



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 93

September 2006

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WASTE AND RECYCLE 2006

Waste & Recycle 2006 Conference, *Crisis? What Crisis? Are we fiddling while Rome burns* runs from **Tuesday 19 September to Friday 21 September** at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

This year's hot topic is Container Deposit Systems, featured in an all day workshop, run by keynote speaker Clem Sunter (Tuesday 19 September).



Clem is a scenario planner from South Africa and will be working with a panel of experts including other keynote speakers, local experts and government representatives for the workshop.

Other highlights of this year's Conference include workshops on the National Packaging Covenant on Wednesday morning and Battle of the Bugs in the afternoon.

The National Packaging Covenant Workshop will explore how to best utilise the National Packaging Covenant. Battle of the Bugs - 'Bacteria and Viruses are on the March' will explore what disease impacts may mean for waste management in WA.

Registrations to attend the Conference should be in as soon as possible.

For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

WA'S NEW WARR ON WASTE

The draft *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Bill 2006* was released for public consultation on 17 August 2006. The draft Bill proposes to:

- ◆ Establish an independent statutory waste authority responsible for waste strategic policy and planning, and administer the funds raised through the landfill levy;
- ◆ Allow for the Department of Environment and Conservation to manage regulation, compliance and enforcement issues relating to waste;
- ◆ Create the head-powers for implementation of

extended producer responsibility (EPR) and product stewardship schemes; and

- ◆ To consolidate waste provisions currently in other legislation, such as the *Health Act 1911*.

The legislation allows for the implementation of a container deposit scheme in WA.

The Bill also features mandatory EPR measures that could require producers of problem wastes to take responsibility for their products after the end of their useful life.

Submissions close **Monday 27 November 2006** with a final draft expected to be

introduced to Parliament early next year. For more information, contact the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on 6364 6500.

The Western Australian Local Government Association in conjunction with the DEC, is currently conducting workshops on the Bill around WA. The feedback from these workshops will then be used by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to formulate a submission on behalf of Local Government.

For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au

END OF PAPER RECYCLING AS WE KNOW IT

Global packaging company Amcor Ltd have announced that they will be shutting down three of their fibre plants in Australia.

Resulting freight costs for Amcor could rise from the now \$4-\$5 a tonne to \$40, drastically reducing the value of WA's waste paper.

returning \$4.8 million profit in 2005-06.

In combination with the closure of the ACI glass recycling facility in 2004, this adds to the drastic reduction in recycling capacity in WA.

One of these plants is located in Spearwood and is the only paper reprocessing facility in Western Australia.

The plant closure comes despite a 43% rise in annual profit, with the Spearwood facility alone

(Source:www.theage.com.au)

TOM PRICE UNDERSTANDS

The Shire of Ashburton has partnered with the Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) to provide recycling of aluminium cans in Tom Price.



the only material recycled because of transportation cost barriers.

The initiative is part of the Memorandum of Understanding which, amongst other things, provides host employment opportunities for Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) participants and the Shire also provides advice and assistance with the AAC's recycling program.

The first phase of this recycling program is the kerbside collection of aluminium cans in Tom Price. The Shire has provided bags to put around Tom Price to help with collecting the cans.

The initiatives are a part of the CDEP to generate work and income for the AAC.

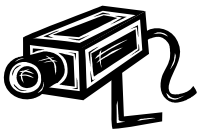
For more information please contact Jeff Breen on 9188 4445.

(Pictured above: (left to right) Rosalie Derschow, Eric Rives Leah Kerrison (Supervisor Waste Management) Leon Wally, Shirley Rongo, and Suzanne Parker).

Aluminium cans are currently



A £50,000 fine or two years imprisonment could be handed to fly-tippers (illegal dumpers) caught by hidden cameras in the UK.



(Source: www.new.bbc.co.uk)

TOO FANTASTIC FOR PLASTIC

Esperance has achieved a reduction in plastic shopping bag use (of nearly 75%) , the largest reduction by any regional centre in Australia.

anniversary of their 'Plastic Bag Free Shopping Day', an initiative to educate shoppers to reduce plastic bag use.

Over 150 businesses in the area have signed up to the Bag Smart Programme and an estimated 40% - 50% of shoppers are regularly using their own alternative bags.

Their campaign 'Esperance is too fantastic for Plastic' started in 2003 and on 1 September 2006 they celebrated the third

In 2003, Esperance was using over 100,000 plastic shopping bags per week; this is now 27,000 per week.

For more information please contact Carmel Breman on 9071 0620.

MUSTERING THE MOBILE

The City of Bunbury is now recycling mobile phones in their 'Mobile Muster'.

The City of Bunbury has two drop off points, one at the Council depot and one at their Stephen Street Administration Centre.



promotional activities, such as advertising and local promotions.

The City provides drop off centres and the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association collects and recycles the mobile phones and accessories.

As well as acting as a drop off point the City of Bunbury has also conducted all the

For more information please contact Tony Battersby on 9792 7311.

MINDARIE'S VISION

The Mindarie Regional Council (MRC) has entered into a contract with BioVision 2020 Pty Ltd. to build, own and operate



their first Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).

BioVision is a consortium comprising engineering specialists WorleyParsons,

Canadian composting technology suppliers and operators Comporec and the Macquarie Bank.

BioVision 2020 expects the project costs to be \$80 million for the plant. It will operate over the 20-year term of the Contract.

The RRF will divert material from landfill, and convert into re-useable market-quality

compost, approximately 70% of the 100,000 tonnes of material it will receive annually.

That material is currently sent to the MRC's landfill operation at Tamala Park in Mindarie.

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

LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has passed a resolution nominating RDT as the leading tenderer for the building of a new material recovery facility (MRF) in the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale.

Following the award of

the contract the facility will be constructed for an estimated \$5.9 million.

It will take approximately nine months to develop the new MRF, until then the SMRC will continue with its contingency plans, which include processing recycling at the facility in Canning Vale using equipment from the former

Recycling Company of WA and additional processing of stored material by other facilities.

For more information please contact Chuck Ellis on 9329 2700.



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

SMALL ISLAND, BIG DREAMS

The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands has strong aspirations for the future of Waste Management-ZeroWaste by 2010.

Initially their plans include recycling or reusing as much of the waste stream as possible on the island. All other waste will be

processed to be sent back to the mainland for recycling. In the long term, they wish to limit what enters the island in combination with policies to send back old materials to the mainland as new ones arrive.

The main problems that the Shire is facing in their waste

management are extreme isolation, low rate base, lack of infrastructure, geography of island (inhibiting land filling) and control of what enters and leaves the island.

For more information please contact Alan Clark on 9162 6649.

Thefts of drain covers in a Belgian city have soared in recent days as skyrocketing metal prices have made them lucrative (40 kg sewer lid for 6 euros). About 70 sewer lids, made from cast iron, have vanished.



(Source:www.go.reuters.com)

RUBBISH TALK

The South East Metropolitan Regional Council (SEMRC) has been working on a feasibility study to develop a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) for the south east region.



The facility, if viable, could potentially

process waste from all of the south east region as well as Serpentine-

Jarrahdale, Mandurah and Murray. The SEMRC has produced a document, *Background Paper - Site Selection and Technology Criteria* which looks at what should form the important considerations when choosing both technology and a site for a waste processing facility.

In addition, the SEMRC held a number of public events throughout September for people to provide input about

what's important in waste management.

These workshops included:

- ◆ Series of conversations about rubbish;
- ◆ Community survey on draft site and technology selection for RRRF; and
- ◆ Large community forum.

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



GONE IN 35 SECONDS

On display at Waste & Recycle 2006 Conference will be TPA Trituratori's shredding plants. In addition, to TPA's plants Mr Stefano Campagna will speak on matters of alternative treatments of "Solid Urban Waste" for energy.

TPA Trituratori has entered the

Australian market through its agent TPA Australasia. Their plants are displayed at their Welshpool showrooms that also supply spare parts, service and maintenance.

The shredding and grinding plants shred and sort solid urban waste, shred green

waste, timber and plastics and even...ENTIRE CARS IN 35 seconds.



For more information please contact Bob Phillips on 9358 2555.

A ministerial intervention in the UK stopped cats and dogs buried in pet cemeteries from being labelled landfill, although they will continue to be treated as waste as far as environmental regulations are concerned.



(Source: www.edie.news)

Litter Index

Disappointed with the increased level of litter since announcing the results of the National Litter Index in May this year, Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, has announced another \$140,000 Australian Government funding for surveys in 2006-07.

The Minister was particularly concerned with cigarette butt litter.

Cigarette butts made up around 46 % of the litter stream in surveys conducted in November of last year.

The latest index indicates that they now make up 49 per cent.



Latest results show a marked increase in litter such as plastic, glass, metal, paper and cigarette butts.

Highways are the most littered places, followed closely by industrial and parking areas. For more information visit www.kab.org.au

BLTs in Disguise

The Butt Littering Trust is an organisation funded by the tobacco industry. It does not in any way encourage people not to smoke; but rather indirectly promotes the image of the tobacco industry through its campaigns.

Further, Healthways has a stated policy not to provide funding to any entity involved

with the Butt Littering Trust due to the conflict of interest this funding brings.

The 1 September issue of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Newsletter contained an advertisement from the Butt Littering Trust.

This may have caused some confusion for Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) members, given previous advice from WALGA has been to avoid involvement with the Trust. Members are assured that this advice remains unchanged.

For more information please contact Megan Graham on 9213 2086.

KAB MONEY

The Keep Australia Beautiful WA is offering funding of up to \$10,000 for initiatives related to litter prevention.



Local Governments, small to medium enterprises, local associations, community groups, schools and individuals are encouraged to apply.

Applications close **29 September 2006.**

For more information visit www.kab.org.au

LEVERAGE IN VICTORIA

Under a new Action Plan in Victoria, the landfill levy for prescribed (hazardous) industrial waste is to rise from \$30 to \$130 a tonne. It is expected that funds generated will be about \$6

million per year and will go back into improving waste and recycle practices for industry.

Also in the action plan is mandatory purchasing of at least 10% of energy retailers'

energy from renewable sources.

(Source WME v.17n.7 August 2006)

TRASH OR TREASURE?

In the UK, OSS, an oil recycling company is preparing for a judicial review over the Environment Agency's decision to class its product – a recycled fuel oil – as a "waste".

By classifying the product as waste, customers using it must meet environmental

legislation for wastes. OSS is angry because it has spent millions trying to develop the recycled fuel at its Worcestershire plant so that users could use it instead of virgin oil. OSS first took legal action against the Agency in March to get it to reverse its decision.

The High Court issued a temporary order allowing OSS to produce and sell 'Clean Fuel Oil' (CFO) and for industry to use it. The Agency then appealed this decision on, but lost on all counts. Now, the case will come to a full judicial review this spring.

(Source: www.letsrecycle.com)

BIG BROTHER BINS

Electronic spy 'bugs' have allegedly been planted in hundreds of thousands of household wheelie bins in the UK.

The gadgets transmit information about the weight of the bins contents to a central database which then keeps records on the



waste disposal habits of each individual address. Already some 500,000 bins in council districts across England have been fitted with the bugs - with nearly all areas expected to follow suit within the next couple of years. The official reason for the bugs is to 'improve efficiency' and settle disputes between

neighbours over wheelie-bin ownership. But sceptics say the technology is actually intended to enable councils to impose fines on householders who exceed limits on the amount of non-recyclable waste they put out.

(Source: www.thisislondon.co.uk)

CHINESE JUNKIES

China has been a massive importer of discarded computers, screens, circuit boards and other equipment from the United States and other wealthy economies.

Thousands of workers in coastal towns in southern China have made a living by

dismantling equipment to salvage reusable parts in small workshops, often risking exposure to toxic chemicals without protective clothing.

Under the new rules, manufacturers will be encouraged to recycle and extend the working life of

components, offer information about toxins in the products, and look for non-toxic replacements for current technology. It is hoped that these new rules will make producers more responsible for 'high-tech junk'.

(Source: www.planetark.org)



HOTELS WORMING THEIR WAY

In South Africa, the plush Mount Nelson hotel has adopted thousands of earthworms to devour the tonnes of scrap food left over from the tables of their rich patrons. The tiger worms are

housed in special crates out the back and their fluid excrement, or 'worm tea' is carefully harvested and used as fertiliser for the hotel's gardens. The other by-product, vermicast, is rich compost. The

project is the first of its kind in South Africa and the hotel hopes that the sustainable practice will spread to other establishments.

(Source: www.planetark.org)

BAD PUBLICITY?

UK academics have been researching rubbish, and the effects of litter on the reputation of the discarded product. *How (and Where) the Mighty Have Fallen:*

Branded Litter, found the more common the product, the more it is associated with litter. It questions if and how brand messages alter if the packaging becomes litter.

The report is available in the *Journal of Marketing Management*.

(Source: www.edie.net/news)

In the UK, a lady obviously not concerned about identity theft put her passport, birth certificate and deeds to her house in the recycling bin.



(Source www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk)

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



Visit WasteNet www.wastenet.net.au

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2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5–18 September 2006** Workshops on WARR, ZWP and CDS
RSVP by 30 August to rbrown@walga.asn.au
For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au
- 15–17 September 2006** Clean Up the World
Everywhere, Earth
For more information visit www.cleanuptheworld.org
- 18 September 2006** Australian Council of Recyclers e-waste containers workshop
Perth, WA
For more information visit www.acor.org.au/whatsnew.html
- 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
- 2–4 October 2006** ISWA Annual Congress
Copenhagen, Denmark
For more information visit www.iswa2006.org/home.htm
- 7–9 November 2006** WasteMINZ
New Zealand
For more information visit www.wasteminz.org.nz
- 15–17 November 2006** National Recycling Week
For more information visit www.planetark.com
- ## 2006 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS
- 15 September 2006** Applications for Community Grants Scheme
For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au
- 29 September 2006** State of the Environment Report
For more information visit www.soe.wa.gov.au
- 29 September 2006** National framework for Chemicals Environmental Management discussion paper.
For more information visit www.ephc.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.
- 27 November 2006** Draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2006 and Draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (Landfill Levy) Bill 2006
For more information visit www.dec.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.



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

