



## Waste Authority

# CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING

held on Wednesday 1 April 2009  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
12.15 pm – 4.45pm

Meeting No. 04/2009

## 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Barry Carbon Chairman  
Ms Jan Grimoldby Deputy Chair. Arrived at the meeting at 12.55pm (and participated via phone link-up between 12.15pm – 12.40pm). No decision items were discussed by the Authority prior to the arrival of the deputy chair at the meeting.  
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen

### ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins	A/Deputy Director General – Environment, DEC (Delegate for Director General, DEC)	Absent from meeting between 1.00pm – 2.50pm.
Mr Bernard Ryan	A/Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Mr Michael Reid	A/Manager, Policy and Evaluation, DEC	
Ms Jill Lethlean	Manager, Programs, DEC	For Item 7.2.
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Account, DEC	For Item 7.1.
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer	Minutes/Actions
Ms Rebecca Brown	Manager, Waste & Recycling, WALGA	For Item 7.2.
Ms Kellie Field	MWAC Project Coordinator	For Item 7.2.

### APOLOGIES

Mr Marcus Geisler overseas on business  
Prof Paul Hardisty overseas on business

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 12.15pm and welcomed members and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) officers to the meeting. The Chairman noted that Professor Paul Hardisty and Mr Marcus Geisler had tendered their apologies for the meeting (both were overseas on business).

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared by members during the meeting.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Specific announcements were highlighted as part of agenda item topics discussed during the meeting.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### 4.1 Minutes of the 18 February 2009 meeting

In relation to the minutes of the 18 February 2009 meeting of the Waste Authority, the Authority agreed to clarify the 'confirmed minutes' due to differences in interpretation of that intended by resolution 2.1 which referred to the adoption of a schedule of rates for the landfill levy for Category 63 landfills. The Authority agreed to include as a footnote to the minutes, a clarifying statement confirming the intent of resolution 2.1.

Resolution 2.1 of the 18 February 2009 meeting currently reads as:

*'The Authority adopted the following schedule of rates for the landfill levy to provide to the Minister: Category 63 landfills – on or after 1 July 2009 and before 1 July 2010, \$7; and on or after 1 July 2010, \$9 (per cubic metre).*

To alleviate concerns expressed to the Chairman by some parties that they were unsure of what was meant by 'on or after,' the Authority agreed to add an explanatory note outlining that the 'or' could be read as 'and' in resolution 2.1: *'The Authority adopted the following schedule of rates for the landfill levy to provide to the Minister: Category 63 landfills – on AND after 1 July 2009 and before 1 July 2010, \$7; and on AND after 1 July 2010, \$9 (per cubic metre).'* The Authority acknowledged that this could be more meaningful to some readers.

The Authority re-iterated its support to increase the landfill levy for Category 63 landfills, starting on 1 July 2009 for the remainder of that financial year, and then imposing a new rate to replace it at a new level for the following financial year.

The Authority had released a flow chart of the advice they had been given of steps necessary for regulations to be gazetted. A copy of the flow chart is provided at Attachment 1 to these minutes. This matter was discussed at item 5 – Items arising from previous meetings (Resolution 3.1 – Actions from the 4 March 2009 meeting).

#### 4.2 Minutes of the 11 February 2009 meeting

In relation to the minutes of the 11 February 2009 meeting of the Waste Authority, and in particular, agenda item 6 – Out of Session Items, the Chairman advised that all relevant organisations had now been advised in writing of confirmed WARRA funding. The Chairman advised that details of funding provided to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production (Curtin University) and the Green Stamp Program was not to be included in the minutes of this meeting until all relevant organisations were notified of confirmed funding. Resolutions 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the 11 February meeting were confirmed by members and approved for release within the minutes of the 11 February meeting.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

- 4.1 The minutes of the Waste Authority meeting held on 4 March 2009 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**
- 4.2 The Authority agreed to add an explanatory note outlining that the 'or' could be read as 'and' in resolution 2.1 of the 18 February 2009 meeting: *'The Authority adopted the following schedule of rates for the landfill levy to provide to the Minister – Category 63***

*landfills – on AND after 1 July 2009 and before 1 July 2010, \$7; and on AND after 1 July 2010, \$9 (per cubic metre).’* The Authority acknowledged that this could be more meaningful to some readers.

- 4.3 The Authority re-iterated its support to increase the landfill levy for Category 63 landfills, starting on 1 July 2009 for the remainder of that financial year, and then imposing a new rate to replace it at a new level for the following financial year.
- 4.4 Resolutions 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the 11 February 2009 meeting were confirmed by members during the meeting and approved for release within the minutes of the 11 February meeting.

**Moved:** Ms Jakobsen  
**Seconded:** Ms Grimoldby  
**CARRIED**

## 5. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members reviewed the actions from previous meetings. The status of actions listed were acknowledged and noted. The following items required clarification or an update on status during the meeting:

### **Actions from 6 August 2008 meeting:**

- 5.2 **Letter from Minister to Authority re commencement of WARR Act 2007.** This item refers to discussion at agenda item 8.3 – Additional budget for Waste Authority 2008/09 work plan and in particular, the Authority’s request to DEC in November 2008 to provide an itemised budget for staffing costs and projected expenditure for the first half of 2009/10 for the Minister’s consideration, which remains outstanding. DEC advised during the discussion at 8.3 that this information is currently being finalised and should be provided to the Chairman within the next week.

In relation to resolution 5.2 from the 6 August 2008 meeting where the Authority requested DEC to provide itemised advice on what monies it seeks from the WARR Account for the 2008/09 period (consistent with its priorities), the Chairman expressed his frustration at now entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the financial year without receiving this information from DEC and outlined the serious implications this now exposes the Authority to.

The Chairman also sought urgent feedback on a request made to DEC by the Authority in November, for the Chairman to meet with OAG auditors to discuss the operation of the WARR Account prior to the OAG’s annual auditing process of DEC.

DEC advised that a high level introduction meeting with OAG auditors occurred two weeks ago to commence discussions on the annual audit process. DEC (Robert Atkins) committed to follow up the request as soon as possible. The Chairman sought urgent assurances from DEC that this would occur quickly or he would take up the matter directly with OAG auditors.

### **Actions from 4 March 2009 meeting:**

- 3.1 **Announcements by the Chairman – Documentation to enable Category 63 levy changes.** This item refers to discussion at agenda item 4 – minutes of the previous meeting. The Chairman informed members of recent correspondence he had received questioning the Authority’s committal to a Category 63 landfill amendment (a copy of which was provided to members as part of agenda item 9.2 – Correspondence). In responding to the correspondence, the Chairman advised that he had provided a copy of a flow chart outlining the steps to amending WARR Levy Regulations (or any regulations). The Chairman sought

feedback from DEC on the appropriateness of the Authority in publishing the information on its website, to inform interested parties of the process. DEC (Robert Atkins) advised that he would confirm the status of distributing this documentation and advise the Chairman accordingly. *(This advise was subsequently received following the meeting – a copy of the flow chart has been included as Attachment 1 of the minutes).*

**3.3 Announcements by the Chairman - Confidentiality of Waste Authority submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs *Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in WA*.** The Chairman advised that he had received advice from DEC informing that it was appropriate to circulate a confidential copy of its submission in-house. The Chairman informed members that he has provided a confidential copy of the Waste Authority's submission to DEC (Robert Atkins) and the Minister's Office.

**3.7 Waste Authority proposal to Director General DEC regarding staff resources.** The Chairman advised members that he has received a response from the Director General DEC in relation to staff resources on 26 March. The Chairman advised that he would circulate a copy of the response at the end of the meeting for a closed discussion between members and DEC senior officers Robert Atkins and Stuart Cowie.

**7.2.3 Draft Skeleton Business Plan 2009/10.** The Chairman advised that he is still to meet with the Minister to discuss any particular requirements that she may want included within the 2009/10 business plan. On a separate matter, the Chairman informed that from his recent discussion with the Minister, a trial for e-waste is being considered to possibly run parallel in timing with the release of the draft State Waste Strategy. The Chairman advised that he has recently written to the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) seeking their feedback on the feasibility of running a trial EPR scheme for e-waste in WA, should the Minister be favourable to one.

**7.2.4 Draft Skeleton Business Plan 2009/10 – Draft State Waste Strategy.** The Chairman advised that he had recently met with the Minister and the Minister's staff regarding the draft State Waste Strategy (agenda item 8.1 – draft State Waste Strategy refers to this discussion). He informed that two parallel activities were occurring simultaneously; preparing for the release of the draft Strategy; and the process of calling tenders for a consultant to undertake the consultation phase. He advised that the process is heading towards one whereby there may well be an approved draft Strategy for release prior to the finalisation of the tender process to award a consultant. It was noted that this would not hinder the consultative process timeframes in the initial phase.

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

**5.1 The Authority sought urgent feedback on a request made to DEC for the Chairman to meet with OAG auditors to discuss the operation of the WARR Account prior to the annual audit process occurring. The Chairman sought urgent assurances from DEC (Robert Atkins) that this would occur quickly.**

**6. OUT OF SESSION ITEMS**

Nil.

## **7. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **7.1 Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme & Community Grants Scheme – Assessment Process**

DEC advised that Round 1/2009 of the Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) and Community Grants (CGS) programs has been advertised, with SWIS closing on 22 May and CGS on 29 May.

DEC informed the Authority of potential ways to streamline the process of assessment for the current rounds of SWIS and CGS. DEC advised that sub-committee recommendations could be forwarded to the Authority out-of-session for approval, rather than waiting for the next scheduled Waste Authority meeting. DEC advised that this could save two weeks from the usual assessment process, enabling earlier announcements (around mid June 2009).

The Authority discussed the streamlining of the SWIS and CGS assessment process, and agreed that sub-committee recommendations should be forwarded out-of-session for consideration of a final resolution.

DEC sought nominations from the Waste Authority to participate on the SWIS and CGS grants assessment sub-committee. Ms Grimoldby and Ms Jakobsen volunteered to lead the sub-committee. The Chairman accepted the two nominations and thanked members for their nominations.

The Chairman referred to a potential SWIS applicant who has approached the Minister's Office. DEC advised that contact has been made with this person, who has subsequently indicated that he will be applying within the normal SWIS funding round.

The Authority discussed authorisations for expenditure from the WARR Account and noted that DEC had been asked to gather advice to allow the Authority to better understand how the decisions of the Minister with regards to a work plan or business plan impacted on the decision making processes for the Authority. The Chairman noted that provision of this information was becoming more urgent as time passed.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 7.1.1 Accepted the nomination of Ms Grimoldby and Ms Jakobsen as members of the SWIS and CGS grants assessment sub-committee for Round 1, 2009.**
- 7.1.2 Agreed that the recommendations of the SWIS and CGS grants assessments sub-committee be considered for final resolution through an out-of-session meeting.**

### **7.2 Household Hazardous Waste Presentation – Options Paper**

Mr Robert Atkins (DEC) left the meeting at 1.05pm at the commencement of this discussion.

DEC referred to the February meeting of the Authority, where it has resolved not to allocate additional funds to the Household Hazardous Waste Program specifically for infrastructure. At that time, the Authority requested further information regarding costs associated with the program. DEC highlighted the options paper provided as an attachment to the briefing, which had been prepared by WALGA.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling, WALGA and Ms Kellie Field, MWAC Project Coordinator to the meeting. Ms Brown presented the options paper for the Household Hazardous Waste Program to the Authority. Her presentation outlined the context of household hazardous waste in WA, provided an explanation of the costs associated for the current

program and provided alternatives to lower the cost of the program. Ms Brown's presentation is briefly summarised as follows:

- While the household hazardous waste program focuses on waste management as a motivator, many other areas are affected through the program, such as community engagement, public health and sewerage systems. There is scope to expand the current arrangement to include participation from other key stakeholders.
- Only 2 responses were received from WA-based companies to WALGA's call for the collection and disposal tender, despite national advertising. WALGA outlined associated costs of the program which included running the collection day, disposal of material from collection days and drop off sites, advertising, training and software. An estimation of the breakdown of costs in each specific area was provided by WALGA during the meeting. In total, the cost of running the program is estimated at \$1,456,000 per annum.
- Options provided by WALGA for the program included: maintaining current funding (up to \$1 million per annum); excluding materials from the program; looking at cheaper disposal options for some materials; reducing the scope of the program; requesting contribution/take back from Industry; and extended producer responsibility for key material types. Advantages and disadvantages were provided with each option provided.

The Authority provided the following comment on the household hazardous waste program options paper:

- The program has been funded previously by the former Board and now the Waste Authority. Collectively, it is a program that all parties feel good about. There is however, a big difference in what the original proposal set out to deliver in comparison to what is being delivered. The development of the draft State Waste Strategy and the Waste Authority's business plan will see all projects viewed in a competitive situation in the coming year.
- Members agreed that the proposal highlights some real benefits to other external organisations such as the Waster Corporation. The importance of engaging these organisations in the program was strongly supported by the Authority, particularly the Water Corporation's involvement.
- The Authority discussed its involvement and support of the infrastructure and disposal costs of the program and agreed that this was crucial. It was suggested that capacity for infrastructure may also be delivered through the strategic waste management plan process.
- The Authority discussed the need for its support on a promotional level and the need for the program to be operating outside of the metropolitan area at this point. The Authority acknowledged the need for the inclusion of large regional centres but agreed it would be more pertinent if and when alternative waste technologies were in place.
- It was noted that possible partnerships with Industry in relation to support of the program required investigation.

The Chairman thanked Ms Brown and Ms Field for their presentation and advised that the Authority would determine its position on WALGA's additional funding request for the program as soon as possible.

The Authority discussed the proposal further following the return of Mr Robert Atkins to the meeting at 2.50pm.

The Authority agreed that it would fund up to 50% of the additional costs in support of the household hazardous waste program if Local Government met the other 50% of the costs required. It was agreed that the funding would support infrastructure upgrades or new infrastructure in six metropolitan based locations and six non-metropolitan locations. The Authority agreed that it would write to WALGA outlining the proposal of a 50% contribution from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

The Authority agreed that WALGA would be best placed to determine the six metropolitan based facilities requiring infrastructure upgrades or new infrastructure. The Authority also agreed that it would write to WALGA advising of the Authority's intention to approach six non-metropolitan local governments regarding the proposal to upgrade or provide new infrastructure in support of the program.

The Authority agreed that it was best placed to discuss potential partnership opportunities with the Water Corporation in regards to the program, and the Authority supported the Chairman speaking with them in this regard.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 7.2.1 Agreed to fund up to 50% of the additional costs required in support of the household hazardous waste program on the proviso that Local Government meets the other 50% of costs required.**
- 7.2.2 Agreed that the funding allocation would support infrastructure upgrades or new infrastructure in six metropolitan based locations and six non-metropolitan locations.**
- 7.2.3 Agreed that WALGA would be best placed to determine the six metropolitan locations requiring infrastructure upgrades or new infrastructure.**
- 7.2.4 Agreed that it would write to WALGA outlining its proposal of a 50% contribution and inform WALGA of its intention to approach six non-metropolitan local governments regarding the proposal to upgrade or provide new infrastructure in support of the program.**
- 7.2.5 Agreed that the Chairman would meet with the Water Corporation in regards to its potential support of the program.**

### **7.3 Draft Concept – Conservation Council ‘WA Transformed Series’**

The Authority discussed a partnership proposal received from the Conservation Council of Western Australia as part of its ‘*WA Transformed Series*’ summits planned in 2009/10. The proposal was provided at Attachment 1 to the briefing paper.

The *WA Transformed Series* will involve seven high-profile public summits in 2009/10 that will engage the wider community and stakeholders in a dynamic discussion on the future of Western Australia, brought about through the global economic crisis and the climate crisis converging to create a unique set of opportunities for thinking about the future. The partnership proposal for the Waste Authority's consideration is for the ‘*Materials and Resource Futures Summit*.’

The proposal detailed that each of the summits would result in the development of a creative transformation blueprint for Western Australia – outlining a plan to re-design WA's urban, energy, agriculture, transport and industrial systems over the next 30 years. Each blueprint will showcase examples of transformative change occurring in businesses, communities and government agencies in WA.

The Waste Authority discussed sponsorship of the 'WA Transformed - Materials and Resource Futures Summit.' The Authority agreed that the public summit provides an excellent opportunity for engagement with stakeholders and the wider community. The Authority provided its support in sponsoring the 'Materials and Resource Futures Summit' theme area, through a contribution of \$20,000 from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARRA), subject to receiving further specific details about the summit.

The Authority agreed that the Chairman would meet with the Conservation Council to discuss the proposal further and meet with the Minister regarding the Waste Authority's sponsorship of the event.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 7.3.1 Agreed to sponsor the Conservation Council's 'Materials and Resource Futures Summit' as part of its WA Transformed Series through a contribution from the WARRA of \$20,000, subject to receiving further specific details on the summit (to be approved by the Chairman).**
- 7.3.2 Noted and supported the Chairman meeting with the Conservation Council to discuss the proposal further.**
- 7.3.3 Noted that the Chairman would meet with the Minister regarding the Waste Authority's sponsorship of the event.**

#### **7.4 Development of EPR Statement/Priority Product Statement**

DEC provided a briefing note outlining approaches to implementing policy instruments such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, through consideration of the process outlined in the WARR Act. A copy of a briefing provided to the December 2008 meeting and an updated paper exploring regulatory gatekeeping matters was provided as attachments 1 and 2 to the briefing.

The Chairman advised that at the time he last met with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) in December 2008, staffing of the regulatory gatekeeping unit within DTF was being determined. He advised that it may now be appropriate to meet with the unit regarding implications of the WARR Act.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 7.4.1 Noted the paper exploring implications for identifying a proposed EPR scheme as outlined in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007.**
- 7.4.2 Agreed that the Chairman would contact the Department of Treasury and Finance to determine the appropriateness of meeting with the Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit to discuss the WARR Act in relation to EPR.**

#### **7.5 Proposal to meet with the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC)**

The Chairman advised that he has received a request from the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC) to meet with the Waste Authority. He advised that the CEO's of FORC would like to meet with the Authority to discuss views and information on matters of mutual interest relating to waste management and the draft State Waste Strategy.

The Chairman informed members that the discussion would also include the downturn of the global economy and the affect this is having on markets for recyclables and a request for the Authority to consider its role in promoting recycling in regional councils and the industries that underpin them.

DEC provided a brief overview of the former Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS) developed to reward the collection of recyclables and material or resources recovered from landfill by providing a rebate for the cost of collecting and processing materials. The Chairman queried whether reports on the former scheme were still available on the Authority's Towards Zero Waste Website and asked DEC to confirm this.

The Authority welcomed the approach from FORC and agreed to meet with FORC's Chairmen and CEOs at a date suitable to all parties, possibly the next Authority meeting on 6 May or at the 3 June meeting. He advised that FORC would be making a presentation at the meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

**7.5.1 Agreed to meet with the Chairmen and CEO's of the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC) and member CEO's at the next Authority meeting on 6 May, to discuss views and information on matters of mutual interest relating to waste management.**

##### **ACTION:**

**7.5.2 DEC to confirm if reports on the former RRRS are available on the Towards Zero Waste Website and advise the Chairman accordingly.**

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Draft State Waste Strategy – Phase II - Status**

DEC informed the Authority of the progress of the Waste Strategy Development Phase II. DEC advised that the advertisement announcing the State Waste Strategy tender was published in the newspaper on 1 April. The work of DEC officer Leanne Reid was highly commended in providing the level of detail required within the scope of works documentation, within a tight timeframe, to satisfy the tendering requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

The Chairman advised that he had received some general feedback from the Minister and some more specific advice from the Minister's Office on the draft State Waste Strategy. He informed that both he and the deputy chair found these suggestions to represent a helpful improvement and they had made minor amendments to the draft of the Strategy, reflecting the comments made. The Authority recognised and accepted that this improved draft would be the draft that should be considered for decision making by the Minister. The Chairman informed that he hoped the document would be released soon and committed to providing a copy of the draft (as re-presented to the Minister) to members.

The Authority discussed the release of the Strategy. The Chairman advised that the Minister may choose to release the document via a media release launch, but this was still to be determined. A draft media release has been provided to the Minister for her consideration. The Authority briefly discussed the gazettal of the Strategy in accordance with the WARR Act and agreed that the timeframe for consultation would take between 12 – 14 weeks, depending on the appointment of a consultant. Members noted that a minimum of 12 weeks consultation from the date of gazettal was required. The Authority supported Ms Grimoldby representing the Authority on the assessment panel. The Authority determined that up to 5 copies of the Strategy should be provided to each local government once released.

The Authority discussed the imminent release of the National Waste Strategy and discussed opportunities to jointly consult on both strategies in tandem. Members noted the commitment previously provided by the Authority to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) to provide input into the process at a National level and provide a copy of the draft State Waste Strategy to DEWHA to inform on State policy directions. Members agreed that a coordinated approach had merit and consideration to this should be given where this is feasible and appropriate and where it does not delay progress on the consultation schedule of the draft State Waste Strategy.

The Authority noted that two workshops were being conducted for the National Strategy in Perth. This included one metropolitan workshop and one workshop in Kalgoorlie (scheduled in April). The Authority agreed that where practical, it would be desirable to have up to two Waste Authority members and two DEC representatives attend both National and State level workshops. The Authority acknowledged that this may not be achievable for all workshops, as it would be subject to member availability and logistics.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 8.1.1 Noted the progress of Phase II of the State Waste Strategy Development process and the release of the tender advertisement seeking consultancy services.**
- 8.1.2 Recognised and accepted that the improved draft of the State Waste Strategy prepared by the Chairman and Deputy Chair (reflecting comments provided by the Minister and her Office) would be the draft that should be considered for decision making by the Minister.**
- 8.1.3 Noted that the timeframe for consultation on the State Waste Strategy would take between 12 – 14 weeks, depending on the appointment of a consultant.**
- 8.1.4 Supported Ms Grimoldby's appointment on the assessment panel (representing the Authority) for the State Waste Strategy consultancy.**
- 8.1.5 Agreed that where feasible and appropriate, a coordinated approach in consulting on both the Draft National Waste Strategy and Draft State Waste Strategy be undertaken in tandem where this does not delay the progress of consultation on the State Strategy.**
- 8.1.6 Agreed that where practical, it would be desirable to have up to two Waste Authority members and two DEC representatives attend both National and State level workshops. The Authority acknowledged that this may not be achievable for all workshops, as it would be subject to member availability and logistics.**

##### **ACTIONS:**

- 8.1.7 DEC to provide a copy of the revised Draft State Waste Strategy to members (as amended by the Chairman and Deputy Chair in accordance with Minister's comments).**
- 8.1.8 DEC to provide 5 copies of the Draft State Waste Strategy to each local government following its release.**

## **8.2 Update on Regional Funding Program**

DEC provided an update on the implementation of the Regional Funding Program and Regional Investment Plans. DEC informed that the Pilbara Regional Council Regional Investment Plan (with a requested budget of \$92,000) has been approved by the Regional Investment Plan Assessment Group.

DEC advised that no further Regional Investment Plans had been received to date. DEC referred to Attachment 1 of the briefing, which highlighted anticipated submission dates of Regional Investment Plans (the bulk of which would likely be received in April and May 2009).

In discussing the attachment, the Authority requested that a running total of the amounts approved for each individual Council/Group be provided alongside the approved column. The Authority noted that it would need to decide on predictions for expenditure for the current financial year for Regional Investment Plans. The Authority requested feedback from DEC on the date the Department of Treasury and Finance is likely to close off the processing of payments for the 2008/09 financial year.

DEC informed that expenditure of \$1 million has been allocated within the current financial year for Regional Investment Plans. DEC advised that it would provide a revised estimation of likely expenditure for the current financial year for Regional Investment Plans, determine carryovers and confirm if a closing date for submitting plans is stipulated.

**RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

**The Authority:**

- 8.2.1 Noted that the Pilbara Regional Council's Regional Investment Plan (with a requested budget of \$92,000) has been approved by the Regional Investment Plan Assessment Group.**
- 8.2.2 Requested modifications be made by DEC to the expenditure table on Regional Investment Plans for the 2008/09 financial year (as provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing) in line with the discussion at the meeting.**
- 8.2.3 Requested DEC to provide revised estimations of likely expenditure for the current financial year on Regional Investment Plans; identify likely carryovers; and confirm the closing date for submitting plans.**

**8.3 Additional Budget for Waste Authority 2008/09 Work Plan**

The Chairman advised members that the Minister has approved the revised and itemised budgets for three program areas within the Waste Authority's 2008/09 Work Plan.

The Chairman advised that an itemised budget for staffing costs and projected expenditure for the first half of 2009/10 would be forwarded to the Minister as soon as it is provided by DEC. The Chairman reminded members and DEC officers that this request for information has now been outstanding for seven months and he expressed his deep concerns as to why it should take so long to provide. DEC advised that this should be provided to the Chairman within the next week.

**RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

**The Authority:**

- 8.3.1 Noted the Minister's approval of the revised and itemised budgets for three program areas within the Waste Authority's 2008/09 Work Plan.**
- 8.3.2 Noted the Chairman's concerns over taking more than three months so far for DEC to provide the Minister with an itemised budget for staffing costs and projected expenditure for the first half of 2009/10.**
- 8.3.3 Noted that DEC would promise to provide an itemised budget for staffing costs and projected expenditure for the first half of 2009/10 within the next week.**

#### **8.4 Feedback from discussion with a local WA recycling company**

The Chairman advised members of the meeting between himself, Robert Atkins (DEC) and a WA recycling company impacted by the downturn in global commodity markets. The viability of its business was also impacted by changes to the bio-diesel scheme, an inability to obtain enough product and an increase in the price of gas.

DEC (Robert Atkins) agreed to contact the company to see where they were at since the meeting, and report back to members at the next Authority meeting.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

- 8.4.1 The Authority noted the Chairman's feedback on his recent meeting with a WA recycling company.**
- 8.4.2 Noted that DEC (Robert Atkins) would contact the company to see where they were at since the meeting, and report back to members at the next Authority meeting.**

### **9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

#### **9.1 Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme & Community Grants Scheme – Final Reports and Project Terminations**

The Authority noted the listing of completed and terminated projects from the following organisations, as provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing:

##### **Final Reports Received for Completed Projects:**

- **Infoxchange Australia – Green PC WA (CGS 2007, \$10,000 plus GST).** The project developed relations with business and government to dispose of e-waste responsibly and to re-use computer hardware that could be refurbished within the Green PC computer refurbishment program. The project was designed to establish collection and distribution points for individuals and business to deliver their equipment for appropriate dismantling and recycling.
- **Lions Club of Leeuwin – Augusta Recycling Equipment Upgrade (CGS 2008, \$20,000 plus GST).** The funding helped purchase a new hydraulic baling machine, expected to help restore a significant level of economic viability by improving process control and expanding volumes. The bailer was purchased in September 2008 and has been in operation for six months. The Leeuwin Lions Club believes the bailer has been a worthwhile acquisition, with significant improvements on previous best production.

##### **Project Terminations:**

- **Dry Cleaning Institute of Australia WA (Inc) – Cleaner Production training within the dry cleaning industry in WA (WMRF 2000, \$28,000 plus GST).** The project was to develop two training courses for operators – an alternative clothes cleaning course (to adopt wet cleaning practices) and safe handling of perchloroethylene (for safe handling, storage and disposal). It also included the replacement of steel drums used for transport, with safer plastic compound drums.

The project was terminated in March 2009 due to no final project evaluation report or independent audit report being provided. The final payment to the Institute was provided in August 2006.

- **Evans & Tate Winery – Winery Waste Water Improvement and Re-use Program (WMRF 2000, \$40,000 plus GST).** The grant was provided to upgrade an existing wastewater storage and irrigation station to improve the use of winery effluent in irrigation; include more storage capacity; a settling tank; an aeration system; and pH dosing metre – to improve the end waste product to a sufficient quality and quantity to successfully irrigate the vineyard during summer months.

The project was terminated in March 2009 due to the Evans & Tate Margaret River operations being taken over by McWilliams Wines and the remainder of the business being under administration. All persons involved in the project are no longer with the company. No final project evaluation report was provided.

- **Waste Audit and Consultancy Services (Aust) Pty Ltd – Waste Auditor Training Program (WMRF 2001, \$20,000 plus GST).** The grant was provided to deliver a nationally accredited Waste Auditor Training Program to the former Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Council officers. A final report on the program was received in July 2002. The project was terminated in March 2009 due to the passage of time and the non delivery of an independent audit report.
- **Joondalup Health Campus (Ramsay Health Care) – Joondalup Health Campus Worm Farm (CGS 2006, \$2,500 plus GST).** The project established a worm farm at the health campus, to reduce greenwaste from catering. The by-products were re-used in surrounding garden beds to enhance the aesthetics of the site and reduce the use of chemical fertiliser. The project included input from the Volunteer Program and the Mental Health Unit through patient activity. A final report on the project was received in January 2008. The project was terminated without receiving a finance report.

The Authority, in noting the project terminations, discussed the need to review SWIS/CGS contract documentation to ensure that compliance with cashflow, milestone payments etc is appropriately addressed. The need to be more specific about expectations of requirements when providing final reports was also discussed. The assessment sub-committee was requested to consider what improvements should be introduced in the forthcoming assessment round.

DEC informed that when new rounds of SWIS and CGS grants are advertised, past history is taken into account if organisations had previously applied for funding.

The Authority agreed that a draft expression of interest seeking consultancy services to provide media information on SWIS/CGS grants as a specific project, be prepared by DEC for the Authority's consideration.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Authority:**

- 9.1.1 Noted the final evaluation project reports received from the following organisations:**
- Infoxchange Australia – Green PC WA (CGS 2007); and
  - Lions Club of Leeuwin – Augusta Recycling Equipment Upgrade (CGS 2008).
- 9.1.2 Noted the following project terminations:**
- Dry Cleaning Institute of Australia WA – Cleaner Production Training within the dry cleaning industry in WA (WMRF 2000);
  - Evans & Tate Winery – Winery Waste Water Improvement and Re-use Program (WMRF 2000);

- **Waste Audit and Consultancy Services – Waste Auditor Training Program (WMRF 2001); and**
- **Joondalup Health Campus (Ramsay Health Care) – Joondalup Health Campus Worm Farm (CGS 2006).**

**9.1.3 Agreed that the SWIS/CGS grants assessment committee would consider improvements to funding contracts, milestones and reporting.**

**9.1.4 Agreed that DEC prepare a draft expression of interest seeking consultancy services to provide media information on SWIS/CGS grants as a specific project, for the Authority's consideration.**

## **9.2 Correspondence – Waste Authority/Ministerial**

The Authority noted the list of incoming and outgoing correspondence outlined in the briefing and discussed some items of correspondence.

In relation to correspondence from Eclipse Resources, the Chairman advised members that he recently met with the company to discuss the status of deliberations from the Authority's 22 October 2008 and 18 February 2009 meetings. He advised that the Waste Authority's Executive Officer sat in on the meeting to witness the discussion and take notes.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **10.1 Proposed National Waste Policy – Environment Protection Heritage Council (EPHC)**

DEC presented a late briefing which provided an update on the proposed National Waste Plan. Mr Stuart Cowie informed the Authority of the imminent release of the proposed National Waste Policy Consultation Paper for public review and comment. He committed to inform the Authority of information released by the EPHC in this regard as soon as it becomes available.

The Chairman thanked DEC for the briefing and commented that being aware of the EPHC waste policy agenda is a big step forward.

### **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

**10.1.1 Noted that the development of a National Waste Policy is ongoing and that it will involve local consultation by the Australian Government and result in the publication of a consultation paper.**

**10.1.2 Noted that DEC (Stuart Cowie) would provide updates to the Authority as necessary on the progress towards a National Waste Policy.**

## **11. CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

**12. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on 6 May 2009 at DEC's Atrium Office commencing at 12.00 noon.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT



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Barry Carbon, Chairman  
**WASTE AUTHORITY**  
6 May 2009