



THINKING GREEN AND TALKING RUBBISH

ISSUE 130
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Workshops

The Thinking Green and Talking Rubbish workshops have commenced. These workshops, held in conjunction with the Environment Portfolio at WALGA, include consultation on the draft State Waste Strategy. Other attractions at the workshop include:

- Melanie Bainbridge, WALGA Climate Change Coordinator, demonstrating the new WALGA Climate Change Management Website; and
- Jessica Sheppard, WALGA NRM Facilitator, consulting on the development of the WALGA Local Government NRM Policy Statement.

The Waste Authority has provided WALGA and other stakeholder groups with funding to assist with the waste portion of these workshops. The workshops will be held:

- Bunbury (Thursday, 15 October)
- Geraldton (Tuesday, 20 October)
- Northam (Thursday, 29 October)
- Moora (Tuesday, 3 November)
- Broome (Thursday, 5 November)
- City of Stirling (Monday, 9 November)
- Kalgoorlie (Thursday, 18 November)

For more information or to RSVP contact WALGA Climate Change Coordinator Melanie Bainbridge at mbainbridge@walga.asn.au or 9213 2039 or visit www.wastenet.net.au

WALGA Submission

The Association is developing a response to the draft State Waste Strategy. A draft WALGA Submission will be released for Local Government comment in mid November. To contribute to the Association's Submission, contact Judy Scott, 9213 2086 or email jscott@walga.asn.au

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

Waste Authority—Consultation for All

The Waste Authority is holding general consultation workshops for the community, Local Government and industry. These workshops are being held:

- Albany (Wednesday, 28 October)
- Fremantle (Friday, 30 October)
- Geraldton (Wednesday, 4 November)
- Bunbury (Tuesday, 10 November)
- Joondalup (Friday, 13 November)
- Port Hedland (Tuesday, 17 November)
- Kalgoorlie (Friday, 20 November)

To register for these workshops and for more information visit the State Waste Strategy website www.yoursaywastewa.com.au.



WARR MOVES TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill is on the agenda for discussion in the Legislative Council this week.

The Association has briefed members of the Legislative Council on the implications of the Bill and suggested amendments. Key points made included:

- Local Government does not support the amendment of the WARR Act to change how the Levy can be used;
- Local Government supports the Levy being used to achieve strategic waste management objectives;

- Support is needed for Local Government waste management activities; and
- Key areas for expenditure include Household Hazardous Waste, Strategic Waste Management Plan implementation, Alternative Waste Treatment facilities, State-wide recycling public education and support for regional waste management.

For more information please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au



DATA FOR DECISION

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) has developed a new draft Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement.

Local Governments are asked to review the draft Policy Statement and in particular, comment is requested, from Local Government regarding: the commitments outlined in the draft Policy Statement on support for evidence based decision making; considerations for data collection; reporting of

data; data accuracy; and data usage.

A copy of the draft Policy Statement can be viewed at www.wastenet.net.au.

Comments on the draft Policy Statement are due **Thursday, 5 November**.

For more information or to comment contact WALGA Policy Coordinator Judy Scott at jscott@walga.asn.au or 9213 2086.

YOUR SAY ON WASTE IN WA

The State Waste Strategy was released on Wednesday, 16 September, at the Waste & Recycle Conference.

There are a number of consultation sessions planned by the Waste Authority. The draft State Waste Strategy is now available for comment.

To access a copy of the draft Strategy or to find out more about the consultation sessions visit www.zerowastewa.com.au or www.yoursaywastewa.com.au

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

KERBSIDE PROPOSAL

A ratepayer survey conducted by the Town of Port Hedland has revealed that 97% of the ratepayers would like to see the introduction of kerbside recycling in South and Port Hedland.

The recycling service, proposed by the Pilbara Regional Council (PRC), would potentially see paper, aluminum, steel, glass, cardboard and plastics collected fortnightly in new 240L recycling bins. An additional waste

levy would be charged to annual rates. 144 residents were surveyed in August, to gather feedback on the proposal, and while 97% supported its introduction, 45% would not be prepared to pay an additional levy.

The Town of Port Hedland will work closely with the PRC and other regional councils to further explore the kerbside recycling issue.

(Source: North West Telegraph, Wednesday, 7 October)

TRASH MY AD

Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) WA is calling on young people to grab a camera and get creative in the fight against litter for a chance to win \$1,000 cash.

The 'Trash My Ad' competition invites young people to make a 30-second anti-litter TV commercial targeting their own age group.

The winning entrant will receive \$1000 and the opportunity for their anti-littering message to be used in future campaigns for Keep Australia Beautiful WA.

The competition is open to all Australians aged up to 25 years until **Friday, October 30**.

For more information on 'Trash My Ad', the rules, the old ads and the new entries, visit www.trashmyad.com.au or email kabc@dec.wa.gov.au or call 6467 5339.



In 2007-08,
84% of Australians
separated recyclables
from non-recyclable waste,
and 33% composted their
kitchen waste.

(Source: Environmental
Views and Behaviour
www.abs.gov.au)

WASTE UNDER CONTROL

The National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) has released a review of the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure (NEPM). The review process is a part of the five yearly reviews, in order to facilitate this, the NEPC has released a Discussion Paper.

The purpose of the Discussion Paper is to put forward proposed actions to address key issues raised by stakeholders during the review.

The Discussion Paper is now available for comment until **Friday, 6 November**. A copy of the Discussion Paper can be obtained from www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/46

CATCHERS IN THE TRASH

Young film makers have joined together to inspire the people of Perth to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Trashcatchers was made by 11 local artists and film makers, who created the concept, storyboard, costumes, props and characters. The film was made at the YMCA HQ in Leederville.

The film will be used as an educational tool for primary and high schools, and by the Mindarie Regional Council. It highlights some of the simple things we can all do to reduce, reuse and recycle, including using reusable bags, giving unwanted things to friends and recycling electronics.

(Source: guardian.inmycommunity.com.au/news-and-views/local-news/ITrash-a-treasure/7537442/)

THE BUTT STOPS HERE

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council has released the results of the 2008-09 National Litter Index.

The National Litter Index began in 2005. 983 sites are surveyed in May and November each year, in all states and territories, and the Index aims to collect data on the litter volumes and types found.

Beaches, car parks, highways, industrial sites, recreational parks, residential, retail and shopping centres in urban or near urban areas are surveyed, to compare the volumes and types of litter at the sites.

In 2008-09 KABC found that, nationally, the amount of litter had decreased. The most littered sites were industrial locations, and cigarette butts were the most frequently

littered item. Plastic accounted for the highest volume of litter.

In WA, the overall number of litter items had increased slightly compared with previous years, but the volume of litter decreased. The greatest number of litter items were found in retail areas, and the greatest volume of litter was found along highways.

As per the national findings, cigarette butts were the most littered item, and plastic was found in the largest volumes. Recreational parks and residential areas were the least littered areas.

For more information or a copy of the National Litter Index 2008-09 Report, visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-information/national-litter-index/index.html

VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Association is pleased to advise that the current round of vacancies is now open. Applications close 4:00pm on **Monday, 16 November**. Please email applications - including a completed nomination form, a statement addressing the selection criteria and a short CV - to nominations@walga.asn.au

There is currently a vacancy on the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

For more information visit www.walga.asn.au/about/policy/governance/vacancies



Cigarette butts, paper (including tissues), plastic snack bags, and confectionary wrappers are the items most littered in Australia

(Source: www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-information/national-litter-index/index.html)

RECYCLING IN VICTORIA

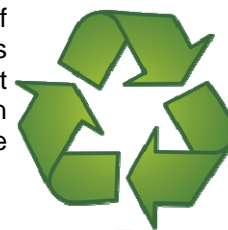
The Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2007-2008, compiled by Sustainability Victoria, has revealed that Victorians are recycling more, and sending less waste to landfill.

Diversion rate of recyclables and green organics through kerbside collection is up from 26% in 2000-01 to 42% in 2007-08, and the overall tones of garbage has decreased.

The top performing Local Government was Nillumbik Shire Council, with a diversion rate of 64%.

For the first time, all of Victoria's 79 local governments now provide kerbside recycling

services and the cost of providing this service is now cheaper than the cost of a garbage collection and disposal service alone.



Sustainability Victoria CEO, Mrs Anita Roper, said "The amount of recycling in Victoria in the last financial year is the equivalent of removing more than 300,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas or more than 50,000 cars off the road."

(Source: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/Local_government_annual_survey.pdf)

GREAT NORTHERN CLEAN UP

The inaugural Great Northern Clean Up has been a great success. The clean up, on October 3 and 4, involved almost 1,800 volunteers across 11 Local Governments in the top end of Australia. Nearly 90 tonnes of rubbish was collected from beaches, waterways and parks.

According to Clean Up Chief Executive Terrie-Ann Johnson, recyclable bottles were the most common item picked up, and bottles and cans made up a big portion of the rubbish. She suggested that the amount of

recyclables that end up as litter could be reduced by two-thirds with the introduction of a container deposit scheme.

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council meets in Perth on Thursday, 5 November, and it is speculated that a national container deposit scheme will be on the agenda.

(Source: www.cleanup.org.au, www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/05/2704697.htm)

A TOWN LIKE ALICE

The Alice Springs Town Council has taken a proactive approach to recycling, with the introduction of its own container deposit scheme.

The Cash for Containers scheme began on Friday, 3 July, and will run for 12 months. Under the scheme, Alice Springs residents can bring in up to 500 glass or aluminium drink containers per day, for a refund of 5 cents per container.

The aim of the Cash for Containers scheme is to reduce litter in and around Alice Springs, as well as increase recycling in the town. It is estimated that it will cost the Town Council \$400,000 for the 12 month scheme.

The scheme has been a great success so far.

In the first three months, more than 1.4 million cans and 109,000 bottles have been deposited, and residents have been reimbursed nearly \$80,000.

For more information visit www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au



Over 90% of the materials in mobile phones can be recovered and recycled.

(Source: www.mobilemuster.com.au/quick_facts)

www.wastenet.net.au

ALL WRAPPED UP

In September, six of the UK's biggest DIY retailers and brands signed up to a voluntary agreement to reduce packaging and waste to landfill.

The initiative was led by the Waste and Resources Programme (WRAP), and the six signatories (Wickes, B&Q, Homebase, Argos, Focus and Henkel) have agreed to work together to reduce packaging by 15% and waste to landfill by 50% by 2012. They will also help customers recycle.

The agreement is part of the WRAP-led Home Improvement Sector Commitment (HISC). HISC aims to improve packaging design, making it less bulky, and easier to open and recycle. It is modelled on the grocery sector's Courtauld Commitment. The agreement is a significant one, as Argos, B&Q, Focus, Homebase and Wickes account for 45% of the UK home improvement market.

For more information visit www.diyweek.net/news and www.packagingnews.co.uk/News/

SO HOT RIGHT NOW

Old fire hoses and seat belts are perhaps not forms of waste that we often think about, but they can now be recycled.

Patina Japan is producing a range of bags made from discarded fire hoses, with straps made of used seat belts. The fire hoses, some up to 30 years old, bear the scars of their battles with flames. Part proceeds from bag sales go towards environmental conservation efforts.

For more information visit www.japanfs.org/en/pages/029335.html



13 billion plastic bags are thrown away in the UK every year.

(Source: www.preventclimatechange.co.uk/recycling-and-rubbish-facts.html)

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

A pilot study in the region of Durham, Ontario, has shown that municipalities could significantly increase diversion rates from landfill by switching to clear garbage bags.

The aim of the three month trial, which began in June this year, was to assess whether the use of clear bags increased diversion and participation in recycling and composting programs. Results showed that composting (disposal of organic waste and food scraps into a separate bin) increased by 14%. The

trial was run in conjunction with a region-wide education and promotion campaign.

Similar trials have shown that clear bags are an affective way of reducing the "improper" disposal of recyclables and compostable waste, and many cities and Local Governments in Canada and the US have made clear bags mandatory.

For more information visit www.solidwastemag.com

GREEN BEER

The EPA in Ireland have released a new guide for publicans, to help them cut costs and improve the environmental performance of their pubs.

Calling Time on Waste - A publicans handbook to a leaner greener cost base covers ways that pubs can save money by reducing waste, saving electricity and using water

wisely. It is the result of a collaboration between the Vintners' Federation of Ireland, Monaghan County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information or a copy of the handbook, visit www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/waste/prevention/Calling_Time_on_Waste.pdf

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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2009-2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

- 16-25 October** **National Organic Week**
 For more information visit www.organicweek.net.au/
- 20-21 October** **2009 Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference - Policy to Practice**
 Canberra, ACT
 For more information visit www.conlog.com.au/eianz/
- 28-29 October** **Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo**
 Vancouver, British Columbia
 For more information visit www.cwre.ca
- 9-15 November** **National Recycle Week**
 For more information visit recyclingweek.planetark.org/
- 13-15 November** **Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia Yard Tour 2009**
 Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
 For more information visit www.apraa.com/national_events.html
- 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
- 22 April 2010** **Earth Day 40th Anniversary**
 For more information visit www.earthday.net/earthday2010

2009 SUBMISSIONS CALENDAR

- 4 November** **Enviro 2010 - Call for Papers**
 For more information about abstract submission visit www.enviro2010.com.au
- 5 November** **Papers Data and Information Management Policy Statement - Submissions**
 For more information contact WALGA Policy Coordinator Judy Scott at jscott@walga.asn.au or 9213 2086
- 6 November** **National Environmental Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure - Submissions**
 For more information visit www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/46
- 10 December** **State Waste Strategy - Submissions**
 For more information go to www.zerowastewa.com.au or www.yoursaywastewa.com.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.



City of Geraldton-Greenough
 Climate of Opportunity

