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Big wins in 2011

The Waste Authority has achieved some significant outcomes and key milestones in its first six months to December, some that you will be well aware of from media coverage over recent weeks.

The Authority was delighted to present our draft Waste Strategy to the Minister in mid-November. The Strategy is heading to Cabinet for consideration in the New Year, and the planning for its implementation is well progressed. We look forward to sharing the Strategy and working with our stakeholders for its successful implementation through the Business Plan in 2012.

Deputy Chairman, Marcus Geisler, has steered a collaborative government and industry venture to a stunning outcome, with Main Roads WA revising its *Specification 501 Pavements* to include recycled C&D material for use in road base. The construction industry, C&D recyclers, waste collectors, local government and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia were amongst those whose work culminated in the agreement with Main Roads WA. The details and magnitude of the potential for increasing C&D recycling were presented at the Minister’s launch on 20 December at the City East Alliance road works on Great Eastern Highway.

Earlier in the year the Waste Authority announced that it was undertaking an independent review of the regulations and policy for recycling C&D materials in the light of practices followed in other states and territories around Australia. The Authority received an overview report from the consultant less than a month ago and provided its recommendations to the Minister early this month.

While the Authority is supporting a comprehensive review of landfill regulations in Western Australia, the Authority fully supports the current regime whereby disposal of C&D waste by burial is considered landfilling.

Planning matters

The Waste Authority hosted staff from the Department of Planning on the first of several planned excursions to Mindarie Regional Council’s waste management facilities to give them a close encounter with the scale of waste operations in metropolitan WA.



L to R Chairman, Peter Fitzpatrick; Brian Norris, Project Director, Mainroads WA; Marcus Geisler Deputy Chair; Bill Marmion, Minister for Environment at the City East Alliance road works with recycled C&D materials



Mindarie Regional Council waste facility

Experience is a good teacher, and there is nothing like touring a landfill and being safely guided through a materials recovery facility and recycling plant to leave a lasting impression on the people who will be planning suitable sites for future waste facilities to support projected growth in the metropolitan, regional and key industrial areas of the State. A group of 12 planners was accompanied by Waste Authority member and senior planning expert Neil Foley on the day-long excursion, and they learned more than most people want to know about the large amount of waste every one of us produces each week.

The Waste Authority seized a recent opportunity to provide advice into State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) on design provisions and solutions for waste collection and bin areas. The Authority's submission will assist in improving the storage requirements for bins and allowing access for collections in residential, mixed use and multi unit developments. This work will have an obvious and practical influence on improving waste collection, including allowing easier access for trucks.

In a major new initiative by Government, planning for waste facilities is to be included in the State Planning Strategy to identify a network of strategically located land for waste management facilities and infrastructure to support recycling and stimulate innovation in reprocessing. The planning document extends out to 2031 and beyond to consider sites and the interdependent nature of aligned businesses and industry. With a rapidly growing population the need for such an approach to waste will deliver major dividends in terms of efficiencies and positive effects on the environment.

Project updates

The Waste Authority's WA Transitional E-Waste Program (WATEP) that helps to fund local operating extremely effectively, with ongoing uptake by additional local governments

It will continue to support local government for another 18 months or so to ensure a smooth National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme, anticipated to commence in the Authority has recommended a national e-waste recovery target by manual disassembly of 90 per cent in Western Australia to ensure the highest recovery rates possible.



WATEP was launched at Mindarie Regional Council



Waste Authority

Towards
ZERO WASTE
www.zerowastewa.com.au

Zeroing In

Edition 3

News from the Waste Authority

Our strategic partner [Waste Wise Schools](#) is enjoying increasing success with their education programs.

The Waste Authority has been happy to provide additional funding to allow an extra 21 schools to participate in waste education activities in 2012. This is one of our most successful and mature partnerships and provides critical early stage development of values and behaviour with respect to sustainable living, waste and recycling and improved environmental outcomes.

We look forward to extending our strategic partnerships to influence and assist greater efforts in waste avoidance and resource recovery in 2012.

Fruitful discussions are preparing the way for formal arrangements with the Master Builders Association and the Electrical, Utilities and Public Administration Training Council for waste education training programs in industry. The Waste Authority is delighted to extend our engagement with these very important bodies.

The Waste Authority is also turning its focus inwards to examine efficient ways to encourage and support increased recycling for State Government waste.

The Department of Finance is working in close collaboration with the Waste Authority to develop a project to fully realise the benefits of Government purchasing agreements for recycling services. All WA's Public Authorities in the Perth Metropolitan Region are required to report to the Department of Finance on tonnes of waste to landfill and tonnes of recycling. This project provides yet another example of two parties focusing on a shared objective, in this case, of increasing recycling of Government waste.

It should be noted that the work of the Authority is assisted by the staff of the Office of the Waste Authority and the various programs managed and delivered by staff in the Waste Management branch of DEC.

On behalf of all the members, have an enjoyable break over the New Year.

Peter Fitzpatrick AM, JP, Chairman



Some of Mindarie Regional Council's Household Hazardous Waste collection