



Waste Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

It's a wrap for plastic in the Gascoyne growers region

Bowman and Associates has been awarded a \$24 500 grant from the Waste Authority's Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) to investigate alternatives to the plastics currently used by growers in the Gascoyne region, and the viability of recovering and reprocessing the waste material.

Currently, low density polyethylene (LDPE) plastic film is used as a weed inhibitor and Polypropylene for trickle irrigation. The plastic is replaced each time a new crop is planted, and it is estimated up to 300 cubic metres are collected each month, with up to 100 00 tonnes ending up in the Brown Ranges landfill site each year.

Some of the waste is dumped on the banks of the Gascoyne River ending up on the ocean when the river floods.

Waste Authority Chairman, Mr Barry Carbon, said waste plastic in such large quantities can be problematic.

"Though plastic itself doesn't do much environmental harm, the main threat is to wildlife, so we're keen to support projects such as this that can provide alternative to plastic," he said



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Bowman and Associates will work with Claw Environmental to determine the feasibility of recycling the waste plastic and introducing biodegradable alternatives.

The project has the support of the Gascoyne Development Association.

SWIS projects are supported by the Western Australian Landfill Levy fund.

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