



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY E-WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Wednesday 20 10 2010
Department of Environment and Conservation
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Meeting No. 07/2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Marcus Geisler	Chair
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Waste Management Branch, DEC
Mayor Ron Norris	Forum of Regional Councils
Mr Vincent Holt	Secure Computer Disposal and Recycling
Ms Inez Howcroft	SIMS Recycling Solutions
Mr James Coghill	Total Green Recyhill
Mr Kevin Wilson	Waste Management Association of Australia
Mr Brent Pearce	Officeworks
Ms Germaine Healy	Senior Project Coordinator, DEC
Ms Rebecca Brown	Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Attended meeting from 2pm to 3pm
Mr Greg McDougall	EDSYS Computers

APOLOGIES

Mr Matt Lim	CDM Computers
Mr Josh Millen	AIIA
Mr Stuart Clark	Product Stewardship Australia

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair declared the final meeting of the E-waste Committee open at 2.00pm and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR.

The Chair advised Committee members of the resolutions from the Waste Authority's October meeting as detailed below;

EXCERPT FROM WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2010

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 8.1.1 Noted the work of the E-Waste Committee to date.**
- 8.1.2 Endorsed the recommendations of the E-Waste Committee outlined within the briefing note and Draft 3 of the Western Australian Transitional E-Waste Program (supporting Funding Option 2).**
- 8.1.3 Agreed to seek the Minister for Environment's agreement to extend the close off date (until 31 December 2010) for e-waste collections able to be funded from the agreed funding allocation for this purpose, and subject to the Minister's approval, advise all potential applicants of this change.**
- 8.1.4 Agreed to recommend to the Minister for Environment, the implementation of the Western Australian Transitional E-Waste Program as the interim approach to providing support to e-waste collections in Western Australia, prior to the roll out of the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme (National Scheme).**
- 8.1.5 Agreed to delegate final negotiations in relation to mechanisms to manage the flow of materials against the budget to the Chairman of the E-Waste Committee.**
- 8.1.6 Acknowledged the work of the E-Waste Committee and commended the efforts of the Chairman, Marcus Geisler and Senior Project Co-ordinator, Ms Germaine Healy (DEC).**

The Chair requested that the Committee deal directly with agenda item 7 first due to members needing to leave early.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION:

- 4.1 The minutes of the E-waste Committee meeting number 06/2010 held on the 23 September 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.**

5. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Chair reviewed the actions from the previous meeting. The status of actions listed was acknowledged and noted by members.

6. FEEDBACK FOR THE MINISTER RE POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF A CHARGE UNDER THE PROGRAM

The Chair advised members that the Minister has requested advice from the E-waste Committee on the potential to apply a cost to the consumer under a State e-waste collection and recycling program.

It was noted that the overall intention of the WATEP is to support existing local government e-waste collection and recycling activities. It is intended that the program promotes a uniformity of e-waste practices across Western Australia through the promotion of “one message”.

It was also noted that the majority of potential program participants do not currently apply a charge to the public for e-waste recycling.

The Committee was also advised that under the National Scheme, it is intended that there shall be no cost for members of the public to recycle end-of-life Televisions and Computers.

The Committee resolved that providing a “free of charge” e-waste collection and recycling service to members of the public in the interim program was preferable, to aid smooth transition into potential arrangements under the National Scheme.

However it was felt that should a local government/regional council apply a charge then it should not exceed 50% of the recycling costs of the unit of e-waste.

Action Point

6.1 Provide advice to the Minister on the potential application of a charge under a State e-waste collection and recycling program as follows:

- **It is the opinion of the Committee that providing a “free of charge” e-waste collection and recycling service to members of the public in the interim program is preferable to applying a cost to the consumer for e-waste recycling**
- **Highlight to the Minister that under the National Scheme, it is intended that there shall be no cost for members of the public to recycle end-of-life Televisions and Computers. In anticipation of this it may be prudent to encourage the removal or reduction of up front costs to the consumer for e-waste collection and recycling in the interim period.**
- **Recommend that if a charge is applied for e-waste collection and recycling, then this charge should not exceed 50% of the recycling cost of the electrical item.**

7. WATEP IMPLEMENTATION TROUBLESHOOTING

The Committee considered and addressed some of the potential issues with the implementation of the WATEP as detailed below.

Promotion & Media

The Committee discussed the various mechanisms currently used by stakeholders to advertise e-waste collection and recycling. It was clarified that any potential media launch by the Minister’s office was outside of the remit of the program’s promotion & media plan. The importance of highlighting to the Minister’s office of the potential impact of over promotion on the viability of the program was also re-emphasised.

It was resolved that promotional activities by all program participants should be centrally collated and circulated to all participants to prevent over or simultaneous promotion of the program and to provide a record of the likely response to promotion events on the collections by participants.

Metropolitan Industry Component

The Committee reviewed the mechanism for the metropolitan industry component drafted following the last meeting. Potential reporting requirements were discussed, it was originally envisaged that reporting requirements would not exceed existing levels however the importance of recording recovery rates was highlighted. It was proposed that the timeframe for reporting be amended to allow recyclers sufficient time to collate the required information.

The Committee agreed to the mechanism with some minor amendments to the timeframe for submitting final reports and composition information required.

E-waste Collection Composition

The Committee reviewed existing information on current e-waste load composition. The difficulties in accounting for the specific e-waste covered under the program within the current invoicing structure were discussed. In particular “computer peripherals” that are currently accounted for under a general “miscellaneous/sundries” categorization.

It was resolved that computer peripherals collected under the program could be accounted for by weight as opposed to specific items.

WATEP - General

In relation to the nominal funding allocation for participants - the Committee endorsed the following principle;

Under the WATEP, potential program participants (i.e. regional councils) are allocated a nominal funding amount based on the population in their functional area. The expectation of this funding allocation is that a regional council will provide a service for the entire population it serves. Should a situation arise where this is not the case the funding allocation may at any time be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

Resolutions

7. 1 The Committee agreed:

- **that promotional activities by all program participants should be centrally collated and circulated to all participants to prevent over or simultaneous promotion or the program.**
- **to the proposed mechanism for the metropolitan industry component of the WATEP subject to with amendments to the timeframe for submitting final reports and composition information required.**
- **that “computer peripherals” covered under the program can be classified by weight as opposed to individual units**
- **to the following principle in relation to notional funding allocations;**
“The expectation of this funding allocation is that a regional council will provide a service for the entire population it serves. Should a situation arise where this is not the case the funding allocation may at any time be reviewed and adjusted accordingly”.

8. A.O.B

Germaine Healy provided a brief update on the National Scheme following a meeting with Kelly Pearce, Assistant Secretary, Waste Policy Branch, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The main updates are detailed below.

- The development of the interim industry standard is underway and it is anticipated that it will be circulated for comment in November 2010.
- The National Scheme is on schedule for its second presentation to parliament at the 1st sitting of 2011.

The issue of geographic roll out of the National Scheme was highlighted. The original roll out timeframe envisaged the National Scheme not rolling out in Perth till year 2 of the scheme with regional & remote areas of Western Australia featuring in year 3. It was highlighted that a simultaneous roll out of the National Scheme in all major cities is preferable for the WATEP as it may free up funds to assist with increased non-metropolitan collections.

Resolutions

7. 1 The Committee resolved to:

- **To highlight the E-waste Committee's preference for a simultaneous roll out of the National Scheme in all major cities across Australia.**

9. Acknowledgements & Close

The Chair acknowledged and thanked members for their contributions over the tenure of the Committee.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

Marcus Geisler

**CHAIR, E-WASTE COMMITTEE
WASTE AUTHORITY**