

**MUNICIPAL RECYCLING SCHEME/
RESOURCE RECOVERY REBATE
SCHEME**

Annual Administration Report

Periods 5 and 6

1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

Prepared by the
MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

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1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme and represents the culmination of a very significant body of work by MWAC in the development and application of scheme criteria and in the processing of the applications received for Periods 5 (1 July 2000 to 31 December 2000) and 6 (1 January 2001 to 30 June 2001).

2. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The following advice is provided to confirm that MWAC has met its obligations in respect of the administrative duties outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

2.1 *at the end of each financial year, prepare an annual report on the administration of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme including a summary of information on returns for the complete financial year and recommendations on changes to the administration or operation of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme*

The summary of information on returns for the annual period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 is given in **Schedule 1**.

It should be noted that MWAC has recommended that an adjustment be made to the rebate awarded in Period 6 for eight Councils to allow for consideration of the “postal acceptance rule” and delayed acceptance procedures at the DEP (Refer to Recommendation 4). The rebate for the following Councils has been adjusted as indicated in Table 1. This adjustment has been included in the Summary of Returns and is indicated by an asterisk.

Table 1 Eligible Tonnes and Rebate for Councils which were rejected in Period 5 due to late lodgement.

Council	Eligible Tonnes	Rebate (\$)
Belmont	985.68	10,507.35
Boddington	4.9	150.23
Bunbury	369.78	6,607.05
Denmark	126.762	3,183.52
Goomalling	42.227	1,294.68
Mindarie Regional Council	1,606.14	17,121.45
Murray	497.98	8,985.77
Nedlands	1,014.63	10,815.96
Total	4,648.10	\$ 58,666.02

Recommendations relating to the improvement and effectiveness of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme

Greenwaste Claims

Recommendation 1

The criteria for acceptance of greenwaste changed with the implementation of the RRRS. The MRS required evidence of **collection** of the material and assumed reuse based on the Greenwaste Processing Certificates. The RRRS Period 6 applications required evidence of

reuse of the material in the form of weighbridge receipts or vehicle movements, but not necessarily collection. It became evident that evidence for the reuse of material was unavailable or unavailable for the majority of Councils. Consequently, MWAC decided that an estimation was acceptable during Period 6, if Councils could provide an indication of the method of estimation and if the estimation is supportable in subsequent periods. Assistance both in the form of information and hardware may be necessary to ensure that all Councils are able to provide the requisite information in future periods.

In order to avoid the awarding of returns on stockpiled or non-domestic greenwaste MWAC recommend that the ACWM endorse the following policy:

The maximum amount of greenwaste eligible in any one assessment Period is related to the amount of material reused (confirmed by supporting documentation) or credited and this is based on the amount of material collected (confirmed by supporting documentation) during that same Period, i.e. the amount reused or credited must be equal to or less than the amount collected. If the amount reused is less than the amount collected in any one Period, the difference may be creditable to the next period. However, a credit is not a guaranteed payment. Reuse must be demonstrated before any claim will be assessed. Consequently, both reuse and collection supporting documentation will be required. Any material stockpiled during Periods prior to Period 6 that is processed during Periods after Period 6 is ineligible for future claim even if not previously claimed.

Consequently, evidence of **both collection and reuse** would be required to support greenwaste claims in future Periods.

Recommendation 2

Councils claiming greenwaste were required to complete certificates indicating quantity of material processed, processor and method of processing in addition to providing auditable supporting documentation in the form of weighbridge receipts or vehicle movements. Two certificates were provided to each Council to complete according to whether the material was reused by an approved greenwaste processor or by a Council. Some confusion was evident as to the definition of an approved greenwaste processor.

MWAC recommend that the ACWM endorse the following policy:

That the definition of “approved greenwaste processor” be modified to specifically state that Councils and Regional Councils are not considered to be “approved greenwaste processors” for the purposes of the scheme as greenwaste processing is not considered to be their primary activity, with the exception of the Western Metropolitan Regional Council Brockman Transfer Station facility.

Late Applications

Recommendation 3

A significant decrease in late applications was evident in Period 6. Applicants were required to provide independent verification of postal dates if stamped as received after the lodgement date. Only three applications were required to provide verification and only one of these was unable to do so. The implementation of this administrative requirement has improved the acceptance rate of applications.

MWAC recommend that the ACWM endorse the implementation of independent verification of postage of applications as a requirement of the guidelines.

Recommendation 4

Eight Councils were not awarded a rebate during Period 5 as their applications were date stamped as being received at the Department of Environmental Protection after the lodgement

date. Subsequently MWAC staff have become aware of the “postal acceptance rule” which states that an allowance of one additional working day for metropolitan mail and two additional working days for non-metropolitan mail should be considered for mail that has been posted with the expectation that it would arrive within one working day for metropolitan mail and two working days for non-metropolitan mail. For example, mail posted within the metropolitan area on the 30 January with the expectation of arriving on the 31 of January could be delayed within the postal system for an additional working day. Therefore the mail would not reach its destination until 1 February.

In addition, it has been brought to the attention of MWAC staff that applications received at the Department of Environmental Protection may not be stamped as received until the day after actually being received. Consequently, consideration of this, in combination with the postal acceptance rule as a possible worst case scenario, it is proposed that applications stamped as received until 2 February 2001 are accepted.

MWAC recommend that the ACWM endorse that Period 5 applications from the following Councils be accepted based on consideration of the postal acceptance rule and delayed acceptance procedures at the Department of Environmental Protection:

Council	Eligible Tonnes	Rebate (\$)
Belmont	985.68	10,507.35
Boddington	4.9	150.23
Bunbury	369.78	6,607.05
Denmark	126.762	3,183.52
Goomalling	42.227	1,294.68
Mindarie Regional Council	1,606.14	17,121.45
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3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Cost

Some Council were confused or unable to provide cost information. Consultation and refinement of this form would improve the reliability of the information.

Communication with Councils

Application packs are distributed to Councils through the CEO of each Council. Some CEOs are not passing the packs on to the relevant officers. Investigation into improving application distribution could potentially increase the number of Councils applying each Period.

Information distribution through MWAC seminars in rural areas was well received, particularly with the changes as a result of the introduction of the RRRS. The standard of applications was greatly improved from previous Periods.

Greenwaste Processing Certificates

Due to confusion about the definition of approved greenwaste processor, a list of approved greenwaste processors will be provided with future application forms.

As Councils did not necessarily supply supporting documentation if certificates were submitted with applications, it may also be necessary to review the function of the certificates.

Information dissemination

The instigation of the RRRS and associated database has ensured that a significant amount of information including system efficiency, cost and material recovery is now available for the first time. In order that this information is readily available and easily accessible, a report should be produced and provided to all Councils. In addition, the information should be available on the WasteNet internet site to enable public examination of Council resource recovery activities. This will also facilitate comparison between Councils and enable Councils interested in starting resource recovery activities to gather information about the performance of systems operated by Councils with similar demographics.

4. CONCLUSION

Information provided in this report has also been included in the administrative report following the completion of MWAC's assessment for Period 6. The Period 6 administrative report provides detailed information about the applications for Period 6.

The changeover from the Municipal Recycling Scheme to the RRRS during this Period has been uneventful due to high levels of communication and effort by WAMA through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council staff. Consequently, a significant amount of unique data on the state of recycling in Western Australia is now available including information enabling comparison between Councils on tonnes of material generated, system yields and system costs.

Schedule 1

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF RETURNS

PERIOD 5 AND 6

