



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING

held on Wednesday 3 November 2010
Department of Environment and Conservation
11.00 am – 3.35 pm

Meeting No. 15/2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Jan Grimoldby Acting Chairperson
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen
Mr Marcus Geisler
Prof Paul Hardisty

APOLOGIES

Nil.

ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins	Deputy Director General – Environment, DEC (Delegate for Director General, DEC)	Attended between 11.40am to close.
Ms Catherine Rayner	General Manager, Office of the Waste Authority	
Ms Linda Thoresen	Manager, Policy, Office of the Waste Authority	
Mr Ian Hill	Manager, Communications & Media Relations Office of the Waste Authority	For item 9.3
Ms Wendy Muir	Manager, Strategic Partnerships Office of the Waste Authority	For item 7.7
Ms Debra Bala	Executive Officer, Office of the Waste Authority	Minutes/Actions
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Waste Management Branch, DEC	For items 7.5, 7.6, 8.1, 9.1, 9.2. Attended between 11.40am to close.
Dr Jill Lethlean	Manager, Programs, DEC	For items 7.2, 7.4, 7.8. Attended between 11.40am to close.

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The A/Chair declared the meeting open at 11.05am and welcomed members and staff to the meeting.

The meeting was advised Mr Robert Atkins, Mr Bernard Ryan and Dr Jill Lethlean had been delayed and are expected to attend within the next half hour.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE A/CHAIR

The A/Chair advised members of her attendance at a Public Sector Commission Forum for Board Chairpersons on 7 October. The forum covered a range of issues relevant to boards including strategic planning and implementation.

The A/Chair, Catherine Rayner and Wendy Muir attended a meeting on 12 October with Mr Piers Verstegen, Director of the Conservation Council of Western Australia, to discuss the strategic partnership arrangement.

A meeting with the Minister for Environment was held on 13 October, attended by the A/Chair, Robert Atkins and Catherine Rayner. The Minister was provided with a revised spreadsheet for the Work Plan including carryovers and a request was made to the Minister to consider the urgent approval of certain items. The Minister is currently examining the information.

The A/Chair attended the company launch of Eclipse Soils on 21 October and a forum on using composts to ameliorate water cooler usage on production land. The A/Chair asked if there is available research to identify whether in fact compost reduces water consumption. The A/Chair was advised there is high quality research available and will be provided this information.

A meeting with Ecobuy (Victoria), Ms Geraldine Plas was held on 22 October, an NGO which assists industry and government (especially local government) to develop environmentally sustainable purchasing processes.

The International Product Stewardship Summit 2010 is being held in Sydney from 9-10 November 2010. The A/Chair advised of her attendance. Mr Bernard Ryan and Ms Wendy Muir will also be attending.

The next meeting with the Minister for Environment will be held on 17 November.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION:

4.1 The minutes of the Waste Authority meeting number 14/2010 held on 6 October 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings, subject to minor typographical corrections.

Moved: Mr Geisler
Seconded: Ms Jakobsen
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:

7.1.3 / Presentations – Directions 2031 and Beyond – WA Planning Commission

7.1.4 The Waste Authority draft submission is being prepared and an extension to submit the document has been granted.

Actions from Meeting 12/2010 held on 8 September 2010:

11.5 Update on Landfills in Aboriginal Communities Working Group

A meeting with the Department of Housing (DoH), Linda Thoresen and Jill Lethlean took place on 28 October. Members were advised the meeting was constructive. The DoH is liaising with communities and local government on the issues of contaminated material in remote communities and were confident the issues were being managed appropriately. DoH is also in waste management discussions with these communities on extending their existing landfill sites.

With regard to unlicensed and unregistered sites the DoH has been provided with contacts within DEC Licensing and Permitting Branch.

Actions from Meeting 09/2010 held on 7 July 2010:

7.4 Towards Zero Waste Website

Work is advancing on site requirements for the website's new host. The new domain name has been registered.

7.6 Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit

A meeting with Department of Treasury and Finance is yet to be arranged. The A/Chair asked that this be progressed.

Actions from Meeting 08/2010 held on 2 June 2010:

10.4 Update on Strategic Partnerships

It was noted that the OWA is working towards presentation of the review outcomes of Strategic Partnerships at the February 2011 meeting.

Consultancy - University of Western Australia (UWA) – Evaluation of social optimum for landfill levy and trajectories in WA

Professor Hardisty reported the project has been completed and a draft report prepared. Professor Hardisty undertook to provide members with a copy of the draft prior to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 5.1 Requested staff to arrange a meeting with the Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit within the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- 5.2 Noted that the presentation of the review of Strategic Partnerships will be ready for the February 2011 meeting.
- 5.3 Noted that Professor Hardisty would provide members with a copy of the draft UWA report prior to the next meeting.

6. OUT OF SESSION ITEMS

Nil.

Mr Robert Atkins, Mr Bernard Ryan and Dr Jill Lethlean joined the meeting at 11.40am.

7. DISCUSSION / DECISION ITEMS

7.1 Business Plan Implementation

A copy of the breakdown of funding commitments for the Waste Authority Business Plan 2010-2015 was circulated at the meeting and members asked to categorise their priority areas.

Members provided their input and after some discussion agreed on a priority listing. The priority listing will assist implementation of the Waste Strategy and provide clear direction for future activities of the Waste Authority.

RESOLUTION:

7.1.1 The Authority agreed on a priority listing of tasks to assist implementation of the Waste Strategy and provide clear direction on future activities of the Waste Authority.

7.2 Update on National Waste Policy

The next meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) meeting is to be held on Thursday 4 November. An initial progress report on the implementation of the National Waste Policy will be presented at the meeting.

Members noted that seven inter-jurisdictional working groups have been formed under the auspices of the EPHC to oversee the implementation of the National Waste Policy and that DEC officers have been nominated to participate in each of the working groups.

7.3 E-Waste Committee and Western Australian Transitional E-Waste Program (WATEP)

The A/Chair complimented Mr Geisler and staff for their work in completing its key tasks within the projected six month period.

The Authority approved the E-Waste Committee Final Report (October 2010) subject to minor typographical corrections and an amendment to page 6 first dot point, last sentence, as follows:

“...The role of the Waste Authority in this context is to provide financial support for up to 50% of the e-waste disposal cost/tonne, up to a nominated amount. The lowest current market price for e-waste disposal will be determined by the Waste Authority at the beginning of each year period.”

The report provides a comprehensive account of the establishment, tenure and work carried out by the E-Waste Committee and summarises the major issues explored by the Committee, details the development of the Committee's main body of work (the Western Australian Transitional E-Waste Program) and provides the associated budget.

The A/Chair requested that the Minister for Environment be provided with the Authority's agreed recommendations (Waste Authority meeting on 6 October - 7.3.3 and 7.3.4 below) by Friday 5 December.

The Authority agreed to write to the Minister for Environment, requesting that the Minister formally discharge the E-Waste Committee, in accordance with Section 18 (12) (d) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

The Authority noted the current status of the interim E-Waste Funding allocations for each of the participating regional councils/local governments (as of 27 October 2010).

Members thanked staff for their comprehensive report.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.3.1 Approved the E-Waste Committee Final Report (October 2010) and recommendations subject to amendments as noted.**
- 7.3.2 Agreed to recommend to the Minister for Environment the implementation of the WATEP as the interim approach to providing support to e-waste collections in Western Australia, prior to the roll out of the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme.**
- 7.3.3 Agreed to seek the Minister for Environment's agreement to extend the close off date (to 31 December 2010) for e-waste collections able to be funded from the agreed funding allocation for this purpose, and subject to the Minister's approval, and advise all potential applicants of this change.**
- 7.3.4 Noted the current status of the Interim E-Waste Funding allocations for each of the participating regional council/local governments.**
- 7.3.5 Agreed to request that the Minister for Environment formally discharge the E-Waste Committee in accordance with Section 18 (12) (d) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, as amended.**
- 7.3.6 Thanked staff for a comprehensive Final Report.**

7.4 Waste-to-Energy Technical Overview

At its October 2010 meeting the Authority received a discussion paper on Waste-to-Energy that provided an overview of drivers and barriers to its deployment, along with some historic information on Waste-to-Energy in Western Australia. The Authority requested a detailed discussion document on Waste-to-Energy to provide technical information to support development of a potential policy position on Waste-to-Energy.

The A/Chair thanked staff for a very comprehensive report which has provided the Waste Authority with an overview on the range of waste-to-energy technologies.

The report does not represent the Waste Authority's position but has been prepared as a background document for continuing discussion.

The Authority acknowledged that the EPA has responsibility for recommending approvals of emission profiles.

It was noted that there may be an opportunity at the next Waste and Recycle Conference to include waste-to-energy as part of the program theme and it was agreed that contact be made with the management committee organising the next conference to request that a themed workshop be included as part of the conference program.

Members discussed placing a questionnaire on the website to request feedback from industry and the community to assist the Authority to identify the issues that need to be addressed.

It was agreed that a series of questions for the questionnaire be developed for the Authority's consideration at the December 2010 meeting. Once the questionnaire is approved the discussion paper and questionnaire will be placed on the Authority website.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.4.1 Agreed to contact the management committee organising the next Waste & Recycle Conference to request that a themed workshop be included as part of the conference program.**
- 7.4.2 Agreed that a draft questionnaire be developed for the December meeting.**
- 7.4.3 Agreed to place the Discussion Paper on the website once the draft questionnaire is approved by the Authority with clear information regarding the nature of the paper and possibly background from the earlier information paper.**

7.5 Future Direction of the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme

Members were advised that the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme for Local Government is in its final collection period, ending on 31 December 2010. This funding was conditional upon WALGA/MWAC developing a preferred supplier contract for used oil collection. Wren Oil was selected as the preferred supplier and collection agent under the scheme that commenced in January 2009. Since the commencement of the preferred supplier arrangement Wren Oil has collected 1,430,260 litres of used oil.

This Scheme was initially put in place to ensure that used oil was not being disposed of inappropriately and damaging the environment.

It was noted that WALGA's preferred supplier contract has successfully contributed to bringing down used oil collection costs, particularly for metropolitan, south-west and wheatbelt local governments, and improving the stability of the collection service.

The Authority discussed the Scheme for local government. It was noted that used oil is a priority waste identified in the draft Waste Strategy. Members agreed that a transition from a subsidy Scheme to a market based approach would provide a better long term sustainable solution. To ensure sufficient time is given to effect this transition, the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme for Local Government should be extended to 30 June 2011.

The Authority agreed to request that the Minister for Environment extend the Rebate Scheme to allow a more orderly transition to a market based approach.

The A/Chair requested a media release be prepared to announce the successful outcome of the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme to date.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority agreed:

- 7.5.1 That to allow for an orderly transition from a Subsidy Scheme to a market based approach for supporting the allocation of used oil through the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme for Local Government, an extension to 30 June 2011 be sought through the Minister.**

- 7.5.2 To advise the WA Local Government Association as soon as is practicable if an extension is approved.**
- 7.5.3 To prepare a media release on the successful outcome of the Used Oil Collection Rebate Scheme to date.**

7.6 Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation (JSC) – WARR Levy Regulations Amendments

Previously the Waste Authority had requested the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the WARR Levy Regulations.

Work is under way to develop proposed amendments to the regulations. It is envisaged that the proposed amendments will specify in more detail the nature and extent of the exemptions the CEO may grant and the conditions which may be placed by the CEO.

It was noted that the granting of exemptions from the requirement to pay the landfill levy in certain circumstances has been a part of the landfill levy regime since it commenced in 1998 and that the ability of the CEO to grant some of these exemptions is now constrained because of the JSC concerns about the extent of the CEOs powers to grant exemptions.

Authority members were provided with details of the issues under consideration. Considerable discussion took place regarding examples of exemptions previously intended to be provided.

To assist the Authority to provide advice to the Minister for Environment, staff were requested to provide additional information for consideration at the December meeting.

RESOLUTION:

- 7.6.1 The Authority agreed to consider additional information at the December meeting to assist the Authority in providing its advice on this matter to the Minister for Environment.**

7.7 Update on the Strategic Partnership with Conservation Council of Western Australia

Members noted that arrangements are progressing for an amended partnership arrangement from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

7.8 Product Stewardship for Paint Informal Working Group Update

The first meeting of the Product Stewardship for Paint Information Working Group was held on 19 October and Senior Project Coordinator Mr John Davis has been elected Chair. The draft Terms of Reference were considered at the meeting and a number of changes incorporated to better reflect the process for progression of the WA plan, based on the experience of the Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation when developing a trial product stewardship plan for Victoria.

The Authority endorsed the amended Terms of Reference and agreed to provide the Minister for Environment with a briefing on the establishment of an Informal Working Group and its Terms of Reference.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.8.1 Endorsed the amended Terms of Reference.**

7.8.2 Agreed to provide the Minister for Environment with a briefing on the establishment of an informal Working Group and the amended Terms of Reference.

7.9 Proposed Meeting Schedule 2011 – Waste Authority

Consistent with current arrangements it was agreed that Waste Authority meetings continue to occur on the first Wednesday of the month (except January).

Members agreed to schedule Business Planning days for Wednesday 23 March and Wednesday 18 May 2011.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

7.9.1 Agreed to the proposed meeting dates for 2011.

7.9.2 Agreed to hold Business Planning Meetings on Wednesday 23 March and Wednesday 18 May 2011.

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:

• **Gumala Aboriginal Corp – Gumala Reduce Re-use Recycle, CGS 2009, \$17,900 plus GST**

The project aimed to provide the Communities of Wakathuni, Bellary, Youngaleena and Wirrilimarra with assistance to reduce recyclable rubbish through the use of recycling bins and caged trailers. Members of the Communities could then deliver the bins to the recycling depot in Tom Price.

All houses in each Community received a brochure outlining the Recyclable items. Gumala Aboriginal Corporation provided a skip bin which was facilitated by Gumala Contracting, the bins were emptied weekly, but they do not provide provision for Recyclable items. Each of the Communities received a recycling trailer. The trailers consisted of 4 recycling wheelie bins, which were colour coded, and a caged trailer for transportation. Through Gumala radio broadcast to each of those Communities and throughout the Pilbara region, recycling issues could be discussed, further educating residents on the importance of using the Recycling bins.

• **Bridgeley Community Centre – Bridgeley Northam Community Gardens, CGS 2010, \$1,500 plus GST**

The project aimed to develop a community garden for everyone. The group is committed to environmentally sustainable gardening practices and facilitating environmental educational opportunities. Their plan is to use recycled resources wherever possible and have a zero waste approach to activities.

The funding was partial, supporting the purchase of a mulcher, chipper and accessories.

Since purchasing the mulcher in July 2010, 100 litres of mulch has been produced. Gardeners are making compost, and worm castings from the worm farm are an excellent fertilizer for the lettuce. Recycled materials have been used to create the garden (railway sleepers, pavers, were promoted at the Northam Show in September 2010 and in local newspapers.

It is hoped in the near future that a little more infrastructure development, workshops and skills training for the community will be held at the site.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

8.1.1 The Authority noted the final evaluation project reports received for completed projects from the following organisations:

- Gumala Aboriginal Corp – Gumala Reduce Re-use Recycle (CGS 2009); and
- Bridgeley Community Centre – Bridgeley Northam Community Gardens (CGS 2010).

8.2 Correspondence – Waste Authority/Ministerial

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

The A/Chair tabled correspondence from the Pilbara Sub-Branch of the WMAA WA Branch requesting funding collection of waste data with the aim of understanding the nature and quantity of the waste what is present in the region. Previously the Authority had agreed to consider a request for funding should a request be forthcoming.

A detailed proposal was not provided with the correspondence. The Authority agreed to write to the sub-branch requesting a formal proposal for the project which would then be considered for funding.

RESOLUTION:

8.2.1 The Authority agreed to request a formal proposal for the project which would be considered for funding.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Monthly Report – Actual WMB staff numbers

The Authority noted that the actual staff numbers within the Waste Management Branch as at 31 October 2010 is 17 staff (including 2 part-time staff), of an approved number of 24 staff for the Branch. Members noted that recruitment is under way for four positions and two positions will be advertised for recruitment within the next month.

9.2 Current Listing of Consultancies

The Authority noted the report on the current listing of consultancies for projects undertaken on behalf of the Waste Authority.

9.3 Towards Zero Waste Website Statistics – October 2010

Members were advised that statistics for October are not available for circulation at the meeting due to technical problems experienced by the host provider over several weeks during the month.

Members noted that the October report will be circulated to as soon as the statistics are available.

RESOLUTION:

9.3.1 The Authority noted that the October report will be circulated to members as soon as the statistics are available.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 1 December 2010 Meeting

Members agreed to move the meeting time forward to a 9:00 am start.

11. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 3:35pm.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on Wednesday 1 December 2010, commencing at 9.00 am in the 4th Floor Boardroom, Department of Environment and Conservation, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT



Jan Grimoldby (Ms)
A/CHAIR, WASTE AUTHORITY

1 December 2010