



# MWAC Information Bulletin

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*Getting the Environment Right*

## ISSUE 131 NOVEMBER 2009

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## GLASS HALF FULL

On Wednesday, 4 November, Minister for Environment; Youth Hon Donna Faragher MLC, officially announced a new glass recycling facility to be built in Perth.

Currently, most glass is sent from WA to SA for recycling. The new facility (to be built in the first half of 2010) would enable up to 40,000 tonnes of glass to be processed in Perth each year.

The glass processing facility will be co-funded by the State Government, through the Waste Authority, and by industry through the National Packaging Covenant. NSW company Colmax Glass will run the facility.

The processed glass will potentially be used in bottle manufacture, insulation batts, surface coatings for road markings and swimming pools, and cement additives.

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



Minister Faragher, City of Canning Mayor Joe Delle Donne JP, and a mountain of glass at the launch of Perth's new glass recycling facility.

## END OF THE ROAD

Thank you to all those who attended the Thinking Green and Talking Rubbish workshops, held in Bunbury, Geraldton, Northam, Moora, Broome and Perth. There were over 100 registrations for the various workshops.

Local Governments provided feedback on the targets in the Draft Strategy and discussed what resources were needed in the waste management area.

Local Governments identified the need for a long term funding program to assist in the implementation of Strategic Waste Management Plans (SWMP). The current pilot phase of Program ends in December 2009.

The feedback from these workshops has been used to inform the Associations Submission on the State Waste Strategy. A draft WALGA Submission is out now for comment. To view the draft Submission visit the WasteNet website [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

Local Governments are also encouraged to put in their own submissions.

Submissions on the State Waste Strategy will close **Thursday, 10 December**.

For more information on how to make a submission visit [www.yoursaywastewa.com.au](http://www.yoursaywastewa.com.au)



Participants at the Perth Thinking Green and Talking Rubbish Workshop, held at the City of Stirling.



**WALGA**  
[www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

## AND THE WINNER IS...

Local Government elections were held in October, which means some new faces on the Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

- Cr Jeff Munn (Rivers Regional Council)
- Mayor Glenys Godfrey (Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council)

MWAC would like to welcome back Mayor Troy Pickard, who will be returning as MWAC Chair. A warm welcome is extended to new MWAC members:

Thanks go to Cr Kathryn Thomas, Cr Frank Cvitan, and Cr Gerry Pule, for their contribution to MWAC in recent years.

## BLACK GOLD

Local Governments and Regional Councils who have used the WALGA Preferred Arrangement with Wren Oil are now eligible to apply for the second rebate period (1 July to 31 December 2009).

Local Governments. The closing date for the rebate period is **4pm Monday, 18 January 2010**.

The claim form was recently sent to all WA

For more information or a copy of the claim form, contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au).

## BIG AUSSIE SWAP

Monday, 9 - Sunday, 15 of November was National Recycling Week. To celebrate and encourage people to re-use as well as recycle, the Big Aussie Swap was held.

hosted Swap Parties - City of Perth (pictured), City of Armadale, and the Shires of Wiluna and Merredin.

Throughout the week Swap Parties were held all around Australia. At a Swap Party, participants bring along good quality items they no longer want, and exchange them for a token. The tokens are then exchanged for items brought by others. Congratulations must go to the WA Local Governments who

For more information visit [recycling-week.planetark.org/involvement/bas.cfm](http://recycling-week.planetark.org/involvement/bas.cfm).



## GOODBYE HELLO

The MWAC Team is sad to announce that Judy Scott, MWAC Policy Coordinator, is leaving us.

[www.workplacesolutions.asn.au](http://www.workplacesolutions.asn.au). Applications for this positions close COB **Monday, 30 November**.

Judy has a huge passion for waste and recycling and has been a great contributor to WALGA and the waste team. Judy is moving to the City of Stirling, with her last day at WALGA being Friday, 20 November. To say goodbye and good luck, contact Judy on [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au) or phone 9213 2086.

For further details on this position please contact Manager, Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or 0407 477 074.

With the impending departure of Judy, MWAC is seeking a Policy Coordinator. Total package \$58-62k p.a., with 27 days a year annual leave. A Position Description is available by emailing [positions@walga.asn.au](mailto:positions@walga.asn.au) with the position title in the subject line, or by visiting

MWAC would like to welcome new Waste Management Officer Heather Anderson, who will join the team on Thursday, 19 November.

Heather can be contacted on 9213 2069 or [handerson@walga.asn.au](mailto:handerson@walga.asn.au).

America's largest volume of exports by containers is waste paper.

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

## 45,000 CARS AND COUNTING

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) opened its Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in 2005.

The RRRC has a recovery rate of 65%. It composts organic waste, processes green waste to make mulch, and before it was destroyed by fire in June 2009, recovered paper, glass, metal and plastic for recycling. Since 2005, nearly 400,000 tones of waste has been diverted from landfill.

Resource recovery also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The resource recovery at the RRRC stops the release 156,500 tones of greenhouse gases every year, which is the equivalent of taking 45,000 cars off the road.

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



## MAGNIFICENT MENZIES

Menzies has claimed the title of Goldfields Regional Winner for the 2009 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Award.

On Wednesday, 4 November the regional awards ceremony was held in Laverton. Initiatives that contributed to Menzies' success included community events and improvements to sporting facilities, installation of a BioMax system in the caravan park to save water, introducing water saving irrigation methods for public gardens, and protecting the natural environment at Lake Ballard while making it accessible to visitors.

Menzies will now compete with other regional winners for the overall WA Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities title to be announced at the State Awards Ceremony on Friday, 20 November at the Royal Perth Yacht Club. All regional category winners are in the running for a State category award.

Kambalda was awarded the State title in the 2008 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards.

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

## BEACHY KEEN

Nominations are now open for WA's cleanest beach. WA's Clean Beach 2010 Awards are supported by Keep Australia Beautiful WA and Surf Life Savings WA.

Nominate your favourite beach for awards including the Friendly Beach, Community

Action, Protection of the Environment, Natural Resource Management and Litter prevention.

For more information, or to nominate a beach, visit [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au) or [www.mybeach.com.au](http://www.mybeach.com.au) or call 6467 5143.

## TIME TO STALL

Perth's Walk Against Warming (WAW) will be held on **Saturday, 12 December**. WAW is a national community day of action on climate change.

It is anticipated that over 1500 people will participate in this year's WAW. The WAW will include a community gathering in Russell Square, from 11am to 3pm. This will be a

great opportunity for organisations to promote products and services or provide information to the community on climate change and what they can do to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

If you are interested in being a stall holder contact Heidi Hardisty, Stalls Coordinator, at [wawperth@gmail.com](mailto:wawperth@gmail.com).

In the UK,  
57% of waste is landfilled,  
34% is recycled,  
and 8% is incinerated.

(Source:  
[www.guardian.co.uk/  
environment/2009/oct/11/  
council-tax-spending-  
rubbish](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/11/council-tax-spending-rubbish))

## LESS WASTE, MORE RESOURCES

On Thursday, 5 November the much anticipated meeting of the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) took place in Perth. This was an important meeting for the waste industry, and in recent months there has been much speculation on the outcomes.

Federal Environment Ministers agreed to a National Waste Policy, which sets the agenda for waste and resource recovery in Australia for the next 10 years. The policy, developed after a 9 month public consultation period, focuses on 'less waste more resources'.

### Product Stewardship

Under a new product stewardship legislative framework, the Federal Government will implement regulation to support an industry-led scheme that will collect and recycle end of life televisions and computers. Manufacturers will be responsible for the collection of old equipment, and will be required to meet a recycling target of 80% by 2021. Ministers also agreed to the

development of an industry led scheme for the recycling of used tyres.

### Packaging Covenant

Ministers supported in-principle the strengthened Australian Packaging Covenant to replace the National Packaging Covenant (due to expire 30 June 2010). The updated Covenant has a greater focus on package design, workplace recycling, public recycling, and litter reduction projects.

### Beverage Containers

Ministers heard preliminary findings of the modelling study which found a high level of community interest in recycling packaging. When the final report is complete, the Council will compare the cost of a range of options, including a Container Deposit Scheme and a range of other targeted activities.

For more information, or a copy of the National Waste Policy, visit [www.ephc.gov.au](http://www.ephc.gov.au).



A sign found in a Korean Subway - a good lesson for us all!

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

## A WHALE OF A TIME IN SA

On Monday, 5 October the remains of a 17m Fin Whale washed ashore at Port Parham, South Australia. Sightseers flocked to the beach, ignoring the stench of rotting flesh to look at and even touch the whale, which had died out at sea several days earlier.

Whale carcasses create an unusual waste disposal problem for Local Governments around Australia. They are often towed out to sea, landfilled or even blown up.

This Fin whale met an even greener end.

The SA Museum carefully dismantled the carcass and will keep the skeleton, but the estimated 40 tonnes of blubber will be turned into compost, likely to end up in the gardens of Adelaide.

(Source: [www.abc.net.au/news/stories/](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/), [www.plainsproducer.com.au](http://www.plainsproducer.com.au), Environmental Management News)

## BAN THE BAG

In the last six months, South Australians have stopped an estimated 200 million plastic bags going to landfill.

The legislated phase out of light weight checkout-style bags began in January 2009, with a total ban from Monday, 4 May 2009.

Research by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science at the University of SA shows that 9 out of 10 shoppers in South Australia now take reusable bags to the supermarket.

SA is the first state in Australia to ban plastic bags, and all retailers must supply reusable or environmentally friendly alternatives (such as bags made from paper or cornstarch).

For more information visit [www.byobags.com.au](http://www.byobags.com.au) or [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/About.mvc/PlasticBags](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/About.mvc/PlasticBags).

(Source: Environmental Management News, [www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/04/2559631.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/04/2559631.htm))

## WASTE NOT WANT NOT

Australians throw away approximately \$5.2 billion worth of food every year. This is more than they spend on digital equipment (such as flat screen TV's) and more than it costs to run the Australian Army.



This was the finding of recent research by the Australia Institute. *What a Waste - An analysis of Household Expenditure on Food* reveals that the average Australian household throws out an estimated \$616 worth of food a year, or \$239 per person.

The foods most wasted were fresh fruit and vegetables and take away/restaurant food. In general, it was found that the higher the household income and the lower the number

of occupants, the more food was wasted. Most people surveyed admitted to wasting food and felt guilty about it, but this was not enough to change their behaviour. Saving money was the biggest motivating factor in reducing food waste, followed by environmental and humanitarian concerns.

For a copy of *What a Waste* visit [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au).

## BUY ONE GET ONE FREE—LATER

In an effort to reduce food waste in the UK, supermarket chain Tesco is introducing a *Buy One, Get One Free - Later* scheme.

Under the scheme, shoppers will get the discounts associated with the buy one, get one free (BOGOF) bargains, but they will be given a voucher for the second free item, to cash in when they actually need it.

In the UK, 6.7 million tones of good food is dumped each year, at a cost of £10 billion.

Tesco's new scheme comes after strong criticism of the supermarket industry by the

UK government, which threatened to outlaw the BOGOF deals if supermarkets did not help customers to consume in a more sustainable way.

Other suggestions for reducing food waste have been repackaging food in a variety of sizes to suit single people, couples and families, and selling items for half price, rather than BOGOF.

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

(Source: [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), [www.abc.net.au/news/](http://www.abc.net.au/news/), [www.getgreen.com.au/2008/08/26/notebook-magazine-stopping-food-waste-in-australia/](http://www.getgreen.com.au/2008/08/26/notebook-magazine-stopping-food-waste-in-australia/))

In the UK, 1.3 million yogurts and 4.4 million apples are thrown away every day.

(Source: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1205427/Environment-Secretary-Hilary-Benn-says-British-farmers-consider-growing-GM-crops.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1205427/Environment-Secretary-Hilary-Benn-says-British-farmers-consider-growing-GM-crops.html))

## RECYCLE (OR ELSE)

San Francisco has recently become the first city in America to make recycling mandatory.

On Wednesday, 21 October the Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance took effect. This requires everyone in San Francisco to separate their waste into three separate bins, for recyclables, compostables, and trash. As of 2010, those not complying will face fines of \$100-\$1,000. The laws apply to all houses, businesses, restaurants and apartment buildings.

This is one step towards San Francisco's ultimate goal of zero waste to landfill by 2020. 72% of the city's waste is already being diverted from landfill, with cans, bottles,

construction materials and cooking oil already being recycled.

For more information visit [www.sfgov.org/site/mayor\\_index.asp?id=106733](http://www.sfgov.org/site/mayor_index.asp?id=106733).

(Source: Resource Recovery Forum)



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



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*"Getting the Environment Right"*

## 2009-2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

- 25-26 November**      **Waste Diversion—Organic Solutions for the CPRS**  
 Maroubra, Sydney  
 For more information contact WMAA Events Department on 1300 651 026 or kylie@wmaa.asn.au
  
- 28 November**      **Buy Nothing Day—A Global Holiday from Consumerism**  
 For more information visit [www.buynothingday.co.uk](http://www.buynothingday.co.uk)
  
- 30 November - 1 December**      **Zero Waste Summit 09**  
 Sydney, New South Wales  
 For more information visit [www.acevents.com.au/zerowaste09](http://www.acevents.com.au/zerowaste09)
  
- 3-4 December**      **Waste and Climate Conference**  
 Copenhagen, Denmark  
 For more information visit [www.wasteandclimate.org/web/guest/home](http://www.wasteandclimate.org/web/guest/home)
  
- 9-10 December**      **Bioenergy Australia 2009**  
 Gold Coast, Queensland  
 For more information visit [www.bioenergyaustralia.org/](http://www.bioenergyaustralia.org/)
  
- 24-27 January 2010**      **US Composting Council Annual Conference**  
 Orlando, Florida  
 Early bird registrations close 24 December 2009. For more information visit [www.compostingcouncil.org/conference/](http://www.compostingcouncil.org/conference/)
  
- 24-26 March 2010**      **GLOBE 2010 Conference and Exhibition**  
 Vancouver, Canada  
 Early bird registrations close 11 December 2009. For more information visit [www.globe2010.com/](http://www.globe2010.com/)
  
- 22 April 2010**      **Earth Day 40th Anniversary**  
 For more information visit [www.earthday.net/earthday2010](http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010)
  
- 21-23 July 2010**      **Enviro 2010 Conference and Exhibition**  
 Melbourne, Victoria  
 For more information visit [www.enviroconvention.com.au/index.html](http://www.enviroconvention.com.au/index.html)

## 2009-2010 SUBMISSIONS CALENDAR

- 10 December**      **State Waste Strategy - Submissions**  
 For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au) or [www.yoursaywastewa.com.au](http://www.yoursaywastewa.com.au)
  
- 18 January 2010**      **Used Oil Program - Applications Close**  
 For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)
  
- 12 February 2010**      **Clean Beach Awards - Nominations Close**  
 For more information visit [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)

*A valuable resource for anyone interested in waste in Western Australia*



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

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## 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.

