



MWAC Information Bulletin

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting The Environment Right"

WASTE—THE YEAR THAT WAS

ISSUE 156 DECEMBER 2011

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As 2011 comes to a close it's time to look back on the year and see just how far we've come.

January: a new Chair came to the Waste Authority. MWAC generated papers on Waste Management Infrastructure and Funding.

February: a month of announcements. The Minister approved the new HHW Program. The WA Transitional E-waste Program was launched and there was a wedding in the MWAC family (Heather Squire).

March: The NT Container Deposit Bill Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Bill 2011 was released and the Feds released the Draft Product Stewardship Bill.

April: the Product Stewardship Bill went through a Senate Inquiry and it came out well.

May: MWAC headed to the country, with the National Waste Policy Regional and Remote Working Group calling for case studies.

June: more announcements. A new Waste Authority was appointed with Marcus Geisler, Cr Jennifer Bloom, Neil Foley and Michele Rosano. The Minister announced funding of \$7M for implementation of Local Government Strategic Waste Management Plans.

July: data roadshows. Consultation occurred with Local Government on the needs and issues relating to waste management data and the

National Food Plan issues paper was released.

September: we asked the question, Waste or Resource: Food for thought? and had another fantastic Waste & Recycle Conference answering it.

October: our hopes were raised thinking we'd have a State Waste Strategy soon. Labor introduced a Container Deposit Bill in WA.

November: our hopes for having a Waste Strategy were dashed, but the passage of the Regulations for the TV's and Computers Product Stewardship Scheme gave us a reason to smile. We also bid Cecilia Jordan MWAC Project Coordinator farewell as she moved to Department of Environment and Conservation.

December: the Federal Government released the long awaited Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for Packaging.

There are great expectations for 2012:

- A Federal decision on a National Container Deposit System or progression of a WA CDS;
- A Waste Strategy for WA;
- Comprehensive and useful waste data collection;
- Implementation of the Product Stewardship Scheme for TV's and Computers;
- Another fantastic Waste & Recycle Conference; and
- Landfill Levy returned to fund waste management activities.

WASTE CHIEF ON THE MONEY

In *The West Australian*, on Monday 5 December, the Chair of the WA Waste Authority Mr Peter Fitzpatrick made some very perceptive comments about the state of waste in WA. He identified that government spending on waste management and recycling, was dropping below what was needed and that a crisis was looming.

The Chair said "There's a general unhappiness among the waste industry about the fact that only a quarter of the current landfill levy goes into waste remediation," he said. "With dwindling land resources for landfill and a growing population, we're going to have to spend a lot more money than has been spent in the past by various governments in the area of

waste management." "Whether that comes out of the landfill levy or consolidated revenue, ultimately governments can't ignore the need for increased expenditure in waste management."

Local Government is supportive of the statements made by the Chair of the Waste Authority. MWAC Chair, Cr Doug Thompson, has written to the Environment Minister supporting the comments made by Chair of the Waste Authority and expressing Local Government disappointment and frustration at the continued delay to the release of the State Waste Strategy and the need for increased funding for waste management.

COCKBURN AWARDED

The City of Cockburn has been named the overall winner of the 2011 WA Environment Awards. The City won the Award in recognition of its Sustainability and Climate Change programs.

The City has undertaken a range of initiatives to promote sustainability in the community. These include the Sustainable Living Home Online website, Sustainable Renter's Guide, Dry Cell Battery Recycling program, and a Beyond Gardens - GardenWise seminar.

The Environment Awards were co-ordinated by the Department of Environment and Conservation with generous support from sponsors: Publishers National Environment Bureau, Western Power, Swan River Trust, Royalties for Regions, the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Whiteman Park, Rheem and the Waste Authority.

(Source: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au)



All I want for Christmas (apologies to Maria Carey)

I don't want a lot for
Christmas,

There's just one thing I
need.

I don't care about the
presents,

Underneath the Christmas
Tree.

I just want a Strategy for
my own,

More than you could ever
know.

Minister make my wish
come true,

All I want for Christmas
is...

a State Waste Strategy.

(Source: Brown Industries)



ESPERANCE RECYCLING AND WASTE FORUM



The Shire of Esperance has introduced a number of waste management and diversion projects over the past two years.

These include strategies to divert cardboard from landfill, e-waste recycling, household battery recycling and CFL recycling. Many programs have stemmed from participation in a Regional Waste Management Plan during 2008.

An explanation of costs and gate fees related to many of the new programs was given at the forum, providing the community with a better understanding of the process involved and long term benefits of waste diversion.

Making waste management part of your business plan was a popular topic and has already led to an increase in the number of commercial recycling enquiries along with requests for recycling bins or skips.

The forum was a great way of opening channels of communications between public and businesses and to get some feedback on recent and ongoing changes to waste management in the region.

For more information, contact Georgia Ryan, Waste Management Coordinator on 9 0 7 1 0 6 1 0 or email Georgia.Ryan@esperance.wa.gov.au

HARVEY RATES ITS RECYCLING



Shire of Harvey residents are recycling five times more than they were four years ago. Statistics have shown that residents are now recycling 576kg per household compared to just 115kg in 2008.

The Shire began its recycling campaign when it introduced a plastic bag system in 1997. In 2000 the Shire introduced the 240 litre recycling bins which are still used today.

Shire Principal Environment and Health Officer Scott Dandridge said it was fantastic to see the Shire getting on board with recycling. Figures supplied to the Harvey Mail showed

the Shire of Harvey recycled 720 tonnes in the last year. The City of Bunbury recycled 5161 tonnes, Shire of Capel recycling 1224 tonnes and the Shire of Dardanup 1280 tonnes. The figures also showed that the Shire of Capel had 395 tonnes of contaminated recycling compared to just 95 tonnes in the Shire of Dardanup.

All councils in Greater Bunbury provide a fortnightly recycling service for collecting material such as plastic and glass bottles, milk and juice cans, aluminium cans, cardboard, newspapers and steel or tin cans.

(Source: www.harvey.wa.gov.au)

www.wastenet.net.au

PACKAGING \$ FLOW

Cardboard Recycling EMRC

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council has been given \$472,100 to install cardboard recycling infrastructure at four transfer stations and invest in a mobile baler. The baler is mounted on a trailer and has its own power plant so it can be moved between the transfer stations.

Cardboard Recycling MWRC

The members of the Mid West Regional Council (Coorow, Perenjori, Three Springs, Morawa and Mingenew) has been given \$204,340 for an air powered compactor. This will enable items such as cardboard and plastic, cans, tins and drums to a capacity of 30 litres to be compacted into bales and stored for transport at a later date.

Mobile glass crusher regional WA

A mobile glass crusher will enable the Local Governments of the RoeROC (Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin and Narembeen) to recycle glass for use in civil construction activities. (PSF) \$129,000

Clean Clubs

\$100,00 has been given to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council to implement a trial at four Sporting Clubs of the *Clean Clubs Program* over the 2011/12 summer. The Program will focus on creating better litter disposal and recycling behaviour in the sporting public.

(Source: APC December 2011)

SPEAKING OUT ON CDS

The Standing Council on Environment and Water has released the Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for public consultation.

There has already been stakeholder consultation in developing the RIS. These included two workshops on the nature and scale of packaging waste problems and data issues, and a discussion on the proposed options for analysis.

The options investigated in the RIS are:

- Container Deposit Schemes (CDSs);
- An advance disposal fee; and
- Industry-run schemes.

One of the CDS options investigated was proposed by environment groups and one of the co-regulatory options was proposed by the packaging industry. The analysis also recognises and compares the options against

existing packaging recovery and litter reduction systems, i.e. South Australia's CDS, the Northern Territory CDS, kerbside recycling services to most Australian households, and the Australian Packaging Covenant.

There is no preferred option. Feedback is sought on the options, analysis and statement of the problem.

The deadline for Submissions is **Friday 30 March 2012**.

Public forums on the Consultation RIS will be held in February and March 2012 in all capital cities and the regional centres of Bunbury (WA), Albury (NSW) and Townsville (QLD).

MWAC will be developing a Submission in early 2012.

(Source: www.ephc.gov.au)

ENTER NOW: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2012

If you are proud of your Local Government's approach to meeting the community's needs, enter the National Awards for Local Government.

The National Awards recognise, reward and promote the work of Local Governments across Australia. They are an important component of the Government's partnership

with Local Government, showcasing unique local solutions to common problems.

The deadline for submitting entries, is **Friday, 17 February 2012**. The national award winners will be named in June.

For more information visit www.regional.gov.au

Over 350 people attended the WMRC Earth Carers 'Swap-a-lot Extravaganza' on Saturday 12 November 2011.

(Source: WMRC Newsletter 8 December 2011)

www.wastenet.net.au

INDUSTRY TAKES A LEAD

The QLS Group has announced it will formally apply to the Federal Government to operate an arrangement under the National TV and Computer Recycling Scheme.

This Scheme will only be for televisions. From July 2012, consumers will be able to drop off obsolete televisions at selected retailers free of charge. There will also be numerous other retailer, and retailer related strategies which ensure consumers are looked after better than ever before in the e-waste area.

QLS has a relationship with the Retravision group of stores, acting as their third party logistics company.

This enables QLS to currently deliver in excess of 400,000 televisions each year, operating over 80 owned vehicles with 250-300 movements each week. This means that the company is able to service every major metropolitan city as well as nearly all smaller regional and rural towns.

QLS has the size and the scale to ensure obsolete televisions are collected, transported and recycled across Australia responsibly and in the most cost effective manner.

For more information, contact Sandy McGregor, Managing Director, QLS on 9706 5966.

WALGA TENDER

WALGA has released a Tender for a preferred supplier panel on the provision of Waste Collection Goods and Services to a closed group of suppliers that successfully progressed through the recent Expression of Interest process.

The Tender closes **Wednesday 15 February**. It is hoped that a panel of endorsed suppliers accessible in March 2012. The products and Services expected to be available include:

- Domestic & Commercial Kerbside Waste

and Recycling Collection Service;

- Waste Collections from Public Place Bins and Reserves, and Community Events;
- Bulk Rubbish Collection;
- Disposal of Waste; and
- Supply, Delivery, Replacement and Repairs to MGB's.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Dale Chapman on 9213 2095 or dchapman@walga.asn.au

THINKING BOUT CLEANING?



Registrations are now open for Clean Up Australia Day 2012. Over 350 Clean Up Sites have already registered.

Here are some important dates to put into your Clean Up Diary:

- Clean Up Australia Day – **Sunday, 4 March 2012;**
- Business Clean Up Day – **Tuesday, 28 February 2012;** and

- Schools Clean Up Day – **Friday, 2 March 2012.**

To register your community, business or school Clean Up Site, visit the Clean Up Australia Day website and:

1. Create or join a clean up site;
2. Tell your friends; and
3. Turn up on the day for the Clean Up.

(Source: www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

DRIVING UP RECYCLING RATES

In Australia, the car manufacturer Ford has been busy looking at ways to limit their impact on the environment.

Currently 56% of solid waste from the Broadmeadows facility is recycled and 44% is disposed in landfill. Recycling initiatives are underway to reduce the amount of scrap metal and paint sludge going to landfill.

Paint sludge from the Broadmeadows factory is now used as an alternative source of fuel in the cement making process.

Additional milestones in Australia, include a \$20 million environmental and technical upgrade of the Geelong Iron Casting Plant in 2010 to make it more efficient.

(Source: www.ben-global.com)

The WA State Government has decorated the Perth Cultural Centre with an 'upcycled' Christmas tree, made from recycled bicycles.

(Source: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au)



www.wastenet.net.au

GIFT IDEAS: BINS!



Created by Italian design studio flussocreative 'leco' is a system of recycling and storage containers,

utilizing the look and practical design of LEGO building blocks. Each bin is colour coded for the different waste streams.

For more information, visit www.designboom.com

TIS THE SEASON: TO REDUCE FOODWASTE

About one-third of all food produced for human consumption (~1.3 billion tonnes), is lost or wasted every year, according to the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO).

This festive season, the Worldwatch Institute has some up with some ideas that will make meals less wasteful:

1. Be realistic: Only cook the amount of food that you really need.
2. Plan ahead: Write a shopping list before going shopping.
3. Go small: Use smaller serving utensils and plates to reduce the amount of food left on plates.

4. Encourage your guests to self-serve.
5. Store leftovers safely: hot foods should not be left out for more than two hours.
6. Compost food scraps from meal preparation.
7. Create new meals from leftovers.
8. Donate excess canned and dried foods to food banks and shelters.
9. Give gifts with thought: Avoid giving perishable food item as gifts. Keep an eye open for fair trade certified products.

(Source: www.care2.com and RRF WINS November 25, 2011)

What ever event you have to organise this season, make it a sustainable one. The Sustainable Events Planner aims to assist event organisers and their visitors to make sustainability the main event.

(Source: www.slf.org.au/eventplanner/home)

TIFFANY GOES SUSTAINABLE

Tiffany & Co. has launched a corporate sustainability section to its website, and released its first-ever corporate responsibility report. Points of interest include:

- A requirement that vendors complete a "self-assessment of their performance" against Tiffany's code of conduct;
- Internal audits are carried out on its vendors;
- Contracts with third parties must provide social responsibility audits on its suppliers;
- Uses gold, silver and platinum from

responsibly mined metal deposits and recycled sources in the U.S.;

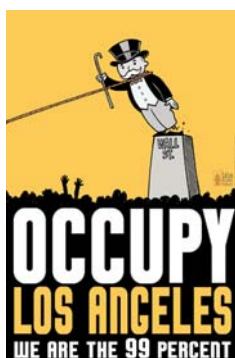
- That mine workers' rights, labor standards and human rights are respected;
- Tries to purchase diamonds "either directly from a mine or a supplier that only sources from known mines."
- Uses Forest Stewardship Council materials in its trademark blue boxes and bags and in its catalogs.

(Source: www.tiffany.com/csr)



OCCUPIERS MAKING A MESS

Protesters taking part in the Occupy Los Angeles movement, left 30 tonnes of rubbish behind at their encampment in City Hall Park. According to the Los Angeles Times, items such as books, CDs, luggage, boom boxes, mattresses, dining chairs and electric razors were left behind.



All of the items will be taken to a landfill, the paper reported.

Crews wearing hazmat suits had to rake the trash into piles. Public Works board President Andrea Alarcon told the paper that sanitation workers also collected about 3,000 gallons of water that washed into a catch basin and had to test it for hazardous materials.

(Source: www.wasterecyclingnews.com)

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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2011/12 EVENTS CALENDAR

- 21-23 March 2012** **Tissue World Americas 2012 Technical Conference**
 Miami Beach, Florida, USA
 For more information, visit www.tissueworld.com/americas
- 30 April- 2 May 2012** **Waste Expo 2012**
 Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada
 For more information, visit www.wasteexpo.com
- 4-6 July 2012** **6th International Conference on Waste Management and the Environment**
 New Forest, UK
 For more information, visit www.wessex.ac.uk
- 24-26 July 2012** **Enviro 2012**
 Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide
 For more information, visit www.enviroconvention.com.au
- 11-14 September 2012** **Waste & Recycle Conference 2012**
 Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA
 For more information, visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2011/12 SUBMISSIONS CALENDAR

- 23 December** **Submission Deadline for the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel Issues Paper**
 For more information, visit <http://metroreview.dlg.wa.gov.au>
- 31 December** **Applications Close for the Australian Packaging Covenant Major Project Funding Round**
 For more information, visit www.packagingcovenant.org.au
- 20 January 2012** **Deadline for Submitting an Abstract to Speak at Enviro 2012**
 For more information, visit www.enviroconvention.com.au/2012/abstracts.html
- 20 January 2012** **Submission Deadline for the WAPC Draft Mid West Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework**
 For more information, visit www.planning.wa.gov.au
- 17 February 2012** **Nominations Close for the National Awards for Local Government**
 For more information, visit www.regional.gov.au
- 30 March 2012** **Submission Deadline for the Packaging Impacts Consultation RIS**
 For more information, visit www.ephc.gov.au



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.

