



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING

held on Wednesday 1 December 2010
Department of Environment and Conservation
9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Meeting No. 16/2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Jan Grimoldby Acting Chairperson
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen
Mr Marcus Geisler

APOLOGIES

Prof Paul Hardisty (overseas)

ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins	Deputy Director General – Environment, DEC (Delegate for Director General, DEC)	Attended full meeting.
Ms Catherine Rayner	General Manager, Office of the Waste Authority	Attended full meeting.
Ms Linda Thoresen	Manager, Policy, Office of the Waste Authority	Attended full meeting.
Mr Ian Hill	Manager, Communications & Media Relations Office of the Waste Authority	For item 9.6. Attended full meeting.
Ms Wendy Muir	Manager, Strategic Partnerships Office of the Waste Authority	For item 7.1. Attended full meeting.
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer, Office of the Waste Authority	Minutes/Actions
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Waste Management Branch, DEC	For items 7.2, 7.5 & 9.1. Attended full meeting.
Dr Jill Lethlean	Manager, Programs, DEC	For items 7.3, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5. Attended full meeting.
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, WARR Account	For item 8.1. Attended full meeting.

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The A/Chair declared the meeting open at 9.05am and welcomed members and staff to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The A/Chair, Ms Jan Grimoldby advised members of a potential perceived conflict of interest in relation to agenda item 7.1 – Update on Strategic Partnerships in relation to Compost WA.

Ms Grimoldby informed members that she has an association with Compost WA through her role as Executive Officer for Parks and Leisure Australia (WA). This organisation is referred to within Compost WA's strategic partnership report.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE A/CHAIR

The A/Chair advised members that she attended the Global Product Stewardship Summit in Sydney during 9 – 11 November. Bernard Ryan and Wendy Muir also attended the Summit. The A/Chair informed members that it provided an opportunity to hear first hand what was occurring across Europe and the UK in relation to product stewardship and participate in discussions pertinent to Australia.

The A/Chair informed members that the meeting scheduled with the Minister for Environment on 17 November was cancelled. Members noted that the A/Chair has attempted to set up a meeting with the Acting Minister for Environment to discuss urgent matters. Mr Atkins has provided follow up briefings for the Acting Minister in relation to urgent matters.

Ms Grimoldby attended the KABC's Sustainable Communities Awards and a National Product Stewardship Waste Strategy meeting.

The A/Chair, Marcus Geisler and Linda Thoresen met with representatives on behalf of a Japanese company, Four Seasons Co Ltd, interested in e-waste opportunities in Western Australia. The company was seeking assistance from the Authority to set up contracts with e-waste providers and suppliers. The A/Chair encouraged the company to make direct contact with relevant local e-waste processors.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION:

- 4.1 The minutes of the Waste Authority meeting number 15/2010 held on 3 November 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.
- 4.2 In relation to the minutes, the Authority agreed that items referring to the Authority noting an item, be referred to in the text only of the agenda item reported and not included as a resolution of discussion.

Moved: Ms Jakobsen
Seconded: Mr Geisler
CARRIED

5. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Authority reviewed the actions from previous meetings. The status of actions listed was acknowledged and noted by members. Specific item updates were:

Actions from Meeting 14/2010 held on 6 October 2010:

7.3.3 & Strategic Partnerships – Consideration of moving towards a contributory program

7.3.4 In relation to consideration of moving towards a contributory program for all strategic partnerships, staff sought the timeframe of this to be moved to March 2011 (from February 2011) as this work will lead on from the presentation of the governance evaluation of strategic partnerships at the February meeting.

RESOLUTION:

5.1 The Authority agreed to move the timeframe of the above action item to the March 2011 meeting.

6. OUT OF SESSION ITEMS

Nil.

7. DISCUSSION / DECISION ITEMS

7.1 Quarterly Update on Strategic Partnerships

The Authority received an update on the activity of all current strategic partnerships (6) with the Waste Authority. These included the Conservation Council of Western Australia, the Western Australian Local Government Association, Green Stamp, Compost Western Australia, the Keep Australia Beautiful Council and Waste Wise Schools.

Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA)

The Authority noted that the current three year partnership arrangement with CCWA will finalise on 31 December 2010. A six month agreement with CCWA to utilise unspent funds from this partnership is currently being negotiated for the period 1 January to 30 June 2011. The Authority noted the 2009/2010 Annual Report and financial statements submitted by CCWA.

The partnership provides an opportunity for the Waste Authority to harness the broader community and conservation groups views on waste management in Western Australia.

Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)

WALGA received approval in December 2009 for a three year partnership subject to annual funding approval by the Minister for Environment. The Authority noted WALGA's quarterly activity report for July to September 2010 and its 2009/10 financial statement.

Work undertaken by WALGA as part of this partnership arrangement has included consultation on and the release of the draft discussion paper on 'Waste Management as an Essential Service;' the development of a draft Waste Management Infrastructure background paper and discussion paper on Local Government Waste Management Funding.

Green Stamp

Green Stamp received approval in December 2009 for a three year partnership, subject to annual funding approval by the Minister for Environment. The Authority noted activity reports received from the Building Services Contractors Association of Australia (BSCAA) and the Printing Industries Association of Australia for July to November 2010.

The Authority noted that the Green Stamp Printing Industries Program has been included as part of a TAFE print course which is Green Stamp accredited. Bankwest and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) has made the Sustainable Print Program a criteria of their print contract tenders.

The Authority noted the Green Stamp Motor Trade Association WA (MTAWA) progress report for July – November 2010. During this period, Green Stamp MTAWA won the Business Environmental Award for the category of Water Management, recognised by the City of Belmont. Green Stamp has also been included in the Mechanics Apprenticeship Course. Members were pleased to note that the RAC is working towards having all of its workshops Green Stamp accredited. The Green Stamp waste management data collection report was noted by members.

The Authority requested staff to explore promotional opportunities with the Bankwest, CBA and TAFE in relation to their support of Green Stamp initiatives.

The Authority discussed possibilities for the State Government vehicle fleet to utilise Green Stamp accredited service facilities. The Authority requested staff to contact DEC's Fleet Manager to discuss opportunities for DEC's vehicle fleet using Green Stamp accredited service facilities in the first instance.

Compost WA

Ms Grimoldby had previously advised members of a potential perceived conflict of interest at agenda item 2 – Declarations of Interest.

Compost WA received approval in December 2009 for a three year partnership, subject to annual funding approval by the Minister for Environment. The Authority noted activity reports received from Compost WA for the July – November 2010 period. The Authority noted an invitation for the Waste Authority to nominate a representative to join the market and industry development steering committee. The Authority nominated Ms Wendy Muir, Office of the Waste Authority to participate on the committee as its representative and agreed that Mr Ian Hill would provide deputy representation as required.

The Authority noted that Compost WA's first full-time Market and Industry Development Officer (MIDO) commenced in late June 2010. Seven key performance indicators have been established for Compost WA through its partnership arrangement with the Authority. These will be achieved through the development and implementation of a range of strategies and activities by the MIDO and Compost WA. The development of a Strategic Industry Development Framework is currently underway.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC)

The Authority noted the KABC's 2009/2010 Annual Report, the Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia and an activity report for July to November 2010. Members noted that a Memorandum of Understanding for the KABC strategic partnership is planned to be established in the near future.

Over the past year the KABC has seen successes with many of its initiatives including the Litter Reporter Scheme growing to include over 4,500 litter reports and processing over 5,000 litter reports; an increase of 50% in the number of towns entering Tidy Towns; the launch of the Clean Schools Program – a whole school approach to litter management including curriculum materials; and engaging Local Councils and businesses in the Bin Your Butt program to deal with cigarette butt litter outside workplaces.

In relation to the KABC's Annual Report and in particular, Financial Statements, the Authority queried where the contribution of the Waste Authority's strategic partnership funding could be found. The Authority agreed that recognition of funding provided through the strategic partnership arrangement needs to be clearly visible within future reports.

Waste Wise Schools

The Authority noted an activity report for the Waste Wise Schools Program for July to November 2010. Two Office of the Waste Authority staff members recently observed the running of a Waste Wise Schools workshop. Staff commented on the level of professionalism and intensity of the workshop, which was benefited enormously by Waste Wise coordinators having a teaching background. Staff informed that Waste Wise plans are developed during the workshop and USB drives are provided to teachers with all relevant documentation and templates for their use.

Members noted that a Memorandum of Understanding for the Waste Wise Schools strategic partnership is planned to be established in the near future.

The Authority discussed possibilities for a future mainstream expansion of the Waste Wise Schools Program.

In relation to all strategic partnerships, staff advised that standardised reporting templates will be developed for consistency in reporting format. The Authority acknowledged the contribution of its strategic partners and requested that letters be drafted for the A/Chair's consideration, thanking them for their contribution and highlighting key achievements.

The Authority agreed to consider inviting strategic partners to a meeting of the Authority in early 2011 and agreed to explore possibilities of strategic partners meeting with the incoming Minister for Environment.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.1.1 Requested staff to explore promotional opportunities with Bankwest, the Commonwealth Bank and TAFE in regards to their support of Green Stamp initiatives.**
- 7.1.2 Requested staff to contact DEC's Fleet Manager to discuss opportunities for DEC's vehicle fleet using Green Stamp accredited service facilities.**
- 7.1.3 Nominated Ms Wendy Muir to participate on Compost WA's Market and Industry Development Steering Committee as its representative and agreed that Mr Ian Hill would provide deputy representation as required.**
- 7.1.4 Requested that recognition of funding provided to the KABC through the strategic partnership arrangement be clearly identified within future Annual Reports (Financial Statements) of the KABC.**
- 7.1.5 Requested staff to draft letters for the A/Chair's consideration, acknowledging the contribution and key achievements of strategic partners.**
- 7.1.6 Agreed to consider inviting strategic partners to a meeting of the Authority in early 2011 and agreed to explore opportunities of strategic partners meeting with the incoming Minister for Environment.**

7.2 Waste-to-Energy Questionnaire

As requested, the Waste Authority received a draft paper providing general information on Waste-to-Energy.

The Authority deferred further consideration of the document. Staff will work towards the Authority hosting a discussion on the topic at the 2011 Waste and Recycle Conference.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.2.1 Agreed that staff work towards the Authority hosting a discussion on Waste-to-Energy at the 2011 Waste and Recycle Conference.**

7.3 Draft Waste Authority Submission on WA Planning Commission Central and Outer Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies

The Authority received a presentation at its October 2010 meeting from the Department of Planning regarding the WA Planning Commission's 2031 and Beyond Report and the Central and Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies. At that time, the Authority requested that a draft submission on the sub-strategies be prepared for its consideration.

The Authority considered a draft submission on the WA Planning Commission's Central and Outer Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies. The Authority noted that the sub-regional strategies have implications for waste and recycling infrastructure planning, as well as service delivery by the waste and recycling industry.

The Authority considered the draft submission and provided comments on both the Central and Outer Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies. The A/Chair thanked staff for providing a detailed draft submission for the Authority's consideration.

Amendments to be made to the draft submission were agreed upon and the Authority delegated responsibility for finalising the details of the submission and sign-off to the Acting Chair.

The Authority discussed implications for the waste and recycling industry in relation to the release of the Central and Outer Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies and considered a number of activities that may assist in alleviating the potential impact of the strategies on the waste and recycling industry.

The Authority highlighted the need to progress with the establishment of the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Planning Committee and agreed to convey this to the Minister for Environment. Opportunities of synergies between the portfolios of planning and environment were discussed.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.3.1 Agreed to finalise its draft submission on the Central and Outer Metropolitan Sub-regional Strategies in line with the discussion at the meeting.**
- 7.3.2 Delegated responsibility for finalising the details of the submission and sign-off to the Acting Chair.**
- 7.3.3 Agreed that Mr Atkins would follow-up on the status of the Authority's letter to the Minister for Environment regarding the establishment of the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Planning Committee.**

7.4 Evaluation of the UWA Social Optimum of the Landfill Levy

The Authority agreed in October 2008 to examine the total costs and benefits of various possible landfill levy rates and trajectories for the Western Australian content. It was agreed at that time that the results would be used to help determine an optimal landfill levy rate for Western Australia which would provide a price signal to substantially decrease the volume of waste to landfill, and substantially increase the percentage of waste recycled in WA. The Authority commissioned the report through the University of Western Australia's Cooperative Education for Enterprise Development (CEED) Program.

The Authority received a draft paper exploring the Social Optimum for the Landfill Levy in Western Australia. The paper explores the economics of waste management, estimates the total externality cost of landfills and applies the externality values to the landfill levy.

The Authority briefly discussed the draft report and agreed to brief the Minister for Environment on the work undertaken in this regard.

The Authority agreed to invite the author of the report, Mr Paul Schollum to the February 2011 meeting of the Authority to present and discuss the report. It was agreed that members would fully review the report prior to the February meeting and provide any comments or questions to the A/Chair.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.4.1 Received a draft paper entitled ‘*Evaluation of the Social Optimum for the Landfill Levy in WA*’ prepared by Mr Paul Schollum of the Economics Faculty of the UWA and agreed to further consider the paper at its 2 February 2011 meeting.**
- 7.4.2 Agreed to invite Mr Paul Schollum to the February meeting to present the paper.**
- 7.4.3 Agreed to provide any comments or questions on the report to the A/Chair prior to the February meeting.**
- 7.4.4 Agreed to brief the Minister for Environment on the draft report.**

7.5 Submission of the Product Stewardship Legislation Consultation Paper

The Australian Government released the Product Stewardship Legislation Consultation Paper in November 2010 subsequent to it being flagged as a priority activity in the implementation plan for the ‘National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources.’

Staff informed that submissions on the consultation paper close on 10 December 2010. A Perth consultation meeting was held on 22 November where Waste Authority, Office of the Waste Authority and DEC staff attended the meeting.

The Authority considered a number of key points and agreed on the inclusion of these in the Authority’s submission. In summary these included the Authority’s strong support for the work of the Australian Government in expediting the legislative framework; support for the legislative approach and its stated objectives; general support for the product criteria; acknowledgement of possible significant cost implications on jurisdictions to implement schemes; and general support for targets identified for co-regulatory and regulatory schemes.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.5.1 Agreed on key aspects to be covered in the Authority’s submission on the Product Stewardship Consultation Paper of November 2010.**
- 7.5.2 Delegated responsibility for finalising the details of the submission to the Acting Chair.**

8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

8.1 Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme & Community Grants Scheme – Final Reports / Terminations

The Authority received final reports for completed projects as detailed below:

- **Shire of Kulin – Storage Facility Transfer Station, SWIS 2010, \$6,000 plus GST.**

The project provided for the assembly of a storage facility for hazardous wastes from Kulin households, in the main, chemicals and household paints. This has enabled the transportation of waste to Perth for efficient end environmental destruction.

- **Claremont Football Club – Maintenance Volunteer Group – Tuesday Volunteers Group, CGS 2009, \$10,440 plus GST.**

The Claremont Football Club Tuesday volunteer group work every Tuesday throughout the year to clean and tidy the environment and surrounds of the community based oval of the Claremont Football Club. Funding was requested to purchase a wheelie bin lifter, as all bin lifting of waste and refuse into the disposal bins and aluminium/steel can cages is done on a manual basis, by mature age volunteers.

8.2 Correspondence – Waste Authority/Ministerial

The Authority discussed the list of incoming and outgoing correspondence provided.

In relation to the invitation to attend the Municipal Waste Advisory Council Christmas Dinner on 15 December, Ms Grimoldby and Mr Geisler confirmed their attendance. Ms Jakobsen tendered her apology.

RESOLUTION:

8.2.1 Staff to confirm attendance of Waste Authority members Ms Grimoldby and Mr Geisler at the MWAC Christmas Dinner on 15 December and provide apology for Ms Jakobsen.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Monthly Report – Actual WMB staff numbers – November 2010

The Authority noted that the actual staff numbers within the Waste Management Branch as at 25 November 2010 is 17 staff (including 2 part-time staff), of an approved number of 24 staff for the Branch. Recruitment processes for two vacant positions have been completed and two applicants have accepted positions as project coordinators in the programs area.

The recruitment process for a further two positions, including a manager, policy and project coordinator for the WARR levy/account will commence in December and remain open until the end of January 2011.

9.2 Current Listing of Registered Lobbyists

The Authority noted the information provided on current lobbyists registered on the State Government's Lobbyist Register.

9.3 National Waste Policy Implementation Working Groups Terms of Reference

The Authority noted the status update on the implementation of the National Waste Policy and the Terms of Reference of the various National Waste Policy implementation working groups.

Seven inter-jurisdictional working groups have been formed to oversee the implementation of the National Waste Policy. Specific working groups include: Product Stewardship; Landfill Management; Commercial and Industrial, Construction and Demolition and Government; Reducing Risk and Hazard; Regional and Remote Australia; Markets and Standards; and Data.

The Authority noted that all working groups have been formed and draft terms of reference established. The majority of working groups have conducted their first meeting and over the next few months, will be developing work plans for implementation over the next 3-5 years. The Authority was provided with the draft terms of reference for each of the working groups.

In relation to National standards and specifications for recycled construction and demolition material and organics, the Authority queried the relevant stakeholder response. Members also sought details of the NSW updated specification for supply of recycled material for pavements, earthworks and drainage (of April 2010) for possible relevance to Main Roads WA.

The Authority requested a copy of the SA policy on Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) in relation to Strategy 8 - Landfill safety and risk management.

The Authority noted that Western Australian initiatives were absent in most of the National Waste Policy strategies and discussed the need to include these initiatives (such as the Household Hazardous Waste Program) within the future reports.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

9.3.1 Agreed that Western Australian initiatives in relation to National Waste Policy strategies be incorporated into future reports.

9.4 Recycled Organics and Water Use Efficiency Information Paper

At its November meeting, the Authority requested that the link between recycled organics and water savings be referenced in a report. The Authority received a draft information paper which highlighted the key mechanisms where the use of recycled organics supports water use efficiency.

RESOLUTION:

9.4.1 The Authority agreed to release the draft information paper entitled '*Recycled Organics and Water Use Efficiency*' on the Towards Zero Waste Website, along with case studies highlighted by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

9.5 Household Hazardous Waste Program – Year 3 – 2nd Quarter Report

The Authority noted the Municipal Waste Advisory Council's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program – Year 3, 2nd Quarter Report for the period August to October 2010.

Two temporary collection days were held during this quarter – by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council and the City of Gosnells. A total of 408 vehicles attended the days, disposing of more than 16 tonnes of HHW, at a disposal cost of \$145,863 plus GST.

More than 57 tonnes of CFL's, paint and general HHW was collected from permanent facilities during this quarter, at a total disposal cost of \$394,310 plus GST.

A total of 73,397 kg of household hazardous waste was collected through the temporary collection days and permanent storage facility collections in this quarter. Paint (water and solvent based) was the greatest material collected by weight, and had the greatest cost of disposal.

The Authority noted that staff are currently working with WALGA on a draft agreement for the next Household Hazardous Waste Program, which is subject to funding approvals. The draft will be forwarded out-of-session to members for their consideration and comment.

RESOLUTION:

9.5.1 The Authority agreed that an out-of-session item be prepared on the draft Household Hazardous Waste Agreement with WALGA for the next period as soon as possible.

9.6 Towards Zero Waste Website Statistics – November 2010

The Authority noted the website statistics for November 2010 circulated during the meeting. Staff informed that website statistics were not captured during 18 – 27 November due to host problems.

Viewed website traffic for November 2010 included 4,982 unique visits, 7,428 visits, 18,301 pages and 96,400 hits. The top pages visited during the reporting period included landfills, organics, household hazardous waste, demolition directory and worm farms.

RESOLUTION:

9.6.1 The Authority requested that monthly website statistics close off by the 25th, to allow for the circulation of the information within meeting papers.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme – Green Painters Grant

The Authority discussed a SWIS grant provided to Green Painters and its understanding that the company was linked with the Master Painters Australia (WA) Association. The Authority has since been advised that Green Painters is not linked with the Master Painters Australia (WA) Association. The Authority acknowledged the work of Master Painters Australia (WA) Association on the implementation of the EnviroPainters Program which promotes life cycle assessment including waste management, sustainability, and the use of low volatile organic compound (VOC) products.

The Authority also acknowledged the contribution by Master Painters Australia (WA) Association in relation to its involvement on the Paint Product Stewardship Informal Working Group.

RESOLUTION:

10.1.1 The Authority agreed to write to Master Painters Australia (WA) Association acknowledging its work on the implementation of the EnviroPainters Program and contribution on the Paint Product Stewardship Informal Working Group.

10.2 Thank you Message from Acting Chair

The A/Chair, Ms Grimoldby thanked her fellow members and staff from DEC, the Waste Management Branch and Office of the Waste Authority for their work and support during her term as Acting Chair, Waste Authority. Ms Grimoldby wished all members and staff a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

11. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on Wednesday 2 February 2011, commencing at 11.00 am in the 4th Floor Boardroom, Department of Environment and Conservation, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Malcolm". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jim Malcolm
CHAIRMAN, WASTE AUTHORITY

2 February 2011