



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

MWAC Information Bulletin

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WARR II 2
WARR Bill to go to Legislative Council

WASTE ER 2
Outcomes of the Contingency Planning for Waste Management Workshop

GOLD SPONSOR 2
WALGA Submission on the Draft Sponsorship Policy

BYE BYE BIENNE 2
Bienne Argent to leave MWAC

SEEKING WMO—GSOH REQUIRED 3
WALGA needs a new Waste Management Officer

CALLING ALL TIDY TOWNS 3
Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Program 40th Anniversary

CASH FOR TRASH 3
Unique container deposit scheme for Hedland

WEB SLINGERS 3
New -look MRC Website now online

NAP TIME AT THE EMRC 4
Expansion of the EMRC Mattress Recycling Program

VIRTUAL WASTE 4
Two new computer games from Waste Wise Schools

DON'T BE D(R)AFT 4
SA Draft Guideline for Solid Waste released for comment

GUM BUSTER 4
Gum Removal Vehicle in Cairns

AH MCCAIN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN 5
Biogas from food waste

RECYCLING QLD 5
Bottle recycling in shopping centres

LESS WASTE (MORE HAGGIS) 5
Scotland's Zero Waste Strategy

IN THE BAG 5
Plastic bag ban in India

NOT JUST A RISKY BUSINESS!



WASTE & RECYCLE
2009 CONFERENCE

Thank you to all those who attended the Waste & Recycle Conference 2009! A special thanks goes out to the Conference Sponsors:

- Gold Sponsor—Waste Authority
- Silver Sponsors—Cardno, Superior Pak and Coffey Environments
- Juice Stall Sponsor—National Packaging Covenant
- Coffee Stall Sponsor—Publishers National Environment Bureau

And to all our wonderful exhibitors who put on a great show.

Some of the highlights included the State Waste Strategy release and initial consultation workshop, tours of the major

waste management facilities, a waste to energy workshop, a range of informative and interesting concurrent session speakers (local and interstate) and of course our Keynote Speakers.

Key themes which were derived from the last session of the Conference included the need for the industry to work together; the need to ensure good communication; and the need to develop initiative ways to manage risk and contracts.

Please email any additional feedback on the Conference to Rebecca Brown rbrown@walga.asn.au

Watch this space for more information on Waste & Recycle 2010....



ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

The State Waste Strategy was released on Wednesday, 16 September, at the Waste & Recycle Conference 2009. WALGA will be consulting with Local Government in relation to the Strategy in October, with the draft Submission anticipated to be available later in the month.

To access a copy of the draft strategy visit www.zerowastewa.com.au or from Thursday, 1 October, visit www.yoursaywastewa.com.au.

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

The Waste Authority has provided WALGA and other stakeholder groups with funding to hold consultation workshops. The Association is planning a number of workshops, to be held in:

- Geraldton (Tuesday, 20 October)

- City of Stirling (Monday, 9 November)
- Kalgoorlie (Thursday, 19 November)
- Bunbury (date TBA)
- Moora (date TBA)
- Broome (date TBA)

These workshops will be held in conjunction with the Environment Portfolio at WALGA. In addition to the State Waste Strategy, Melanie Bainbridge, WALGA Climate Change Coordinator, will demonstrate the new WALGA Climate Change Management Website, and Jessica Sheppard, WALGA NRM Facilitator, will consult on the development of the WALGA Local Government NRM Policy Statement.

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
www.walga.asn.au

More than half of US shoppers consider the sustainability of a product when purchasing.

(Source: www.globe-net.com/lifestyle/)

www.wastenet.net.au

WARR II

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 15 September. The Bill now has to go to the Legislative Council.

If successful, the Bill will mean that around 75% of funds from the Landfill Levy can be directed to the general operations of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Association has been vocal in calling for all of the funds from the Levy to remain hypothecated to waste management issues.

The Association will continue its advocacy campaign regarding the Bill and strongly encourages Local Governments to contact their local Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) to raise the issue with them.

For more information contact WALGA Manager, Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au

WASTE ER

On Thursday, 13 August the Contingency Planning for Waste Management Workshop was held at the City of South Perth Administration Centre. The Workshop brought together stakeholders from the WA waste industry to discuss the risks faced by the industry, and what could be done to mitigate or deal with them.

32 participants from Local and State Government, Regional Councils, WALGA, WMAA and the waste and recycling industry

attended the event, sharing their expertise and experience. Topics discussed included potential problems faced by recycling, AWT and landfill facilities in the wake of emergency or disaster situations, and the implications of natural or man made disaster for the waste industry.

The outcomes of the Workshop can be found at www.wastenet.net.au

GOLD SPONSOR

The Waste Authority released its Draft Sponsorship Policy in July 2009. The purpose of the Policy is to establish a framework for the creation of sponsorship alliances between the Waste Authority and corporations, foundations, individuals and other non-government organisations. The Submission period for the draft Sponsorship Policy 2009 closed Wednesday 16, September 2009.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) has made a Submission to the Waste Authority on the Draft Sponsorship Policy. A copy is available on the WasteNet website www.wastenet.com.au.

For more information contact Waste Policy Coordinator Judy Scott on 9213 2086 jscott@walga.asn.au

BYE BYE BIENNE

The MWAC Team is sorry to announce that Bienne Argent, our Waste Management Officer, is leaving us. Bienne is an enthusiastic waste team member and a stalwart of the WALGA Eco-Office. To the left is a photo of Bienne, in the wild, at the Eco-Office Planting day.



Bienne will be taking some time

out to consider her next career move, so we may see her tending whales in Antarctica, wrangling quokkas on Rottnest or training the next Muay Thai world champion - she's promised to keep us posted.

Bienne heads off on Friday 9 October. To say see ya, contact Bienne on bargent@walga.asn.au or phone 9213 2069.

SEEKING WMO—GSOH REQUIRED

With the impending departure of Bienne, MWAC is seeking a Waste Management Officer. Total package \$47k-52k, with 27 days a year annual leave. A Position Description is available by emailing positions@walga.asn.au with the position title in the subject line, or by visiting www.workplacesolutions.asn.au.

For further details on this position please contact WALGA Manager, Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063.

Applications for this positions close COB **Monday, 12 October** .

CALLING ALL TIDY TOWNS

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Program.

The annual competition, encourages group participation in projects on recycling, litter prevention, water conservation, and the celebration or protection of cultural and natural heritage values.

Registrations are now open for the 2010 Tidy Towns program. For information on how your

remote, regional or rural community can be involved visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au or email tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au.



CASH FOR TRASH

The Cash For Trash Program is a unique container deposit scheme in WA. The program is an initiative by the Care For Hedland Environmental Association, and was created from a desire to reduce the amount of broken glass on the streets and footpaths of Port and South Hedland, and encourage local recycling.

Cash For Trash began on Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 1 March 2009). Thanks to the sponsorship of the Town of Port Hedland, State Government, industry and business, and the waste industry, local residents and community groups were paid 10c per whole glass bottle, \$6 per bag of aluminium cans and \$5 per bag of street litter that they collected and deposited at fortnightly volunteer manned community collection points. During

the eight week pilot period, 991 people participated in the Program (496 of which were children). 106,713 glass bottles were collected, as well as 2235 bags of aluminium cans and 784.5 bags of street litter.

The pilot was so successful that the Program will now continue until December 2009.

The glass bottles returned are being crushed and will be used by the Town of Port Hedland for non-structural concrete purposes such as footpaths, roadbase and drainage basins.

For more information, contact Kelly Howlett, Chairperson, Care For Hedland Environmental Association Inc, at cleanuphedland2009@hotmail.com or mobile 0439 941 431.

WEB SLINGERS

The Mindarie Regional Council now have a new-look website up and running. The updated site has new content and formatting to make it easier to navigate and even more informative.

The website update is a continual improvement process, and stage two of

website development will involve the introduction of interactive components.

To see the new-look MRC website go to www.mrc.wa.gov.au



"Toronto never smelled so good"

Tourism Toronto's new slogan for the city, adopted after the end of a 39 day garbage strike this summer.

(Source: www.metronews.ca/toronto/local/article/275491--slogan-smells-so-good)

www.wastenet.net.au

NAP TIME AT THE EMRC

It is estimated that 1.25 million mattresses end up in Australian landfills each year. The EMRC is doing their bit to reduce this, with the expansion of the mattress recycling program.

Currently, more than 100 mattresses are dropped off at the EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility each week. EMRC has received SWIS funding which will allow the program to recycle 10,000 mattresses per year. The timber, steel and foam from the

mattresses is recycled to create many products including particle board and carpet underlay.

For more information go to www.emrc.org.au/waste-pg-1144.asp.

(Source: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132500, www.emrc.org.au/waste-pg-1144.asp)

VIRTUAL WASTE

Waste Wise schools have developed 2 new computer games for school students. Through using these computer games, students can learn how to look after a worm farm and make their own compost.

To view the games visit the Waste Wise schools website www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/for-students/index.html



On 1 September 2009 the EU started the mandatory phase out of 100W and frosted incandescent lightbulbs.

(Source: www.netnewspublisher.com)

DON'T BE D(R)AFT

The Environmental Protection Agency of South Australia has recently released the *Draft Guideline for Solid Waste: criteria for assessment, classification and disposal of waste* for public consultation.

The guideline aims to inform industry and the broader community of their requirements and

responsibilities for ensuring that disposal of waste to landfill is conducted in an appropriate manner, in accordance with the level of risk posed to the environment by the waste disposal activity.

For more information go to www.epa.sa.gov.au/instructions.html.

GUM BUSTER

Getting gum on your shoe may soon be a thing of the past in Cairns, with the Cairns Regional Council investigating the use of a Gum Removal Vehicle.

The \$55,000 golf cart-like machine is battery operated, solar powered, and can blast gum off a footpath in 5 seconds. It costs around \$35 a day to run, and uses less than 3L of water per hour. This could mean a saving of water and money, as the Cairns Regional Council anticipates spending up to \$20,000 in

2009 on high pressure gum cleaning.

The Gum Removal Vehicle is already in use in Brisbane.

For more information on the Gum Removal Vehicle go to www.gumremovalvehicle.com.au.

(Source: www.cairns.com.au/article/2009/09/15/63841_local-news.html)

AH MCCAIN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN

Throughout the next year, McCain Foods aims to increase its reuse of biogas from food waste to around 95%, replacing 10% of the natural gas used at its Ballarat, Victoria plant and reducing landfilling of organic waste.

The company began using biogas created from the anaerobic decomposition of food waste water in the 1980's, to replace the use of natural gas. Its goal is to increase its efficiency from 80% to 95%, potentially producing up to 20% of its gas requirements from waste food.

The food waste from the McCain pizza plant can't be fed to cattle, so it goes to landfill, and this is what the company will anaerobically treat.



(Source: Environmental Management News)

RECYCLING QLD

On Wednesday, 9 September, Queensland Environment Minister Kate Jones attended the launch of the Lend Lease national recycling program.

Lend Lease manages shopping centres around Australia, and aims to increase the recycling of cans and bottles at the centres by up to 400%, and expects to divert 210 tonnes of recyclables from landfill per annum.

The Lend Lease program is part of the National Packaging Covenant's Packaging Stewardship Forum push to roll out public recycling systems in shopping centres.

(Source: Environmental Management News, www.afgc.org.au)

LESS WASTE (MORE HAGGIS)

The Scottish Government is in the process of developing a new Zero Waste Plan for Scotland. Before 1999, Scotland was almost wholly dependent on landfill to treat its waste, but in the last 10 years many changes to the waste and recycling industry have been made.

The Zero Waste Plan is part of ambitious legislation on climate change, including measures on waste and recycling.

For more information go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current>.

Waste management accounts for around 4% of Scotland's climate change emissions.

(Source: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1/wastestrategy)

IN THE BAG

From Friday, 2 October the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh will impose a complete ban on the production, storage, use, sale and distribution of all types of polythene bags made of non-biodegradable materials.

The government is also planning to eventually include all plastic materials like disposable plates, cups and glasses.

Environment Minister J.P. Nadda said the

government is now exploring the option of promoting paper and jute bags in the state.

(Source: www.thaindian.com/newsportal/environment/total-ban-on-plastic-bags-in-himachal-from-oct-2_100233277.html)





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 EVENTS CALENDAR

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|-----------------------|--|
| 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

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 25 September | Community Grant Scheme
For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au |
| 29 October | EPA South Australia - Draft Guideline for Solid Waste Submissions
For more information visit www.epa.sa.gov.au/instructions.html |
| 4 November | Enviro 2010 - Call for Papers
For more information about abstract submission visit www.enviro2010.com.au |
| 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

