



MEDIA STATEMENT

Waste & Recycle 2009 Conference

11 September, 2009

Recycling old batteries, education about preventing harmful waste from going to landfill and greener environmental initiatives, will be on the agenda at the Waste & Recycle Conference in Fremantle next week.

The conference, from **September 15-18**, will examine the economic, social and environmental impacts of the choices made by West Australians.

Waste Authority Chairman Barry Carbon said whilst there is always more to do, West Australians make a fantastic effort already.

“We have some good examples of people who are going around their local neighbourhoods with dry-cell battery recycling bins,” Mr Carbon said.

“From this month, old household batteries (dry-cell) can be dropped off at any one of more than 150 new battery recycling bins around Perth. People can hand over old batteries, including lithium (used in cameras, computers, and calculators) and carbon-zinc batteries used in most households.

“Concerns with dry-cell batteries are corrosivity, reactivity, and heavy metals, including mercury, silver, cadmium, and zinc – all of which is harmful to our environment.”

The Waste Authority has estimated more than 18 million household batteries are thrown away in Western Australia each year.

Mr Carbon said many other people were ensuring their mattresses were recycled, rather than throwing them onto the front verge to end up in landfill.

“There is also research being undertaken to ensure that those in the horticultural industry end up with less plastic waste from mulch ending up in landfill, or worse – washed into waterways.

“Much of this work is being done in the Gascoyne region by fruit and vegetable growers here in WA.”

Delegates at the Waste & Recycle forum will have the opportunity to attend site tours and interactive workshops and participate in discussions about a wide range of waste and recycling issues.

One of the keynote speakers includes Sandra Cointreau, a civil sanitary engineer with the World Bank. Sandra has had more than 35 years of experience in planning, design, research and

project development. She has global knowledge about occupational health and safety issues and assessment in waste management and site remediation.

Some of the other issues for discussion at this year's conference include; climate change, removing risks at landfill sites, hazardous waste, renewable energy and risk management.

Mr Carbon said through collaborations between State and local governments, the community and industry groups, Western Australia was working hard to deliver a system in which waste avoidance is encouraged and waste is disposed of in an environmentally responsible and ethical manner.

For more information about the Waste & Recycle Conference check the website www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

Media contact: Donna Cole 0419 901229.