



ISSUE 133 JANUARY 2010

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FISHING FOR COMMENTS

The funding for the Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme (ZWPDS) is coming to an end. 34 Strategic Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) were submitted to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

An extension has been granted until **Wednesday, 31 March**, when the Waste Authority anticipates that the ZWPDS will be completed and all of the funds dispersed.

The Waste Authority wants to gain a better understanding of the impact the ZWPDS and Regional Funding Program have had in Regional Councils and Local Governments. GHD Pty Ltd has been engaged to carry out an independent review of these programs.

GHD will be contacting Regional Councils and individual Local Governments by email during the coming weeks with a short survey.

The Waste Authority is seeking the following feedback

- The positive and negative aspects of the programme;
- Value of the Scheme to Local Government; and
- Measurable outcomes.

This feedback will inform future funding programs for Local Government.

For more information contact John Davis (08) 6467 5200 or email john.davis@dec.wa.gov.au

HOT DATES FOR HHW

Time to clear out your shed – there are some Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days coming up:

- **Saturday, 13 February** (EMRC) Hosted by the City of Bayswater (15 Wright Street, cnr Collier Road, Bayswater).
- **Saturday, 15 March** (RRC) Location to be confirmed (check out the Wastenet website for updates).
- **Saturday, 27 March** (MRC) Hosted by the City of Wanneroo (Ashby Operations Centre, 1204 Wanneroo Road, Ashby).
- **Saturday, 17 April** (EMRC) Hosted by the Shire of Kalamunda (Lawnbrook Road Transfer Station, Lawnbrook Road, Walliston).

There are also six sites around the Perth metropolitan area where you can dispose household hazardous waste at any time, for free.

For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au



\$WI\$ FOR 2010

The first round of SWIS funding for 2010 is now open. Funding will be provided for initiatives which are consistent with the Waste Authority's 'Priority Areas for Funding'. These include:

- Organics;
- Construction & Demolition (C & D) Waste Recovery and Recycling;
- Plastics;
- Used Tyres;

- Hazardous Waste from Households (particularly uses for water based paint, CFL's and e-waste); and
- Research and Development.

Applications must be received by **5:00 pm Friday, 5 March**.

For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au



EXTRA EXTRA - READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The deadline for submissions to the Waste Authority on the Draft State Waste Strategy has passed. More than 1400 points of consideration were received—including responses from workshops.

The Waste Authority had originally hoped to have the next draft out for comment by February, however this deadline has been pushed back so that the responses can be properly assessed and incorporated into the next draft.

Chair of the Waste Authority, Barry Carbon has

indicated that resource recovery was the most contentious issue. Many submissions indicated that product stewardship should be focused on as a strategy for reducing the amount of waste generated.

For updates visit www.zerowastewa.com.au



The *love food, hate waste* website contains fun, handy tips for reducing household living expenses, recipes along with avenues for people to discuss thoughts and issues.

www.lovefoodhatewaste

NEW TOY FOR SMRC

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council has a new toy at the Canning Vale Regional Resource Recovery Centre... a compost turner!

This machine is already having a positive effect on operations, by improving the rates of resource recovery. The compost turner also assists with odour management, by turning and airing the compost more efficiently. The risk of potential odours occurring has been also been reduced.

The compost turner was purchased with the assistance of grants from the Waste Authority. For more information, visit www.smrc.com.au



Pictured: Tony Romano (SMRC Chairman) and Barry Carbon (Waste Authority Chair).

EMRC UP TO NATIONAL STANDARD



The EMRC has become the first Local Government body in Australia to receive the AS4454 (composts, mulches and soil conditioners) accreditation.

EMRC's mulch compost, manufactured at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility, was certified

AS4454 following a thorough audit by SAI Global of the manufacturing facility, processing systems and products. AS4454 certification provides customers with a product quality

assurance that it is pasteurised, reliable and free from weed seeds, pathogens and disease.

Mulch compost is processed from greenwaste collected via Council verge collections, transfer stations, and commercial customers. Approximately 10,000 tonnes of mulch compost is manufactured each year at the Red Hill Site.

For more information please contact Rebecca Goodwin on (08) 9424 2220 or email Rebecca.Goodwin@emrc.org.au or visit www.emrc.org.au/news-pg-1315.asp

www.wastenet.net.au

ALL ABOUT ASS

New ASS Policy

The DEC is seeking comment on a new policy, *Acceptance of Acid Sulfate Soils at Landfill Sites*. This Policy reflects current industry practice, where untreated Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) are not accepted for disposal in landfills. Only properly treated ASS may be accepted for burial in Landfill Classes II, III and IV.

The closing date for comments is **Monday, 15 February**. For more information visit www.dec.wa.gov.au

Learn about ASS

A short course is also being run from Tuesday, **2 - 4 of March** by Southern Cross GeoScience on identifying, assessing and managing acid sulfate soils.

This program has been designed in conjunction with the DEC for professionals involved in developing or assessing Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plans.

For more information, visit www.scu.edu.au/geoscience

AMENDED SITUATION

The *Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 (as amended)* has been revised by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Definitions have been changed and concentration limits clarified.

For a copy of the document, visit www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/3512/1557

COMMITTEE SHY?

The Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) - WA Branch are looking for nominees for the various WMAA working groups and for the State Branch. Nominations are open for President, Vice President and Committee members. Working groups include:

1. Landfill
2. Construction and Demolition (C&D)
3. Compost WA
4. Commercial and Industrial (C&I)

5. Alternative Waste Technologies (AWT)
6. Carbon
7. Education
8. Young Professionals

For more information or to join WMAA, visit www.wmaa.asn.au or email wa@wmaa.asn.au



ON THE PLASTIC BAG BAN WAGON

The State Opposition has announced its intention to introduce a Private Members Bill to ban the use of plastic bags in Western Australia when Parliament resumes early this year.

Opposition Environment spokeswoman, Sally Talbot stated that "Western Australians use about 400 million plastic shopping bags each year, and that about three per cent are recycled. The rest end up in the environment or landfill."

Various states such as South Australia and Victoria have successfully imposed bans. The Northern Territory Government has recently announced that it will be phasing out single use plastic bags (as part of the Government's commitment as an organisation to become carbon neutral by the year 2018).

For more information, visit www.wa.alp.org.au/news/0110/02-02.php

(Source: RRF WINS #01-2010-January 08, 2010)

The average household throws away almost 13,000 pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.

(Source: www.visyclosedloop.com/index.php?id=10)

www.wastenet.net.au

NEW PARTNERSHIP



Compost WA and the Waste Authority have formed a strategic partnership for the next three years, effective **Thursday, 1 July.**

This partnership will fund the position of a Market and Industry Development Officer and will also support the development of the sector within the recycling industry.

For more information, visit www.compostforsoils.com.au

SEA DEBRIS

The Federal Government has published a Report on the *Impacts of plastic debris on Australian marine wildlife.*



geographic extent and magnitude of the impacts of plastic debris on Australian marine wildlife.

The Report provides an indication of the frequency,

For more information visit www.environment.gov.au

Since the *Old Phones, More Trees* campaign started in 2007, around 90,000 kg of mobiles have been recycled and 200,000 trees have or will be planted by Landcare groups before June 2010.

(Source: Mobile Muster Annual Report)



PLASTIC NUMBERS



The Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association (PACIA) has released the results of the National Plastics Recycling Survey. This was carried out by Hyder consulting in 2008. The main findings were:

- Plastics packaging recycling rate has increased by 3.5% to 36.2%.
- The recycling rate for packaging made from polymers 4-7 is at 27.8%, an increase of 2.4%.

Like many other markets, the actual consumption of plastics for durable uses decreased from the previous year.

Some of the plastics used for durable products with medium and long term uses have been recovered and



recycled at a greater rate. Due to trends in local and international uptakes and recycling methods, it is anticipated that the rate of recycling for the next year will be very similar.

For more information, visit www.pacia.org.au

PHONE HOARDERS



The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association has released its 2008-09 Annual Report. The Report outlines rates of recycling for mobile phones, and provides an update on initiatives and programmes undertaken by the association to increase recycling by the wider community.

There are over 3500 drop off points Australia

wide for mobile phones. The Association has also provided the community with other options for recycling such as posting the phones in. It appears that the main constraint to increasing the amount of phones recycled is that many people are choosing to keep their old phones instead of handing them in. It is estimated that 31% of people have two or more unused phones at home.

For more information, visit www.mobilemuster.com.au

www.wastenet.net.au

GOOD START FOR SUNSHINE STATE

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released the *75% Recycling Report* which outlines strategies to achieve a 75% recycling target for Florida by 2020.

Currently, the State generates 32 million tonnes of waste annually. Currently, 28% of this is recycled.

To increase the rates of recycling, the report outlines the need for increased public awareness, leadership from the government; and creation / expansion of markets for recycled products.

High population areas were identified as a priority that needed to be targeted first. Recycling from these areas should include not only residential premises, but schools and hospitals as well. Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste was also identified as a priority area. By incorporating Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's) into current receipt points for C&I waste, the overall rate of recycling would increase by over 12% towards the 75% target.

For more information, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75/default.htm

(Source: RRF WINS #01-2010-January 08, 2010)

AN ARM AND A LEG

A UK high street footwear chain has been fined more than £30,000 after admitting it was not complying with waste regulations. The company pleaded guilty to 15 charges. These included not registering with the Environment Agency and failing to meet packaging waste requirements between 2003 and 2004.

The court heard the company had not paid roughly £20,000 worth of fees under the

Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997, 2005 and 2007. Under these regulations, companies who have an annual turnover of more than £2m and handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year must register with the Environment Agency or a recycling compliance scheme.

(Source: www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=17516)

A CANNED WEDDING

A couple in America have decided to reduce the costs of their coming wedding by recycling aluminium cans. All of the cans are being stored in the couples front living room. To date they have collected over 18,000 cans, with a goal of 400,000 cans (weighing five tonnes).

The couple hopes to achieve their goal by **31 July**, the day they plan on tying the knot.



For more information, visit www.digitaljournal.com

PLASTIC TAKES THE HIGH ROAD

A Government in the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh has taken a new approach to combating plastic wastes by carrying out a special week long plastic drive.

Over 130 tonnes of plastic was collected from across the region during the week. Government agencies and NGOs collected plastic wastes which were later given to the Public Works Department to be used in road metalling work.

Ministers are so pleased with the success of the drive that the public are being urged to make the collection of wastes a habit. A State in the Western Himalayas has already banned the use of polythene carry bags from Friday, 2 October 2009.

For more information, visit or www.dnaindia.com

(Source: RRF WINS #01-2010-January 08, 2010)

Over the Christmas period, MobileMuster donated the gift of a chicken through Oxfam Unwrapped.

The 'Old Phones for Chickens' campaign ran until the end of December 2009.

(Source: www.mobilemuster.com.au/pages/Oxfam.Unwrapped.Chicken)

www.wastenet.net.au



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

"Getting the Environment Right"

A valuable resource for anyone interested in waste in Western Australia



www.wastenet.net.au

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2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

- 15-16 February** **CleverGreen Conference and Showcase**
Adelaide, SA
For more information visit www.southaustralia.biz/Innovation-in-SA/Clever-Green-Conference-2010.aspx
- 2 March** **Business Clean Up Day**
5 March **School Clean Up Day**
7 March **Clean Up Australia Day**
For more information visit www.cleanup.org.au
- 2-4 March** **Acid Sulphate Soils Workshop**
Seashell Resort - Mandurah
For more information visit www.scu.edu.au/geoscience
- 22 April** **Earth Day 40th Anniversary**
For more information visit www.earthday.net/earthday2010
- 4-6 May** **2010 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Conference**
Opal Cove Resort—Coffs Harbour
For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
- 21-23 July** **Enviro 2010 Solutions for a Sustainable Future**
Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre
For more information visit www.enviro2010.com.au
- 14–17 September** **Waste & Recycle Conference 2010**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au
- 26–30 September** **Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference**
Australian National University, Canberra
For more information visit www.aaee.org.au

2010 SUBMISSIONS CALENDAR

- 15 February** **DEC Policy Statement—Acceptance of Acid Sulfate Soils at Landfill Sites**
For more information visit www.dec.wa.gov.au
- 5 March** **Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS)**
For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au
- 31 March** **Strategic Waste Management Plans Expenditure**
For more information contact John Davis (08) 6467-5200 or email john.davis@dec.wa.gov.au



WALGA

www.walga.asn.au

WHAT IS MWAC?

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.

