Challice, under the *Environmental Protection Act*, was extremely disappointed with the result, caused by a lack of evidence to 'prove beyond reasonable doubt' that the rubbish belonged to her.

(Source: [www.letsrecycle.com](http://www.letsrecycle.com))

## POWERING EUROPE

### Charging in Right Direction

European Parliament has agreed on the coming Battery Directive. It has minimum collection rates of 25% and 45% after four and eight years respectively from the date of Directive implementation. Manufacturers have

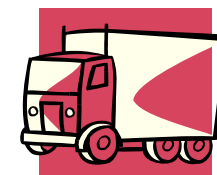
responsibility for the management of used batteries.

### 'Green Diesel'

The Dutch company EnvoSmart Technologies, together with the Australian company Ozmotech, plans to build 14 plants for production of diesel from plastic waste, beginning this

year with a plant near Berlin. The "green" diesel complies with the standards of ordinary diesel and can be used in ordinary diesel engines.

(Source: International Waste News No.3 2006)



(Source: Chronicle-Telegram)

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling & for Sustainable Resource Management have issued a report which considers the problems associated with the use of lightweight plastic

bags. It found ending the practice of free bags in supermarkets, ensuring that alternative, reusable bags are available and provision of a collection systems for plastic bags are possible ways of

reducing the number of plastic bags landfilled and littered.

The report is available at [www.acrplus.org](http://www.acrplus.org)  
(Source: RRF 21 July 2006)

## MO SHOWS THE WAY TO GO

Japanese Mo's Burger chain have claimed they will stop using plastic takeout bags and introduce transparent

corn-based takeout drink cups at all stores in July. Mo's will become the first major fast-food restaurant chain in Japan

to introduce biodegradable drink cups at all its stores.  
(Source: Japan for Sustainability, July 2006)

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 18 October 2006

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Local Government House

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)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 26 & 29 August 2006 **Workshops on draft *Organics Strategy* and draft *Interim Standard for Organics Applied to Land***  
For more information contact Jill Lethlean on 6364 7006
- 28 August–3 September 2006 **Keep Australia Beautiful Week**  
For more information please visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)
- 5–18 September 2006 **Workshops on WARR, ZWP and CDS**  
RSVP by 30 August to [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)  
For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)
- 13–15 September 2006 **ORBIT 2006 Conference**  
Weimar, Germany  
For more information visit [www.orbit2006.de/cms/](http://www.orbit2006.de/cms/)
- 15–17 September 2006 **Clean Up the World**  
Everywhere, Earth  
For more information visit [www.cleanuptheworld.org](http://www.cleanuptheworld.org)
- 19–22 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](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)
- 2–4 October 2006 **ISWA Annual Congress**  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
For more information visit [www.iswa2006.org/home.htm](http://www.iswa2006.org/home.htm)
- 7–9 November 2006 **WasteMINZ**  
New Zealand  
For more information visit [www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz)
- 15–17 November 2006 **National Recycling Week**  
For more information visit [www.planetark.com](http://www.planetark.com)

## 2006 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 31 August 2006 **Entry Form for Plastic Bag Reduction Awards**  
For more information visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au) or ph KAB WA (08) 6364 6461
- 15 September 2006 **Applications for Community Grants Scheme**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 29 September 2006 **State of the Environment Report**  
For more information visit [www.soe.wa.gov.au](http://www.soe.wa.gov.au)
- 16 October 2006 **Comments on *Organics Strategy* and *Interim Standard for Organics Applied to Land***  
For more information contact Jill Lethlean on 6364 7006



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.

