



Waste Authority

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING

held on Wednesday 6 May 2009
Department of Environment and Conservation
12.00 pm – 5.25pm

Meeting No. 05/2009

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Barry Carbon	Chairman
Ms Jan Grimoldby	Deputy Chair
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen	Attended between 12.00pm to 4.25pm
Mr Marcus Geisler	
Prof Paul Hardisty	

ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins	A/Deputy Director General – Environment, DEC (Delegate for Director General, DEC)	
Mr Bernard Ryan	A/Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Mr Michael Reid	A/Manager, Policy and Evaluation, DEC	
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Account, DEC	
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer	Minutes/Actions
Ms Shirley Routley	Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA)	For item 7.3
Mr John Stockbridge	Treasurer, AIIA	For item 7.3
Mr Adam Johnson	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	For item 7.3
Mr Charles Crouch	Principal Economist, Office of Climate Change	For item 7.5

APOLOGIES

nil

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 12.10pm and welcomed members and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) officers to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Barry Carbon – The Chairman advised that he had recently met with a registered lobbyist, Mr Peter Clough who had supported Mr Fred Wren (Wren Oil), along with other parties to discuss the status

of used oil recovery and recycling in Western Australia. The Chairman requested the appropriate form be provided to him for documenting contact with lobbyists.

ACTION:

2.1 DEC to provide appropriate form to the Chairman for documenting contact with registered lobbyists.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman briefly discussed the current state of play between Wren and Nationwide regarding used oil recovery and recycling in Western Australia and the proposed lube to lube plant in Bunbury. He advised that Wren is attempting to secure land for the management of waste oil, but it was not yet at the stage of lube to lube. The downturn of the economy has led to the lube to lube plant being put on hold temporarily. The Chairman requested that DEC provide a briefing to a future meeting outlining the issues associated with waste oil management.

ACTION:

3.1 DEC to provide a briefing to the Authority on what actions if any are appropriate considering the status of used oil recovery and recycling in Western Australia.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

4.1 The minutes of the Waste Authority meeting held on 1 April 2009 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to minor amendments.

Moved: Ms Grimoldby
Seconded: Ms Jakobsen
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 1 April 2009 meeting:

5. (5.1) Chairman to meet with OAG Auditors to discuss the operation of the WARR Account. The Chairman advised that he had recently met with auditors from the OAG for a preliminary discussion on the operation of the WARR Account.

5. (5.2) Letter from Minister to Authority re commencement of WARR Act 2007. The Chairman advised that he has received a letter from the Director General, DEC outlining his proposal for Waste Management (DEC) staff costs and indirect costs. He advised that the proposal would be discussed at item 7.1 on the agenda.

5. (3.3) Waste Authority Submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs *Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in WA.* The Chairman advised that all transcripts from the hearings to the Inquiry have now been made public.

5. (7.2.3) Draft Skeleton Business Plan 2009/10. The Chairman informed members that he has had two meetings with the Minister to progress the Business Plan and State Waste Strategy. It was noted that DEC would progress the Business Plan following the public release of the State Waste Strategy.

7.2.4 Household Hazardous Waste Presentation. The Chairman sought the status of writing to six non-metropolitan local governments regarding the proposal to upgrade or provide new infrastructure in support of the household hazardous waste program. DEC advised that a draft letter has been prepared. The Authority confirmed that it was to be the 6 councils identified in the draft waste strategy. DEC advised that it would follow up accordingly.

7.4.2 Development of EPR Statement / Priority Product Statement. In relation to meeting with the Department of Treasury and Finance's Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit to discuss the WARR Act in relation to EPR, the Chairman advised that he has spoken with DTF officials who have promised to get back to him regarding the matter.

ACTIONS:

5.1 DEC to follow-up on the status of letters to six non-metropolitan regional governments regarding the proposal for infrastructure upgrades in support of the household hazardous waste program and advise the Chairman accordingly.

5.2 Chairman to follow-up on discussion with DTF's Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit to discuss the WARR Act in relation to EPR.

6. OUT OF SESSION ITEMS

Nil.

7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

7.1 WARR Account Arrangements

DEC presented the quantum of Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Account funds to be recommended by the Authority to the Minister to cover the recoup to the Department of Environment and Conservation for staff salaries and salary on-costs, staff operational costs and indirect costs.

DEC provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing, comprehensive information detailing costs being claimed for administrative support for the operation of the WARR Account, including staff and resources to undertake activities associated with the Waste Authority 2008/09 work plan.

The Authority discussed the proposal. The Chairman asked if the 3% cost-efficiency dividend was to be taken from the 2008/09 or 2009/10 budget. DEC advised that this is based on 2008/09 mid-year figures and that the attachment shows this expenditure within an overall DEC figure, which includes other areas. DEC informed that the 3% is from 1 January 2009 and that grants programs from across the department have been excluded from the 3%.

The Authority was shown correspondence from the Department of Treasury and Finance requiring implementation of the 3% dividend commencing January 2009.

The Authority sought additional information on corporate costs and staff on-cost figures provided within the proposal. The Chairman advised that he had previously been informed that DEC full costs to the Authority would be charged at 1.42 x staff costs. The Chairman also queried costs

associated with media services and access to journalists when this had been specifically denied to the Authority.

In relation to charges outlined for staff, the Authority queried why it was charged based on 35 workstations, as opposed to 22 staff in accordance with Appendix A of the proposal. DEC advised that costs were based on DEC covering overheads based on physical work stations (floor space), in which 35 were provided. Corporate costs are charged based on floor space, and therefore do not change in accordance with fluctuations in staff numbers.

The Authority queried having to support costs for 14 vacant workstations and expressed its concerns at being charged for unutilised office space at DEC. Members conveyed their frustration at why the Office of the Chairman for the Waste Authority could not have been established within existing DEC Atrium Office space. It was noted that the Office of the Chairman was required to be based at external premises at an additional cost due to an alleged lack of accommodation at the Atrium.

The Authority agreed that the matter of the Chairman's office accommodation needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Members agreed that office space should be provided for the Chairman and Deputy Chair within DEC Atrium Office space, due to the large number of un-used work-stations being incurred as a cost against the Authority.

The Chairman expressed his concerns at the more than 7 months that the department has taken to respond to the specific request from the Authority to provide a proposed costing from DEC to the Waste Authority. It was hoped that the Waste Strategy and impending business plan would provide a clear picture of what is required in this regard to help inform discussion for future years.

DEC acknowledged that for the next financial year, the number of work-stations provided within Waste Management would be reviewed based on waste strategy and business plan requirements.

The Chairman requested that DEC (Robert Akins) nominate a senior officer to go through the staff list provided at Appendix A with him as soon as possible, to fully appreciate and clearly determine 'who does what' with regards to future approved business plan projects. The Authority agreed that it is highly appropriate to query all projects undertaken by staff to ensure the appropriate accountability of fund monies.

The Authority agreed to recommend to the Minister, the quantum of WARR Account funds approved for services provided by DEC to the Authority for the 2008/09 financial year be up to \$3,238,000. This was separate to about \$1 million that had been approved previously for the Waste Wise Schools Program and for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

Moved: Ms Grimoldby
Seconded: Mr Geisler
CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.1.1 Received the information at Attachment 1 from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) detailing the costs being claimed for services provided to the Authority.**
- 7.1.2 Recommends to the Minister for Environment the quantum of WARR Account funds approved for services provided by DEC to the Authority for the 2008/09 financial year be up to \$3,238,000.**

- 7.1.3 Requested that DEC provide a senior officer to meet with the Chairman as soon as possible to go through Appendix A of the proposal (Waste Management Branch Staff Costs) to ensure all works carried out are in accordance with the Authority's approved work plan.**
- 7.1.4 Requested DEC to identify appropriate accommodation to establish the 'Office of the Chairman' for use by the Chairman, Deputy Chair or any Authority member, within vacant workstations located at the DEC Atrium Office.**
- 7.1.5 Noted its concern at on-costs being charged based on work-stations, rather than actual staff.**

7.2 Market Support Scheme for Recycling

DEC informed that the current global economic/financial crisis has severely impacted on a wide range of internationally traded commodities, including dry recyclables commonly recovered by kerbside recycling services from secondary resource recovery facilities. Since late 2008, a significant decline in prices paid for secondary resources worldwide has occurred. A falling demand for volume from international consumers is contributing to a downward pressure on prices.

DEC advised that Western Australia is severely affected by this situation because a lack of local processing industries has created a high dependency on distant export markets for secondary resources recovered from waste. Low prices and high transport costs has seen the situation escalate in Western Australia.

DEC outlined a short-term support package in the form of rebates, which could help to maintain viability of recycling services or lessen the impact of the current pressures on entities suffering from reduced commodity prices as a direct result of the global financial crisis. The Authority agreed that the main purpose behind developing such a support package in the short-term is to address market failures, sustain capital assets and ensure that recycling behavioural patterns are not lost in the long term. The market support scheme was provided to members at attachment 1 of the briefing.

The Chairman informed members of various approaches to the Authority seeking assistance to support the recycling industry in this regard while prices are low. A model modified from the former Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS) was favoured by one council.

Members discussed a benchmark or 'average price' of where a support scheme could be instigated based on a downturn of recycling prices. Members also discussed the possibility of local councils charging more for recycling services. It was noted that on average, recycling services were between \$150 - \$170 per annum. Members noted the difficulty in separating the commercial industrial sector from household material.

The Authority favoured setting a market support scheme up to run when prices for recyclables fell below a certain threshold. Members agreed that the 'floor price' should be defined on maintaining behaviour and infrastructure and adjusted when prices return. The Authority agreed that the support scheme should be limited to 5 quarters (up to \$1.25 million per quarter) to July 2010.

The Authority discussed the packaging material types frequently collected throughout the State that the scheme would best support. Material included newsprint, cardboard, glass, aluminium, steel (containers), PET plastic, HPDE plastic, liquid paper board, mixed paper, mixed plastics and non biodegradable packaging. Members agreed that scrap metal and organics would be excluded from the support scheme.

Members agreed that while a support scheme can provide immediate assistance in the short-term, the Authority needs to undertake simultaneously, policy development works to address longer term

fluctuations. Members noted the opportunity the support scheme brings on a number of fronts towards making long term improvements. It was noted that the draft Waste Strategy may need to be updated to reflect an emphasis on short-term financial interventions to address market failures.

The Authority discussed payments of the scheme to local government and industry entities that hold the risk for marketing (processors of materials). Members referred to a list of entities provided at attachment 1 of the briefing. DEC (Bernard Ryan) and Marcus Geisler agreed to look at the list further to identify any possible inclusions. The Authority agreed that payments for the first quarter be based on figures from the last quarter of the financial year.

The Authority agreed that a program outline be developed as a matter of priority to address how the scheme should work, who will run it, criteria and work required for long-term policy to address market failures.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.2.1 Approved the establishment of a short-term market support scheme for recovered resources.**
- 7.2.2 Approved an allocation of up to \$1.25 million per quarter for the next 5 quarters (from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2010) to fund the market support scheme.**
- 7.2.3 Agreed to develop the program outline (rules for engagement).**
- 7.2.4 Agreed to allocate the promotion of recycling fund (discretionary fund) – x \$'s policy for developing long-term assistance to recycling industry.**
- 7.2.5 Agreed to look into obtaining professional services for a Waste Authority journalist/media officer (subject to Ministerial approval).**
- 7.2.6 Agreed to write to relevant parties regarding proposals put forward, advising that their recommendations would be taken into consideration.**

7.3 E-waste recycling

Following earlier discussions, the Authority had requested a specific proposal from by the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) for a product stewardship scheme, transitioning into extended producer responsibility, for e-waste in Western Australia. The proposal, provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing, outlined how a take-back program such as *'ByteBack'* may operate in WA and the timeline on implementing such a program. The proposal is based on a trial that has been operating by the AIIA in Victoria for the past 18 months. The Chairman advised that representatives from the AIIA, Ms Shirley Routley and Mr John Stockbridge would present the proposal to the Authority.

Separately the Apple company had received commitments from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) to contribute sites, funds and expertise to promoting an e-waste collection event, to be held on the weekend of 6-7 June 2009. Local government and regional councils were contributing \$40,000 towards the costs of promoting the event. A proposal for the Authority to contribute \$10,000 towards promotion of the event was sought by WALGA, and outlined in correspondence to the Authority at Attachment 5.

A proposal submitted to the Authority by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) seeking \$3,500 per month from the landfill levy to assist the Council in continuing its free e-waste collection service to its residents was also provided at Attachment 4 of the briefing. The Chairman advised that Mr Adam Johnson from the EMRC has been invited to attend the meeting to discuss its proposal.

Members noted that since the establishment of EMRC's e-waste trial in June 2008, 30 tonnes of e-waste has been collected at a cost to the EMRC in excess of \$16,000, with no charge being borne by residents. It was also noted that the service has proved to be highly popular, leading to the EMRC's budget for e-waste recycling being exceeded, to the extent that it will need to either end the trial, charge a fee for service to its residents to continue the program or seek funding assistance from an external source. The EMRC's proposal is intended to cover the period until alternative arrangements for e-waste are established.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Shirley Routley and Mr John Stockbridge from the AIIA to the meeting to present the e-waste proposal. Key points of the presentation included:

- AIIA is the key body that has been representing the Information Technology (IT) industry for the past 30 years. Members include 80% of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) companies in Australia.
- Over the past 18 months, AIIA has been operating a trial e-waste recycling scheme for computer waste in Victoria known as the 'ByteBack' program. It is a joint initiative between Sustainability Victoria and the AIIA, providing a free e-waste recycling service to domestic residences for ICT waste. The waste is delivered to council collection points and processed by SIMS Metals. Voluntary participating manufacturers have assisted in the costs of running the program.
- The Western Australia proposal is favoured by WALGA, regional councils and verbal interest from manufacturers. A consultant was appointed by WALGA to review the current status and needs of the WA Local Government councils in respect to e-waste. (Two reports by Encycle Consulting for Local Government and the AIIA were provided to members for their confidential information at Attachments 2 and 3 of the briefing).
- It was noted that there is strong pressure to include televisions in any Western Australian collection program.
- AIIA outlined its confidential proposal which was based on facts and data on the e-waste trial in Victoria and provided details of costs and operational requirements should a similar program be implemented in Western Australia. Members noted that the costs outlined within the proposal represents collections and costing for IT equipment waste only and does not include televisions or other items that could be considered as e-waste. An estimate to include televisions would be in the order of an additional 25% on top of estimates provided.
- While initially there would need to be a high degree of Government input and funding required, AIIA believes that up to 75% could be funded by industry in the longer term (after 3 years).
- In terms of how quickly an e-waste program could be implemented within WA, it was noted that this would include the combined efforts of the AIIA, State Government and Local Government, overcoming geographic challenges, calling tenders and establishing a Western Australia Office to run and operate the program, while being mindful of the current global financial crisis. Overall, AIIA believes that e-waste recycling methodology could be rolled out quite quickly, by the end of 2009 with back-up support from AIIA's National office.

Mr Adam Johnson, EMRC commented that using the Apple Collection Day as an example demonstrates how quickly it can be organised. He cited the 2 month coordination through MWAC, involving eight local government sites participating in community e-waste collection days.

Mr Johnson expressed his support of the AIIA e-waste model, which ties in with the EMRC's program. He outlined that the EMRC is also considering options such as potentially including

e-waste collections in parallel with household hazardous waste collection days/drop offs. Under the AIIA proposal, the EMRC would consider becoming a collection point for e-waste.

Mr Johnson also provided considered advice in response to questions on fee for service.

The Chairman thanked Ms Routley, Mr Stockbridge and Mr Johnson for their attendance and presentations to the meeting.

The Authority considered the proposals presented. It considered that an overall e-waste collection scheme would in general; provide broad support across the board and security to local government. The Authority outlined the difficult position it would be placed in if it were to support EMRC's program in isolation due to the flow on affect it may create with other councils coming forward.

The Authority provided its in-principle support of a 3 year e-waste program in partnership with the AIIA subject to final details of revised costings to incorporate televisions. The Authority requested that a memorandum of understanding between the Authority and the AIIA outlining a 3 year funding agreement and clear performance indicators be drafted by DEC in consultation with an Authority member nominee.

It was noted that the program (excluding televisions) would be in the vicinity of \$1.9 million over 3 years, with a \$750,000 outlay in the first year. The Authority noted that an estimate to include televisions could be in the order of an additional 25% (in terms of recycling it) on top of estimates provided.

The Authority agreed to support the funding request from WALGA of \$10,000 to promote an e-waste collection event being organised by Apple in conjunction with local government on the weekend of 6-7 June 2009.

The Authority did not support the proposal presented by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council to support its e-waste collection program for reasons outlined above, preferring instead to fold those interests into the over-all package.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.3.1 Provided its in-principle support of a 3 year e-waste program in partnership with the AIIA subject to final details of revised costings for the inclusion of televisions.**
- 7.3.2 Agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and the AIIA outlining a 3 year funding agreement and clear performance indicators be drafted by DEC in consultation with an Authority member nominee.**
- 7.3.3 Endorsed funding of \$10,000 to WALGA to promote an e-waste collection event being organised by Apple in conjunction with local government.**
- 7.3.4 Did not support a proposal presented by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council seeking financial support for its e-waste collection program.**

7.4 Residuals from Resource Recovery Facilities

DEC provided a briefing to the Authority which highlighted the financial strain experienced by some local councils as a result of rising operating costs and falling revenues, and a subsequent request for an exemption from paying the landfill levy on residual wastes from alternative waste treatment facilities in the short to medium term.

DEC presented an attachment to the briefing which outlined an estimated shift in resource recovery in respect of all such facilities.

The Authority discussed the proposal. Members expressed concerns on how to structure such an exemption to avoid bad faith exploitation to achieve levy evasion. Implications and inconsistencies with the current draft Waste Strategy were also discussed. Members noted that the idea of such an exemption was considered and excluded by the former Waste Board following the Blythe Review of the Landfill Levy in 2007.

The Authority determined that it was not supportive of an exemption from paying the landfill levy on residual waste from alternative waste treatment facilities.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

7.4.1 Did not support the notion of an exemption from paying the landfill levy on residual wastes from alternative waste treatment facilities.

7.4.2 Agreed to respond to relevant correspondence seeking exemptions from the landfill levy in this regard.

7.5 Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – Presentation by Office of Climate Change

The Chairman welcomed Mr Charles Crouch, Principal Economist from the Office of Climate Change to the meeting. The Chairman advised that Mr Crouch was invited to attend the meeting to inform members on the effect of the proposed Commonwealth Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) on the market for carbon offsets, such as those currently marketed by some regional councils.

The Authority noted the views of the presenting officer, noting that the CPRS does not allow for the ability to create and sell permits from waste treatment facilities; and the possibility of opportunities to sell into voluntary markets. The Chairman thanked Mr Crouch for his informative insight into implications for waste management with the CPRS.

A copy of Mr Crouch's presentation to the Authority is provided at Attachment 1 of the minutes.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

7.5.1 Noted the views presented by Mr Charles Crouch from the Office of Climate Change on the effect of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme on carbon offsets.

7.6 Green Stamp – Business Plan 2009-2012 & Funding Request

DEC presented a request from Green Stamp Participant Associations (outlined in a letter to the Authority of 20 April - provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing) seeking support of a 3 year funding commitment in support of the Green Stamp Program, as outlined in the Green Stamp Business Plan 2009 – 2012 (provided at Attachment 2 of the briefing).

The Authority outlined its general support of the Green Stamp program but discussed the need to place more emphasis on the measurement of key performance indicators to clearly show what the program is achieving and demonstrate how much waste is being diverted from landfill through the delivery of the program. Members agreed that it would be beneficial for the Authority (through the Chairman and available members) to meet with the heads of the three peak bodies of Green Stamp (the Motor Trade Association of Western Australia, the Printing Industries Association of Australia

and the Building and Service Contractors Association of Australia) regarding performance indicators.

Members noted the Health Department's support of the program and commented on the need to see more government agencies supporting the program.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.6.1 Noted the Green Stamp Business Plan for 2009/10 to 2011/12 at Attachment 2 of the briefing.**
- 7.6.2 Provided it in-principle support to fund the Green Stamp Business Plan in the order of \$403,000 over 3 years, subject to the following:**
- **the submission of a revised Business Plan that includes all revenue streams;**
 - **the establishment of a formal funding agreement with Green Stamp participants that requires reporting against milestones; and**
 - **the establishment of mutually agreed key performance indicators which identify specific data in consultation with the Waste Authority, through a meeting with the heads of the Motor Trade Association of WA, the Printing Industries Association of Australia and the Building and Service Contractors Association of Australia.**
- 7.6.3 Subject to the completion of 7.6.2, the Authority agreed to recommend to the Minister for Environment, approval of \$403,000 in the Authority's work plan for the Green Stamp Program for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.**
- 7.6.4 Noted the Health Department's support of the program and the need for more government agencies to support the program.**

7.7 WALGA Strategic Partnership Funding Request 2009/10

DEC presented a request from WALGA (outlined in WALGA's letter to the Authority of 24 April - provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing) seeking support of a 3 year Strategic Partnership funding commitment to support policy development and consultation with local government relating to waste management issues pertinent to the Authority.

The Authority discussed the proposal. Members acknowledged the previous support provided to WALGA in terms of strategic partnerships, WALGA's comprehensive engagement on issues relating to waste management, and its undertakings of extensive consultation with its members on matters of mutual interest. It was noted that endorsement of funding would provide a level of certainty in investigating longer term issues.

The Authority discussed the need to develop a formal program for Strategic Partnerships that includes milestones and rigorous reporting requirements. It was agreed that the Chairman would meet with the newly appointed Chair of MWAC, Mr Troy Pickard and the Chief Executive Officer of WALGA, Ms Ricky Burges to discuss milestones and reporting requirements.

The Authority endorsed the request for a 3 year Strategic Partnership arrangement with WALGA subject to the meeting outlined above and the approval of the Minister. The Authority agreed that funding be capped at \$100,000 per annum.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.7.1 Endorsed WALGA's proposal for a 3 year Strategic Partnership arrangement (capped at \$100,000 per annum) subject to a meeting between the Chairman, Mr Troy Pickard and Ms Ricky Burges to discuss milestones and reporting requirements.**
- 7.7.2 Agreed to establish a formal funding agreement with WALGA that includes a requirement to report against milestones.**
- 7.7.3 Agreed to seek the approval of the Minister for funding to support the 3 year Strategic Partnership arrangement.**

7.8 National Waste Policy

A 'National Waste Policy: Managing Waste to 2020' Consultation Paper was released by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on 7 April 2009. A copy of the paper was provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing. Submissions on the paper close on 13 May 2009.

The Authority discussed a draft submission prepared by the Deputy Chair on behalf of the Waste Authority. The Chairman commended Ms Grimoldby for her efforts in producing the draft. The draft (provided to members at Attachment 2 of the briefing) outlined the work of the Waste Authority, tools utilised by the Waste Authority and consideration of tools best implemented at a national level.

Members discussed tools identified within the draft response as possible focus areas for the National Waste Policy. These included product stewardship, the National Packaging Covenant, Commonwealth Government Purchasing Policy, Unallocated Crown Land and Indigenous Communities, data management and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and Landfill.

Members considered that some of the main points coming out of the draft National Waste Policy that would require Commonwealth commitment included:

- Commonwealth responsibility for actioning a reduction in packaging through the National Packaging Covenant.
- Direct action from the Commonwealth to reduce action on poor materials (such as second hand tyres, televisions, computer materials etc – best dealt with at a State level).
- Commonwealth should empower a National EPR scheme with two drivers: up front charges and exemptions through the national competition policy and responsibility for implementing underpinning requirements.
- The need to collectively be more systematic in the way problem wastes are handled. In managing the difference between managing problem wastes versus the issue of managing volume wastes.
- Coordination at a Commonwealth level on the design of landfills.

The Authority also agreed that the National Waste Strategy needs to place effective waste management at the forefront as the driver, while acknowledging that employment opportunities may become an outcome of its implementation.

Members commented that if the Commonwealth dealt with issues such as container deposit systems and the National Packaging Covenant and managed these areas well, while leaving the State's to manage what they are doing, that this would be the best outcome for all.

The Chairman requested DEC (Bernard Ryan and Michael Reid) to finalise the Authority's submission based on the discussion ready for the Chairman's consideration prior to 13 May. It was agreed that a copy of the final submission would be provided to the Minister, along with advice informing of the Authority's recommendations in this regard.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.8.1 Noted the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) Consultation Paper entitled 'A National Waste Policy: Managing Waste to 2020.'**
- 7.8.2 Noted the draft submission prepared by the Deputy Chair on the DEWHA Consultation Paper and agreed to amend the draft in accordance with the discussion.**
- 7.8.3 Agreed that DEC (Bernard Ryan and Michael Reid) would finalise the Authority's submission in accordance with the discussion, ready for the Chairman's consideration prior to 13 May.**
- 7.8.4 Agreed to provide a copy of the Authority's submission to the Minister, along with advice informing of the Authority's recommendations in this regard.**

7.9 Alternative Waste Technologies

Ms Jakobsen left the meeting at 4.25pm at the commencement of this discussion. The Authority noted requests from two local councils seeking the Waste Authority to establish and fund a research program to investigate environmental and community issues relating to the introduction of alternative waste technologies in Western Australia.

The Authority noted that the requests were proposed to the Premier by the local councils and responded to by the Minister for Environment. The Minister provided a copy of her response to the Authority, noting that a research program be considered by the Authority in the development of the waste strategy.

Members noted that the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production had identified within its summary report to the Authority (at item 8.3 – Strategic Partnerships Progress Update) a research project it had undertaken regarding an investigation into different types of waste management technologies and their use within Australia and internationally. It was agreed that a copy of this report be provided by the CECP to inform the Authority.

The Authority acknowledged that local councils require some form of security prior to investing in large scale technology infrastructure. Members also noted that the use of alternative waste technologies for processing waste has become a community concern following scrutiny of the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre.

DEC informed of a meeting with the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, where the council advised of its large investment into alternative waste technologies. DEC acknowledged that while this may be considered today's way of diverting waste from landfill, there is a need to investigate alternative ways of diverting waste from landfill into the future.

The Authority noted that while there may be a need to fund research into alternative waste treatment facilities, it would need to be addressed in a much broader context of determining what types of waste treatment technologies are appropriate for Western Australia. The research project undertaken by the CECP may assist in this regard.

Members agreed that the Authority's main focus in this area relates to policy matters such as working towards protecting buffer zones surrounding alternative waste treatment facilities (and landfills) and providing guidance through the delivery of the State Waste Strategy.

Members determined that the Authority would pursue the finalisation of the CECP program into research on Alternative Waste Treatments as a contribution that would assist local government. The Authority agreed to write to the local councils separately advising of its position in this regard.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.9.1 Noted the requests received from two local councils for the Authority to establish and fund a research program investigating environmental and community issues relating to the introduction of alternative waste technologies in WA.**
- 7.9.2 Members noted that any research into alternative waste technologies would need to be addressed in a much broader context of determining what type of waste treatment technologies are appropriate for Western Australia.**
- 7.9.3 Noted that a research project had been undertaken by the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production (CECP) which investigates different types of waste management technologies and their use within Australia and internationally.**
- 7.9.4 Agreed to request that that a copy of any existing CECP report be provided by the CECP to inform the Authority.**
- 7.9.5 Agreed to discuss with CECP the finalisation of its AWT work in order to assist local government**
- 7.9.6 Agreed to inform the Minister that it does not see a priority for the Authority to fund a scientific research program into community attitudes towards alternative waste treatments.**
- 7.9.7 Agreed to write to the two local councils advising of the Authority's position.**

7.10 Meeting with the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC)

The Authority resolved at its April meeting to meet with the Chair's and CEO's of the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC) member organisations at the next available Authority meeting (subject to availability of relevant parties) to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The Chairman briefly outlined items for potential discussion at this meeting, based on a draft agenda to be put forward at a meeting of FORC today.

The Authority determined that it would invite FORC to meet with the Waste Authority at its next meeting (to be held on Wednesday 3 June) at DEC's Atrium Offices. The Authority agreed that the meeting with FORC would be invited between 11.00am to 1.00pm, with lunch at 12.00 noon. Members agreed that the agenda should include for discussion; Alternative Waste Technologies, the future of recycling products in Western Australia, and e-waste.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 7.10.1 Agreed to invite FORC to its next meeting on Wednesday 3 June at DEC's Atrium Office, between 11.00am – 1.00pm (including lunch at 12.00 noon) to discuss matters of mutual interest.**

7.10.2 Agreed that Authority items on the agenda for discussion should include; Alternative Waste Technologies, the future of recycling products in Western Australia and e-waste.

7.11 Financial Report – Third Quarter

DEC presented a financial report for the third quarter (the first nine months of the 2008/09 financial year) detailing the levels of expenditure and revenue for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account. A copy was provided to members at attachment 1 of the briefing. DEC advised that the report needs to be updated with new expenditure items recently approved by the Minister.

Members queried why corporate overheads/in-direct operating costs for staff were not highlighted in the report and agreed that these should be budgeted for and included in the report. Website costs were highlighted as an example whereby costs associated with the website should be listed as project costs. DEC advised that the budget and expenditure highlighted within the report is based on the approved business plan.

The Authority agreed that an extra line be inserted in the report beneath Staffing Costs, to identify 'other DEC costs.' It was noted that the year to date figure for 'other DEC costs' is \$839,667 which had been excluded from the report. DEC advised that figures identified in the year to date column were correct, based on cash accounting principles.

The Chairman sought information on the actual collection of landfill levy monies versus the projection of monies expected. DEC informed that the shortfall is due to a combination of matters including landfilling being down, unpaid levies and the economic downturn. DEC added that unpaid levies are being sought through DEC's legal recovery process. The Authority agreed that a 'bad debts' statement should be included within the financial report.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

7.11.1 Requested DEC to provide at the next meeting, a revised financial report for the third quarter 2008/09, detailing 'other DEC costs,' revised project names, the inclusion of new expenditure items (recently approved by the Minister) and a 'bad debts' statement.

7.12 'Big Picture' focussed meetings of the Authority

The Authority discussed this matter as part of other agenda items covered during the meeting.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Draft State Waste Strategy – Phase II - Status

DEC informed that Phase II of the Waste Strategy development process is progressing. DEC advised that the tender process closed on 28 April and a tender evaluation committee meeting was held on 4 May. It was noted that Ms Grimoldby represents the Authority on this committee. DEC outlined that 13 applications were received, with 5 being short-listed. A consultant is anticipated to be appointed by mid May or pending the release of the draft Waste Strategy by the Minister.

The Chairman advised that the draft Waste Strategy is currently with the Minister. DEC (Robert Atkins) committed to contact the Minister's Office to ascertain the status of the document as soon as possible.

Members briefly discussed the release of the document in accordance with the briefing note provided by DEC. The Authority agreed that the wording for advertising the release of draft Waste Strategy be delegated to the Chairman to approve, rather than coming back to the Authority for approval.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 8.1.1 Noted the status of the draft Waste Strategy's release and tender process to appoint a Consultant to undertake Phase II.**
- 8.1.2 Noted DEC's Communications Branch has been instructed to provide a 'print-ready' version of the Draft Waste Strategy and any final amendments from the Minister would be included prior to printing.**
- 8.1.3 Noted the wording for advertising the release of the Draft Waste Strategy (in both the Gazette and the West Australian) would be developed by DEC and forwarded to the Chairman for approval, for advertising the release of the draft Waste Strategy.**

ACTION:

- 8.1.4 DEC (Robert Atkins) to contact the Minister's Office as soon as possible to ascertain the status of the draft Waste Strategy and its likely release.**

8.2 Regional Investment Plans – Expenditure for 2008/09

DEC informed members that the estimated expenditure for the Regional Funding Program for the 2008/09 financial year is \$491,000 (of a total allocation of \$2.56 million). DEC advised that it expects that all remaining Regional Investment Plans will be submitted for endorsement by the end of June 2009.

The Authority expressed some concern at the slow take up of the Program.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

- 8.2.1 The Authority noted expenditure estimates for the Regional Funding Program for the 2008/09 period and expressed some concern at the slow take up of the program.**

8.3 Strategic Partnerships – Progress Update

The Authority noted the current status of projects being undertaken by participants of the strategic partnerships program, including WALGA, the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production (CECP), the Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Green Stamp Program. Summaries for each participant were included as attachments to the briefing provided by DEC.

In relation to a research project briefly outlined by the CECP, the Authority sought a copy of the research it had undertaken regarding waste management technologies, whereby CECP investigated different types of waste management technologies and their use within Australia and internationally. In accordance with discussion at item 7.9 above (Alternative Waste Technologies) it was agreed that DEC would draft a letter on behalf of the Chairman, seeking a copy of this information to inform the Authority.

In relation to the development of a policy statement on data and information management, outlined within WALGA's update, the Authority agreed to keep watch on the development of this policy statement.

Members expressed an interest in receiving copies of policies highlighted within the Conservation Council of Western Australia's update. These included the development of a multi-million dollar economic stimulus package for the development of recycling infrastructure around Australia and the National Recycling Initiative.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 8.3.1 Noted the current status of the Strategic Partnership projects for WALGA, the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production, the Conservation Council of Western Australia and Green Stamp.**
- 8.3.2 Agreed to seek a copy of a research project undertaken by the CECP regarding an investigation into different types of waste management technologies and their use within Australia and internationally.**
- 8.3.3 Agreed to seek copies of any available policies developed by the Conservation Council of Western Australia regarding the development of an economic stimulus package for the development of recycling infrastructure and the National Recycling Initiative.**
- 8.3.4 Requested DEC to draft letters on behalf of the Chairman to the CECP and the Conservation Council in relation to 8.3.2 and 8.3.3.**

8.4 WARR Regulations & WARR Levy Regulations - Update

Members were supplied with the latest correspondence between the Authority and Director General, DEC with the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation regarding the possible disallowance of the WARR Regulations 2008 and the WARR Levy Regulations 2008.

The Authority supported the direction of the Chairman's correspondence, and resolved on a course of action to progress the matter, pending the outcome of the Joint Standing Committee meeting.

The Authority agreed that the Chairman would offer to meet with the Chairman of the Standing Committee prior to the Committee's scheduled meeting on 8 May if so required. The Authority also agreed to draft a back-up letter in accordance with the discussion at the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 8.4.1 Agreed that the Chairman would offer to meet with the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee prior to the Standing Committee's scheduled meeting on 8 May if required.**
- 8.4.2 Agreed on a course of action to progress the matter by way of a draft letter, pending the outcome of the Joint Standing Committee meeting on 8 May.**

8.5 Consultancy List July 2008 – March 2009

The Authority noted the listing provided at Attachment 1 of the briefing, of projects undertaken (including budgetary status) by consultants for the July 2008 to March 2009 period on behalf of the Waste Authority.

The Authority requested that a project status, such as 'completed' be clearly outlined against relevant consultancies listed. The Chairman queried the status of a previous resolution of the Authority for DEC to undertake (possibly through a consultancy) a 'template plan' for local governments to consider adopting for building/demolition works. The template would allow local government to utilise it should it wish to empower itself to require waste management plans for C&D under either the town planning scheme or the WARR Act.

The Authority requested DEC to prepare a briefing on the issue, outlining what is to be achieved and the best way of achieving this under the WARR Act. It was agreed that a legal opinion should also be sought on the matter to inform the Authority.

ACTIONS:

The Authority:

- 8.5.1 Requested DEC to include a project status against relevant consultancies as part of the consultancy listing provided.**
- 8.5.2 Requested DEC to provide a briefing on the status of the development of a 'template plan' for local governments to potentially utilise for requiring C&D waste management plans under the WARR Act.**
- 8.5.3 Requested DEC to proceed with obtaining a legal opinion to inform the Authority on the matter further.**

8.6 Latest Development on Recycling Market Downturn

DEC informed members of the latest developments on the closure of a Western Australian recycling company. DEC advised that some components of the business may remain, while other segments will involve closure and the sale of equipment through public auction.

Additional discussion on recycling markets was discussed by the Authority as part of item 7.2 – Market Support Scheme for Recycling.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

9.1 Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme & Community Grants Scheme – Final Reports

The Authority noted a final report received for a SWIS 2006 project for Earthcarer Consulting – Vale Builders' Waste Initiative (\$250,000 plus GST). DEC informed that the project initially focused on the creation of a Builder Waste Initiative at the Value Residential Development in the Swan Valley. Prior to the trial commencing, extensive industry and stakeholder discussions were held, research into previous programs conducted and relations with large home builders established. Trials were carried out which were used as a basis to create a waste management program that could be used at the Vale and replicated at other developments. The main purpose of this work was to reduce the environmental impact of construction waste arising from the new residential developments in the Perth Metropolitan area.

The model was based on an earlier SWIS funded project, where it was determined the most effective model was for a large residential development to locate on site waste transfer station with sorting carried out predominantly at source by the builder's sub contractors.

The second component was education and training of all individuals working on the building site. Trials then took place with five different large volume builders on eight sites at Vale to determine their current waste management practices and look to implement the new EarthCare model.

The Authority noted the final evaluation project report received, but queried whether a project outcomes summary was provided and whether the project achieved what it intended. The Authority discussed the need to improve the management of project targets, deliverables and outcomes. It was noted that the SWIS sub-committee would look at this as part of the current round of assessments.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

The Authority:

- 9.1.1 Noted the final evaluation project report received for a SWIS 2006 project from Earthcare Consulting for a Vale Builder's Waste Initiative, and queried whether a project outcomes summary was provided and whether the project achieved what it intended.**
- 9.1.2 Noted that the SWIS sub-committee would look into ways to improve the management of project targets, deliverables and outcomes.**

ACTION:

- 9.1.3 DEC to advise the Authority if a project outcomes summary was provided with the final report received and whether the project achieved what it intended.**

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 received from the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs *Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management*, the Chairman advised that the Committee is due to report back its findings to Parliament by 22 May 2009.

Members briefly discussed correspondence received from Eclipse Resources in relation to asbestos disposal in the metropolitan area. The letters seeks examination of market-based mechanisms to reduce the illegal dumping of asbestos, possibly through exempting its disposal from the landfill levy. DEC advised that Health Department Asbestos Regulations were currently under review. The Authority would endeavour to look into the matter further prior to responding to the correspondence.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Speaking Engagements

Professor Hardisty advised that he has accepted an invitation by WALGA to speak at the 2009 Waste and Recycling Conference in September. He also advised that he had recommended the Chairman to speak on sustainability for MBA's as part of preparing a course on sustainability for a waste management module.

10.2 Cash for Trash – Community Glass Bottle and Aluminium Can Collection Program – Port Hedland

The Chairman circulated to members, information regarding a Port Hedland community glass bottle and aluminium can collection program '*Cash for Trash*.' The program is coordinated through the Care for Hedland Environmental Association with sponsorship from local businesses and organisations to implement a two month trial of a local container deposit system. Four collection days for residents to bring collected glass bottles,

aluminium cans and bags of street litter to designated community volunteer collection points has also occurred. The information circulated included media releases and a summary of the program's successes to date.

The Chairman sought feedback from members on the information circulated via email. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

10.3 Sponsorship of 2009 Waste & Recycle Conference

DEC advised that corporate sponsorship for the upcoming Waste & Recycle Conference is being sought. It was noted that the Authority would consider this in due course, and that a policy on how the Authority provides sponsorship needs to be developed. The Chairman informed members of documentation that he had seen which advertised the event as DEC hosting, with no mention of the Waste Authority.

DEC advised that it is part of the organising committee for the Conference, along with WALGA, but it is not a sponsor of the Conference as such.

ACTIONS:

- 10.1.1 Members to provide feedback (if any) to the Chairman on the 'Cash for Trash' Port Hedland Glass Bottle and Aluminium Can Collection Program material circulated.**
- 10.1.2 The *Cash for Trash* program and sponsorship of the 2009 Waste & Recycle Conference to be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.**
- 10.1.3 DEC to work towards the development of a sponsorship policy and/or guidelines to streamline sponsorship proposals presented to the Authority.**

11. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on 3 June 2009 at DEC's Atrium Office commencing at 11.00am with a meeting with the Forum of Regional Councils.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT



Barry Carbon, Chairman
WASTE AUTHORITY

3 June 2009