



Waste Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

Waste Authority and Local Government Team up to Increase Free Collection Days for Household Hazardous Waste

Wednesday February 17, 2001

There will be a new focus on collecting hazardous waste from households across Western Australia in an effort to stop material like old paint, gas bottles and flammable liquids ending up at landfill sites.

The Waste Authority of Western Australia together with the Western Australian Local Government Association will ensure that hazardous waste is collected safely and disposed of more regularly to make it easier for people to get rid of items like old paint, batteries, gas bottles and cleaning materials.

Waste Authority Chairman Barry Carbon said water and solvent based paint is the most commonly collected hazardous waste material from homes in every state around the country.

“Other items people frequently don’t know how to safely dispose of include acids, fire extinguishers and household pesticides. Many of these things are still going to landfill which can result in serious environmental problems,” Mr Carbon said.

There are currently seven metropolitan facilities which receive household hazardous waste for free. In addition, the program funds local governments to hold special one-off collection days at convenient locations in their area (dates and locations are available at www.wastenet.net.au).

WA Local Government Association President Councillor Bill Mitchell said the aim is to increase the number of free collection days for household hazardous waste, not only in the metropolitan area but also some regional centres.

“We need to encourage the whole community to dispose of their hazardous household waste in a safe and responsible manner and to ensure there is a system so that people can do that,” Cr Mitchell said.

Mr Carbon said local people and recycling organizations in Western Australia were already doing a great job in sorting, reprocessing and disposal of waste.

“Whilst our population has increased, the community is doing a good job in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. However as our population grows and our standard of living increases, we will need to work even harder at being careful with the resources we consume.”

The household hazardous waste initiative is supported by the WA Local Government Association and funds from the waste levy paid on all waste that goes to landfill, by the Waste Authority of Western Australia.

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