



## CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY E-WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Thursday 26 August 2010  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
1.30pm – 3.30pm

Meeting No. 05/2010

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Marcus Geisler	Chair
Germaine Healy	Senior Project Coordinator, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)
Mayor Ron Norris	Forum of Regional Councils
Ms Rebecca Brown	Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)
Mr Vincent Holt	Secure Computer Disposal and Recycling
Mr Kevin Wilson	SITA (Waste Management Association of Australia (WA Branch) Rep)
Ms Inez Howcroft	SIMS Recycling Solutions
Mr Greg McDougall	EDSYS Computers
Mr James Coghill	Total Green Recycling
Mr Michel Mecham	Harvey Norman *via teleconference Dropped out
Mr John Gertsakis	Product Stewardship Australia *Via teleconference Dropped out

### APOLOGIES

Mr Brent Pearce	Officeworks
Bernard Ryan	Manager, Waste Management Branch, DEC
Mr Matt Lim	CDM Computers
Mr Josh Millen	AIIA
Mr Stuart Clark	Product Stewardship Australia

### 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1.30pm and welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR.

Nil

#### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

##### **RESOLUTION:**

**4.1 The minutes of E-waste Committee meeting number 04/2010 held on 29 July 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings subject to minor amendment by Chair.**

#### 5. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

##### **Actions from meeting 01/07/10**

The Committee acknowledged the response from the Minister regarding the application of a cost to the consumer under a State Program.

#### 6. E-waste Definition

To assist in the development of an Australian Standard, the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Implementation Working Group (I.W.G.) developed a draft definition of e-waste which will be used to define the scope for the Technical Committee who will be responsible for developing the Australian Standard. The I.W.G. has requested feedback on the definition. Discussion centred on the definition of e-waste for the National Standard and the definition of e-waste for the Western Australian Transitional E-waste Program (WATEP).

It was clarified that the WATEP will cover “those items to be covered by the National Scheme” i.e. televisions and computers.

Feedback on the e-waste definition for the national standard was requested from members; to be collated and forwarded to the I.W.G. through Germaine Healy (DEC).

##### **Action point**

**6.1 Members to provide feedback on the e-waste definition for the development of the National Standard; to be collated by Germaine Healy (DEC) and forwarded to the I.W.G. on behalf of the Committee.**

#### 7. Discussion of preferred option for metropolitan component of the WATEP.

The Committee agreed on the structure of the metropolitan program as presented in the WATEP; a backbone of established collection depots across the metropolitan area complemented by potential industry run collection events. FORC reiterated its position that accurate data and uncapped funding are fundamental to the success of the program.

At this point the Chair recommended that the Committee discuss the “*Proposal for the Waste Authority E-waste Committee*” received from WALGA by email this morning. The Chair invited Rebecca Brown from WALGA to outline the recommendations of the proposal (Copy of proposal attached in Appendix 1)

Recommendation 1 Support for the WMRC's proposed comprehensive study on how WA can effectively implement the National E-waste Scheme.

The objectives of WMRC's proposed project were presented as follows:

- Detailed investigation into local government e-waste activities.
- Investigation into e-waste recyclers' activities in Perth.
- Market assessment for recovered e-waste materials.
- Research into collection programs and recycling arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions.
- Research into human behaviour in disposing of e-waste/waste.
- Consultation with national e-waste stakeholder reference group.
- Program Development ( including collection infrastructure needs)
- Program implementation and training

### Discussion

Throughout the discussion it was highlighted that the majority of the proposed objectives of the project presented a repetition of work undertaken either by the DEC or contained in Encycle's 2009 report "Assessment of e-waste options for Metropolitan Perth, Western Australia.

It was highlighted to the Committee that the regional council depots had provided updates on their current tonnages to DEC on Monday (23/08/10) to inform the revised WATEP proposal and that DEC had conducted e-waste surveys of the regional council depots in March 2010, examining, tonnages, basic infrastructure, collection composition and frequency, promotion and disposal costs.

The possibility of WMRC redefining the scope of their project for potential further information requirements closer to the implementation of the National Scheme was discussed. It was discussed that an out of session meeting may be required to examine information requirements prior to the implementation of the National Scheme. The importance of accurate data was generally accepted.

At this point, it was highlighted that the Committee has a very short time frame in which to finalise the development of the program and it was recognised that the Terms of Reference for this Committee were limited to the development on an interim arrangement that facilitates transition into collection arrangements under the National Scheme.

The Committee discussed the potential program budget and agreed that funding provided was best utilized in the recycling of e-waste as opposed to funding further research. The potential utilization of grant funding under the SWIS scheme at a later stage to fund further investigation as warranted was also discussed.

It was recommended that the Committee utilise the knowledge and expertise of its members to investigate the current market for recovered e-waste materials. The e-waste recyclers/dismantlers on the Committee were invited to provide their input on the current market for recovered e-waste materials. This will be coordinated through the Department on Environment and Conservation's Waste Management Branch and presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

Recommendation 2            State Government makes an agreement with Local Government regarding the promotion of the interim scheme.

The required promotion of the scheme was discussed at length. The Chair reiterated to the Committee that the purpose of the program was the “interim” management of e-waste prior to the implementation of the National Scheme, to essentially support existing residential e-waste collection. This being the case, the promotion of the scheme should be limited to manage both potential tonnages collected under the program and its potential funding requirements. Both FORC and WALGA expressed their concerns about the promotion of the program being out of the hands of the service providers in the program.

The Committee agreed that due to the interim nature of the program, promotion has the potential to increase volumes significantly and should be managed carefully. The level of promotion has to be agreed on by all stakeholders. LGAs are potentially the biggest stakeholder in this program.

Recommendation 3            State Government provide uncapped funding for the interim e-waste collections scheme.

The Chair highlighted that uncapped funding for the interim e-waste program was not a realistic expectation due to the restrictions of the funding available.

FORC/WALGA highlighted the need for accurate data on e-waste volumes currently being collected at regional council depots to ensure the program accurately assesses what is needed to move forward. The risk for local governments/regional councils in exceeding their nominated funding allocation if larger volumes of e-waste are recovered than expected was also highlighted..

The possibility of providing the regional councils/local governments with options for recouping their nominated funding allocation was discussed.

The redistribution of surplus funding within the WATEP across both the metropolitan and non-metropolitan programs was discussed. It was highlighted that this has already been incorporated into the WATEP.

The budget as presented for the metropolitan element of the WATEP allows for an increase of 50% on current tonnages across the anticipated 3 years of the program. The Committee recommended that the budget be staggered across the three years of the program to allow for the gradual increase of tonnages over the lifetime of the program.

The Chair referred to the inclusion of all legacy E-waste into the National scheme on a per tonne reimbursement basis as presented by National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme E-waste Team and discussed at last months’ meeting. He highlighted that the National E-waste team presentation indicated that people are to be actively encouraged to stockpile their e-waste until the commencement of the National Scheme.

WALGA) highlighted WALGA’s ability to develop a preferred supplier’s arrangement for e-waste recyclers for the program.

The following recommendations were also discussed by the Committee:

- Recommendation 4:            in the absence of uncapped funding, Local Governments and Regional Councils be invited to opt in or opt out of the interim scheme.
- Recommendation 5:            funding based on tonnages recycled
- Recommendation 6:            Industry is invited to be involved in the program

Recommendation 7: that potential funding recipients be provided with sufficient information to make an informed decision on participation in the program

**Action point**

**7.1 E-waste recyclers/dismantlers to provide input on the current market for recovered e-waste materials in Western Australia. This will be coordinated through the Department on Environment and Conservation's waste management branch and presented at the next meeting of the Committee.**

**7.2 WATEP budget cost estimates to be redrafted allowing for a staggered increase in tonnages across the three years of the program**

**8. Discussion of the regional component of the WATEP**

The Committee agreed on the structure of the non-metropolitan program design as presented in the WATEP; supporting e-waste activities in the seven major non-metropolitan centres as outlined in the draft Waste Strategy by providing funding for disposal costs inclusive of transport.

The Chair requested that information be compiled regarding the estimated transport costs from each of the seven non-metropolitan centres to inform budget estimates. Transport cost estimates will include transport of container from regional centre to processing facility and return of container to regional centre.

**Action point**

**8.1 Information to be compiled on estimated transport costs from each of the seven non-metropolitan centres to inform the WATEP non-metropolitan budget estimate. This will be coordinated through DEC waste management branch.**

**9. Development of a plan of works and timeframe for program development.**

The Committee discussed the potential timeframe for implementation of the WATEP. The WATEP program is scheduled to commence in January 2010 running for 3 years or until the commencement of collections under the National Scheme (whichever is sooner).

The potential extension of the interim E-waste funding period to incorporate the last two months of 2010 was discussed. The extension of the interim funding period would support existing e-waste activities until the scheduled commencement of the WATEP in January 2011. It was highlighted that the extension of interim funding period would require Ministerial approval.

**10. A.O.B.**

Nil

**NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE**

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting closed at 3.30pm. The next meeting of the E-waste Committee is scheduled for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

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