



Waste Authority

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY MEETING

held on Wednesday 7 April 2010
Department of Environment and Conservation
11.00 am – 3.15 pm

Meeting No. 04/2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Jan Grimoldby Acting Chair
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen
Prof Paul Hardisty

APOLOGIES

Mr Marcus Geisler

ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins	Deputy Director General – Environment, DEC (Delegate for Director General, DEC)	
Ms Catherine Rayner	General Manager, Office of the Waste Authority	
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer, Office of the Waste Authority	Minutes/Actions
Ms Debra Bala	Executive Officer, Office of the Waste Authority	
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Waste Management Branch, DEC	Items 7.5, 7.6, 10.1, 10.2, 10.8
Dr Jill Lethlean	Manager, Programs, DEC	Items 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 10.4
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, WARR Account, DEC	
Ms Leanne Reid	A/Project Coordinator, Waste Management Branch, DEC	For item 7.7

GUESTS

Ms Linda Thoresen Observer
Mr Ian Hill Observer

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 11.12am. Ms Grimoldby welcomed Ms Rayner to her first meeting as General Manager and welcomed Ms Thoresen and Mr Hill as observers prior to their commencement with the Waste Authority.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE A/CHAIR

The A/Chair advised members that the farewell function held on 31 March for Mr Barry Carbon went well.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION:

- 4.1 The minutes of the Waste Authority meeting number 02/2010 held on 5 March 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.
- 4.2 The minutes of the special meeting 03/2010 held on 17 March 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Ms Jakobsen
Seconded: Prof. Hardisty
CARRIED

5. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

An updated status of all outstanding actions was requested for the next meeting.

Actions from Special Meeting 03/2010 held on 17 March 2010:

- 3.1.1 **Terms of Reference for E-Waste Committee.** The A/Chair informed members that the Minister for Environment had approved the establishment of an E-Waste Committee and the recommended Terms of Reference.
- 3.2.2 **Coordination of E-Waste collection depots in the non-metropolitan area.** The Authority agreed to write to the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC) to determine their interest in coordinating collection depots in non-metropolitan areas. (It was agreed that DEC would coordinate non-metropolitan areas if FORC indicated that it was unable to do so).

Actions from Meeting 16/2009 held on 2 December 2009:

- 8.2.3 **Correspondence – Waste Authority – Update on Wren Oil’s proposed export facility at Bunbury Port Authority.** Members were advised that Wren Oil had signed a lease with the Bunbury Port Authority and that earthworks commenced on 23 March 2010, with a revised completion date expected to be during the 4th quarter of 2010. Current exports are being handled via the Pacific Terminal tanks in North Fremantle, with no build-up of surplus oil.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 5.1 Noted the status of actions listed in the 'Waste Authority – Status of Actions Arising from Meeting' table.**
- 5.2 Requested an updated status of all outstanding actions for the next meeting.**
- 5.3 Agreed to write to FORC to invite them to coordinate E-Waste collection depots for non-metropolitan areas.**

6. OUT OF SESSION ITEMS

Nil.

7. DISCUSSION / DECISION ITEMS

7.1 Support for Charitable Organisations

The Minister for Environment requested that the Authority engage with the Community Clothing Bin Collection Agencies (CCBCA) to assist in developing a solution for unwanted material being left at charitable collection sites.

Members discussed the issues associated with unwanted material left at collection sites, including the inability under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008* to award exemptions under the landfill levy for charitable organizations and that exemptions can only be granted for approved waste that has been disposed of in an appropriate manner. (Concerns in respect to these provisions have been raised by the Joint Standing Committee (JSC) on Delegated Legislation).

It was agreed that Ms Carolyn Jakobsen, (Waste Authority Member) and an appropriate officer from the Waste Management Branch would meet with the CCBCA to consider options for resolving the charitable institutions issues.

The Authority also agreed to allocate up to \$42,000 from the WARR Account to assist in this investigation.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.1.1 Noted the Minister for Environment's request of 15 March 2010 to work with charitable organisations to develop a solution to the issue of unwanted materials left at collection sites.**
- 7.1.2 Agreed that Waste Authority Member, Ms Carolyn Jakobsen and an appropriate officer from the Waste Management Branch would meet with the CCBCA to consider options for addressing the issues.**
- 7.1.3 Approved the allocation of up to \$42,000 from the WARR Account for this investigation.**
- 7.1.4 Write to the Minister for Environment advising her of the action to be taken.**

7.2 Regulation of Data Collection from Local Governments

Data collection is a key area of activity in the draft Waste Strategy and a number of data collection projects included in the draft business plan, including the annual local government data survey and the annual recycling review.

The Authority considered the collection of data from local government and noted a previous Authority resolution that local government access to WARR Account monies was conditional on the provision of the annual data requirements.

Section 82 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* provides powers to regulate the collection of data from organisations that provide waste or recycling services. In order to facilitate the collection of data necessary to support the implementation of the Waste Strategy and monitor progress towards its targets the Authority agreed to write to the Director General, DEC, requesting DEC to collect data on behalf of the Authority.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.2.1 Requested DEC to collect data to assist the Waste Authority perform its functions.**
- 7.2.2 Requested DEC to require persons to provide data under Section 82 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.**
- 7.2.3 Agreed to write a letter to the Director General DEC, seeking the collection of data from local government and waste and recycling companies in accordance with the following:**
 - **The volume of material recovered in WA by material type and waste sector (municipal, construction and demolition (C&D) and commercial and industrial (C&I)) measured in tonnes. The information should specifically differentiate between packaging and non-packaging recycled materials;**
 - **The amount of material processed by Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in WA;**
 - **The loss of recovered material as a result of contamination from material collected for processing;**
 - **The number of premises (both commercial and residential) with access to a recycling service;**
 - **Charges for collection and recycling**
 - **The flows of recovered material into Western Australia for reprocessing;**
 - **The flows of recovered material interstate and overseas for reprocessing;**
 - **Trends affecting future changes in reprocessing activity;**
 - **Perceived or real barriers to recycling;**
 - **The opportunities for increased recycling/re-use in Western Australia including the reduction of contamination levels in materials collected for recycling; and**
 - **Specific data on local government waste and recycling services as per the 'Department of Environment and Conservation, Waste Management Branch, Annual Local Government Survey.'**

7.3 Sponsorship Request from the Centre of Organic & Resource Enterprise (CORE) and the Garden Gurus

The Authority discussed requests for sponsorship funding received from the Centre of Organic & Resource Enterprise (CORE) and the Garden Gurus (via Compost WA) regarding the promotion of International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) to be held 2 – 8 May 2010, and associated assessment of the applications.

Staff advised that in recent years, CORE has been involved in promoting International Compost Awareness Week across Australia, predominantly through provision of website information on events occurring in each State during ICAW, branding opportunities for partners/sponsors, provision of some promotional and informative printed materials (and access to online documents for further printing) and coordinating additional media attention on compost benefits.

Members determined that the requests did not align with the Authority's sponsorship policy objectives and due to the event being held in the first week of May, insufficient time to maximise the Authority's sponsorship of the event for promotional material was available.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.3.1 Noted the sponsorship requests received from the Centre of Organic & Resource Enterprise (CORE) and the Garden Gurus (via Custom Compost).**
- 7.3.2 Did not support either proposal for 2010, due to the proposals not aligning with the Authority's Sponsorship Policy objectives and the late timeframe to maximise sponsorship opportunities on promotional material.**
- 7.3.3 Write to Mr Gulliver of Compost Australia and advise that with further opportunity for discussion and consideration of options, a sponsorship proposal may be considered more favourably for Compost Awareness Week 2011.**

7.4 National Packaging Covenant

The Authority noted the likely endorsement of the new National Packaging Covenant Mark III (the *Australian Packaging Covenant*) prior to June 2010 and discussed its concerns about committing Western Australia to the Covenant, particularly the need for increased industry contributions to a level comparable with other product stewardship approaches either already in place or currently being negotiated; and State and Territory targets being based on a consistent standard and equitable performance across Australia.

The Authority noted and supported the inclusion in the revised draft Covenant (the *Australian Packaging Covenant*) of the statement within the foreword that outlines that the Covenant 'will co-exist with other regulatory measures.

The Authority agreed to write to the Minister for Environment regarding the National Packaging Covenant and suggested changes, including the need for Western Australian to allow for a transitional period.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.4.1 Noted the information on the impending Mark III of the National Packaging Covenant (the *Australian Packaging Covenant*).**
- 7.4.2 Agreed to write to the Minister for Environment regarding the National Packaging Covenant, including the need for Western Australia to allow for a transitional period.**

7.5 E-Waste Collection Program

The Authority noted that the Minister for Environment approved the establishment of an E-Waste Committee and set Terms of Reference. The Committee is charged with investigating options for Western Australia to deal with an interim e-waste collection and recycling program prior to the commencement of the National Scheme for televisions and computers.

The Authority also noted that a subsequent funding request to support an interim collection and disposal program for six months has been prepared for consideration by the Minister for Environment.

The Authority agreed that the Chair for the Committee would be Mr Marcus Geisler, with Professor Hardisty available to step in as A/Chair should Mr Geisler be unavailable to attend a meeting.

The Authority discussed membership of the E-Waste Committee and agreed that invitations should be extended seeking nominations. It was also agreed that nominees should be based in Western Australia.

In transitioning to a National E-Waste collection scheme, the Authority recognised that the Committee may require the expertise of the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), and agreed that the AIIA be invited to participate in early discussions. The Authority also requested that a representative from FORC be invited to participate on the Committee.

The Authority acknowledged that it would not be realistic for the Committee to report on its deliberations by 30 June 2010, and that an interim report should be available at this time.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

- 7.5.1 Noted the Minister for Environment's approval to establish an E-Waste Committee, and its set Terms of Reference.**
- 7.5.2 Noted the proposed budget request for consideration by the Minister for Environment.**
- 7.5.3 Agreed that Waste Authority Member, Mr Marcus Geisler would Chair the E-Waste Committee, with Professor Paul Hardisty being available to step in as A/Chair should Mr Geisler be unavailable to attend a meeting.**
- 7.5.4 Agreed to extend invitations seeking nominations of the E-Waste Committee.**
- 7.5.5 Agreed to invite a representative of FORC to participate on the E-Waste Committee.**
- 7.5.6 Requested invitations seeking nominations be sent and a first meeting date set.**
- 7.5.7 Acknowledged that the E-Waste Committee would provide an interim report on its deliberations by 30 June 2010.**

7.6 Storm Damage and the Landfill Levy

Members were briefed on materials collected (predominantly greenwaste) as a result of the recent severe storm and advised of an informal request received, via the State Government's disaster recovery team, seeking the Authority to waive the landfill levy in this instance.

Members acknowledged the difficulty in differentiating between storm damage and scheduled greenwaste collections conducted by some local councils at this time.

The Authority agreed that the matter could not be considered without a formal written request.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

7.6.1 Noted the information update.

7.6.2 Agreed to provide advice to the Minister for Environment should a formal request to the Authority be received.

7.7 Waste Authority Business Plan

Following the Business Planning Session of the Waste Authority held on 17 March 2010, members were provided with a number of projects to match the funding intentions within the revised draft Business Plan.

Members discussed the revised draft Business Plan in the context of the revised draft II of the Waste Strategy. The Authority agreed to meet on Wednesday 21 April 2010, commencing at 12.00 noon – 4.00pm to discuss the draft Waste Authority Business Plan further. The Authority noted that this would provide an opportunity to include additional feedback on the draft II Waste Strategy.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

7.7.1 Noted the draft Business Plan and discussed mechanisms for completing the Business Plan and sign-off by the end of April 2010.

7.7.2 Agreed to meet on 21 April 2010 to discuss revisions of the draft Business Plan further.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

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

The Authority noted that the Goldfields Freemasons Pacific Car Tyre Recycling Project (CGS Round 1, 2009, \$5,000 plus GST) has been terminated due to contracts not being returned within the 30 day period required in 2009, despite several reminders. Members were advised that no correspondence has been received from the company to date. The Authority noted that \$5,000 put aside for the project would be reinstated to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

RESOLUTION:

8.1.1 The Authority noted the termination of the Goldfields Freemasons Pacific Car Tyre Recycling Project (CGS Round 1, 2009) and the reinstating of \$5,000 to the WARR Account.

8.2 Correspondence – Waste Authority/Ministerial

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

9. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Draft II – Waste Strategy for WA

The Authority noted that draft II of the Waste Strategy was approved for release by the Minister for Environment on 18 March 2010, following minor amendments and a request that all State Government agencies receive a copy. Draft II and the Workshop and Submissions Analysis Report were released to all participants who attended workshops or provided submissions for further comment by 19 April 2010.

10.2 Used Oil Collection Service for Local Government – Period 2 Report

The Authority received a report for Period 2 (1 July – 31 December 2009) from WALGA on the Used Oil Collection Service for Local Government.

The Authority noted that the used oil collection rebate scheme and the concurrent preferred supplier arrangement with Wren Oil has now been established for over 12 months. During this period, 951,410 litres of used oil has been collected and \$28,480 allocated to local government for rebate.

10.3 Monthly Report – Actual WMB staff numbers – March 2010

The Authority noted the staffing numbers within the Waste Management Branch, DEC were 17 staff members within the branch as at 31 March 2010 of a total allocation of up to 24 staff.

10.4 Household Hazardous Waste Update

The Authority received a report on the Household Hazardous Waste Program for the quarterly period November 2009 to January 2010.

The Authority noted the unconfirmed minutes of the 15 March meeting of the Household Hazardous Waste Committee, which are publicly available via the Authority's Towards Zero Waste Website.

10.5 Establishment of the Office of the Waste Authority

Members noted the appointment of staff to the positions of General Manager, Manager Policy and Executive Officer (job-share) for the Office of the Waste Authority.

The positions of Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Manager, Communications and Media Relations are yet to be finalised.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Sponsorship of the Waste and Recycle Conference 2010

Authority members discussed gold sponsorship of the Waste and Recycle Conference 2010 to be held in September 2010, consistent with its previous support of the event.

RESOLUTION:

11.1.1 The Authority agreed to become a Gold Sponsor of the Waste and Recycle Conference 2010, and to allocate up to \$15,000 from sponsorship, from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account to the event.

11.2 Waste Authority Annual Awards and WA Environment Awards

The Authority had previously agreed to establish its own Waste Authority Awards in 2010 (to coincide with the annual Waste and Recycle Conference). At its 2 December 2009 meeting, the Authority supported the proposed structure of the Waste Authority Awards and nominated Waste Authority Member, Professor Hardisty to represent the Authority on the Waste & Recycle Conference Committee to finalise details for the proposed Awards. After attending the first Conference Committee meeting, Prof. Hardisty informed members that between \$10,000 - \$15,000 would be required to fund the Awards.

In relation to the WA Environment Awards, the Authority had previously determined to reconsider its support of this event following the Authority establishing its own annual Waste Awards. The Authority discussed and agreed to maintain sponsorship of the WA Environment Awards, which showcases waste as part of the overall environmental picture.

RESOLUTION:

The Authority:

11.2.1 Agreed to allocate up to \$10,000 from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Account to fund the Waste Authority Awards in 2010.

11.2.2 Agreed to sponsor the 2010 WA Environment Awards Waste/Resource Recovery category of up to \$10,000 from the WARR Account.

11.2.3 Requested a letter to the WA Environment Awards Coordinator be prepared, advising of resolution 11.2.2 above.

12. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

13. NEXT MEETING

A workshop to discuss the Business Plan and draft II of the Waste Strategy will be held on Wednesday 21 April 2010 commencing at 12.00 noon to 4.00pm at a venue to be determined.

The next ordinary meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on 5 May 2010, commencing at 11.00am 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

5 May 2010