



# Waste Management Education Policy Statement

PREPARED BY THE



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*"Getting the Environment Right"*

**December 2008**

### **Status of this Policy Statement**

This Policy Statement has been prepared by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council and adopted by the Western Australian Local Government Association. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is a standing committee of the WA Local Government Association with delegated authority to represent the Association in all matters relating to solid waste management.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has been formed through collaboration with Regional Councils who are not ordinary members of the WA Local Government Association. The resulting body effectively represents the views of all Local Government bodies responsible for waste management in Western Australia.

Policy Statements adopted by the WA Local Government Association represent a consolidated viewpoint from local government and may differ from the positions adopted by individual member organisations. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council and the WA Local Government Association will strive to promote this Policy Statement and to act consistently with its contents. Individual Local Governments and Regional Councils are encouraged to support them in this but are not bound by the document.

Policy Statements adopted by the WA Local Government Association are reviewed and new Policy Statements are developed regularly. The latest WA Local Government Association Policy Statements can be obtained from the website: [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

In-line with standard MWAC policy, this policy statement will be reviewed 6-months after its endorsement by the State Council. It will be reviewed again at least every 2-years subsequent to this; with any significant developments acting to instigate an earlier review.

### **The Municipal Waste Advisory Council's member organisations are:**

City of Geraldton-Greenough

East Metropolitan Regional Council

Mindarie Regional Council

Rivers Regional Council

Southern Metropolitan Regional Council

Western Australian Local Government Association

Western Metropolitan Regional Council

## Policy Statement on Waste Management Education

<b>Title:</b>	<b>WA Local Government Association Policy Statement on Waste Management Education – December 2008</b>
<b>Scope of Policy:</b>	<p>This Policy Statement is intended to outline the Western Australian Local Government Association (the Association) position on Waste Management Education, as well as clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities of Local, State and Federal Government with regard to Waste Management Education.</p> <p>It is intended that this Policy Statement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the roles and responsibilities of Local, State and Federal Government regarding Waste Management Education; and</li> <li>• Clarify what other roles Local Government has in terms of Waste Management Education.</li> </ul> <p>This Policy Statement does not focus on individual Local Government engagement with its local community however, the key principles outlined in the Policy Statement should be common to all.</p>
<b>Background of Policy:</b>	<p>For the Association, one of the drivers to develop this Policy Statement has been the need for clear communication and delineation between Local, State and Federal Government with regard to Waste Management Education. Due to uncertainty surrounding roles and responsibilities for Waste Management Education there is the potential for conflicting messages from the different spheres of government.</p> <p>The Association has developed this Policy Statement with reference to Local Governments twin roles as a representative of the community and as a service provider. Local Government must represent community values, since these are the fundamental basis for undertaking new challenges and continuing past work. Local Government must also apply its service provider expertise when considering means by which to achieve community benefits.</p>
<b>Statement of Policy:</b>	<p><b>1. Principles of Waste Management Education</b></p> <p>The Association has identified the following key principles on which to base Waste Management Education, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic – everyone has a right to input into issues and decisions that affect them;</li> <li>• Transparency – the process will be open and transparent and aim to achieve clear outcomes;</li> <li>• Equity – an equal opportunity to participate be given to all stakeholders; and</li> <li>• Access – ensure that participants from all stakeholder groups can be involved.</li> </ul>

Local Governments delivery of Waste Management Education programs to local communities is an integral part of community engagement. Integration of the democratic, transparency, equity and access principles is needed to ensure equal access for all members of the community, including people for whom English is a second language, people with vision-impairment or people who are normally unable or unlikely to participate.

## **2. Roles of Local Government in Waste Management Education**

Local Government has an important role in Waste Management Education. Effective Waste Management Education is vital, without the active support and participation of the community new programs will be difficult to establish and implement. In order to best suit the needs of their local communities, Local Government has developed various waste management systems, necessitating the development of a range of educational materials. Equally in its role of educator, Local Government has developed a variety of methods by which to deliver information to its target audience.

The role of Local Government in Waste Management Education has primarily been seen as one of 'behavioural change' which:

- Informs the community about waste and recycling services available;
- Informs the community on appropriate types of waste that can/cannot be recycled;
- Shows the community that Local Government is leading by example with an active role in recycling and Waste Management Education programs;
- Keeps the local community informed on waste management initiatives and issues; and
- Through active community participation and support, achieves waste diversion from landfill.

## **3. Roles of State and Federal Government in Waste Management Education**

Local Governments' expertise is in tailoring its services and messages to the needs of local communities. In order to suit the needs of a diverse demographic group, for State and Federal Government, a more strategic role is required. This type of Waste Management Education is better focused at 'attitudinal', rather than 'behavioural change'.

The role of State and Federal Government in Waste Management Education includes:

- Improving the perception of the overall environmental benefits associated with waste avoidance and recycling;
- Showing the community that State/Federal Government is leading by example with active roles in Waste Management Education programs;
- Providing assistance, through funding for Waste Management Education programs;
- Creating Waste Management Education and recycling programs that can be utilised co-operatively between Local and State Governments;
- Promoting community awareness of the environmental impacts of waste; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing appropriate strategies for the community, to minimise their waste impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Adoption:</b>	<b>December 2008</b>
<b>Associated Policies and Documents:</b>	<p>WA Department of Local Government and Regional Development, WA Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia (2004) <i>Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation</i></p> <p>Policy Statement on Extended Producer Responsibility (June 2008)</p> <p>Policy Statement on Waste Consultation and Communication (December 2008)</p>
<b>Definitions:</b>	<p><b>Consultation:</b> The act or procedure of consulting, a conference for discussion or the seeking of advice. A discussion aimed at ascertaining opinions or reaching an agreement.</p> <p><b>Communication:</b> The exchange of information ideas or feelings between people by means of speaking or writing.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Education:</b> Conveying information and awareness on waste issues and building an understanding of technical matters regarding waste types, contamination and processing technologies.</p> <p><b>Attitudinal:</b> Relating to or involving personal attitudes towards specific issues or things in general. (An example is: `why' you should recycle and the environmental benefits associated with waste avoidance).</p> <p><b>Behavioural:</b> The way in which a person, organism, or group responds to a specific set of conditions. (An example is: `what' you should put into your everyday MGB and your recycling bin).</p> <p><b>Stakeholder:</b> A person or group with a direct interest, involvement, or investment in something.</p> <p><b>Principles:</b> A principle is the underlying part (or spirit) of the basis for an evolutionary normative or formative development, which is the object of subjective experience and/or interpretation Consultation and Communication.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> HarperCollins Publishers Australia Pty Ltd (2003) <i>Collins Australian Dictionary 5th Edition.</i></p>
	<b>End of Policy Statement</b>