

# MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

Thursday 9 August 2007  
Department of Environment and Conservation Offices  
The Atrium, Level 4 Boardroom, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
9.00 AM – 12.00 noon

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## 1.1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.05am and welcomed all present. He advised that he had recently met with former Board member, Anne Nolan for a de-brief. The Chair also advised that he is currently co-located at DEC offices while undertaking the role of Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority until November 2007.

The Chair acknowledged that Michael Kerr is currently on annual leave and David Healy is Acting Manager of the Waste Management Branch. The Chair and David Healy are currently dealing with a number of outstanding issues relating to the Board.

The Chair advised that he is currently seeking advice on indemnity insurance coverage for members of the Waste Management Board.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Barry Carbon                      Chair  
Mr Geoff Richards  
Mr Graham Slessar  
Ms Fleur Newman  
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen  
Mayor Paddi Creevey

### ATTENDEES

Mr Robert Atkins                      For Director General, DEC (arrived at 9.50am)  
Mr David Healy                          A/Manager, Waste Management Branch  
Mr Bernard Ryan                        Manager, Policy and Evaluation  
Mr Paul Ward                            Senior Project Coordinator, WMRA  
Ms Diane McKinnon                      Executive Officer

Minutes/Actions

### APOLOGIES

Mr Michael Kerr                        on leave

## 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

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

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Waste Management Board meeting held on 12 July 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record subject to the following minor amendment:

### 6.3 – Draft Interim Guidelines for Organics Applied to Land

Resolution 6.3.1 was amended to read as 'The Board agreed that Michael Kerr should review the *Interim Guidelines for Organics Applied to Land* and consider further comments in conjunction with feedback provided by members.'

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

- 3.1 The minutes of the 12 July 2007 meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to minor amendment.**

**4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 06/2007**

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

**Actions from 12 July 2007 meeting:**

- 6.1 2007/08 Business Planning.** The Chair advised that he has briefed the Minister's Office on the proposed work program for 2007/08. A draft work program in a revised format has been prepared and subject to the Board's approval, will be presented to the Minister this week. The Board supported the document being presented to the Minister without delay. The Chair requested that David Healy prepare a briefing note to the Minister attaching the proposed work program.
- 6.3 Draft Interim Guidelines for Organics Applied to Land:** The Chair advised that since the last meeting, he has provided further comments on the draft document to Michael Kerr. Following consultation with DEC officers, it has been determined that the document will be issued by the Waste Management Board (as indicated on the front cover of the document with appropriate Board badging) but be published by the DEC.

The Chair expected that the document would be finalised within two weeks and forwarded to Board members prior to public release. The Board supported DEC officers (as part of the work of the Organics sub-committee) consulting with WALGA as a courtesy prior to publicly releasing the document. Mayor Creevey commended Board members and DEC staff for the progress made in finalising the draft interim guidelines.

The Chair advised that he has recently received contact from ROWA (Recycled Organics Western Australia) now known as Compost Australia concerning their interest in providing input to the Board on organics. They have provided significant contribution to the Board on organics in the past and requested to be kept in the loop. It was acknowledged that Geoff Richards and Jill Lethlean attend monthly meetings with this group. It was agreed that Compost Australia would be consulted at the same time as WALGA (via the Organics sub-committee) prior to the public release of the draft interim guidelines.

**Actions from 15 June 2007 meeting:**

- 1.2.7 Chairman's Report - Strategic Partnerships:** The Chair advised that he had recently met with the Conservation Council regarding Strategic Partnerships. The Chair is keen to support a staff member from both the Conservation Council and industry to work at DEC offices for a defined period on the proposed container deposit scheme. It is intended that a formal invitation will be extended to relevant groups shortly. The Chair undertook to look into accommodation requirements to support this initiative with the Board's Executive Officer.

**Actions from 10 May 2007 meeting:**

- 6.8 Amendment of Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 – Part 6 Tyres:** The Chair advised that the Minister has agreed to a two stage strategy to address the matter of better managing waste tyres – through the amendment of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1986 – Part 6 Tyres. The Director General of DEC has also written to the Chair advising that DEC is proceeding to develop the regulations as a high priority and is currently pursuing the secondment of a suitably experienced officer to assist with this work.

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

- 4.1 The Board supported the 2007/08 Business Plan document in its current format being forwarded to the Minister as soon as possible.**

**ACTIONS:**

- 4.2 DEC to prepare a briefing note for the Minister, attaching the 2007/08 Business Plan.
- 4.3 DEC officers (via the Organics sub-committee) to consult with WALGA and Compost Australia prior to the public release of the *Interim Guidelines for Organics Applied to Land*.
- 4.4 The Chair and DEC to determine appropriate accommodation at the DEC Atrium Office for up to 2 Strategic Partnership officers working on the Container Deposit Scheme.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT****5.1 Glass Crushing Proposal**

The Chair advised of a proposed joint venture between the Waste Management Board and the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council to seek applications from interested parties for the development of project/s designed to address the issue of post consumer glass packaging processing and re-use within WA. He indicated his keenness for the Board to be supporting initiatives and activities of this nature in a joint venture capacity.

The Board commissioned a major market development study for used glass in WA in 2006 which outlined a range of issues associated with post consumer glass packaging recycling and re-use in WA. It recommended that expressions of interest be sought from potential operators to establish a reprocessing operation within WA to process post consumer glass packaging and to identify the terms, conditions and support required in doing so.

The Chair advised that the Packaging Stewardship Forum is seeking the Board's support in placing an advertisement calling for expressions of interest in this regard. The Board supported the concept of jointly sponsoring the advertisement calling for expressions of interest.

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

- 5.1.1 The Board supported the placement of a joint advertisement with the Packaging Stewardship Forum calling for expressions of interest from interested parties to establish a reprocessing operation in WA to process post consumer glass packaging.

**5.2 Container Deposit Systems – Economic Analysis**

The Board discussed the forthcoming Container Deposit Scheme.

**5.3 Policy Input to the Board**

The Chair advised of his discussion with the Minister regarding the need to engage a specialist to assist the Board with providing senior level policy input into key issues, bought about in the main by Anne Nolan's resignation. One promising lead has been identified to assist with this work. It would involve the Board supporting a person's airfare and accommodation for up to one week and the organisation of meetings with key stakeholders being arranged by DEC prior to their arrival.

The Board supported the proposal as outlined by the Chair on the understanding that a clearly defined and focused work outline be developed. The work undertaken by the person will include assisting the Levy sub-committee on differentiation on the Landfill Levy and exploring interaction between charging and recycling. It was agreed that the person should focus on a few focused areas rather than try to take on too much in the timeframe available.

**RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

- 5.3.1 The Board supported the proposal outlined by the Chair to engage a specialist to assist the Board with senior policy input into key issues.
- 5.3.2 The Board agreed that the Chair and Fleur Newman, in consultation with DEC, determine a clear work outline for the proposed specialist.

## 5.4 Waste Oil

The Chair advised that he has written to the Director General of DEC conveying the Board's concerns over the lack of progress made on this issue.

DEC advised that it is focusing its efforts into looking at solutions in the short term. The Director of Environmental Regulation, DEC (Robert Atkins) chairs the Environment Protection Heritage Council (EPHC) sub-committee which is looking at short and long term solutions. A number of options are currently being explored in the short term. While the off-shore export of waste oil appears to be the main option in the short term (subject to necessary approvals), other options are currently being explored.

The urgency of finding a solution to the waste oil crisis has now become critical. The Board expressed its ongoing frustrations over the current situation. The Chair advised that he is meeting with the A/Deputy Director General, Environment – DEC and the Director of Environment Regulation to discuss this issue further.

## 6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

### 6.1 Direction for Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme and Community Grant Scheme Grants

At the last meeting, the Board deferred advertising Round 2 of the Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) and the Community Grants Scheme (CGS) pending a discussion on the future direction of the schemes.

The Board discussed priority areas identified for SWIS as outlined in Attachment 2 and agreed with the 7 areas proposed. In doing so, it was noted that flexibility was required to allow for unexpected emerging priorities that may arise. This is also the case for the Community Grants Scheme.

The Board discussed suggestions put forward in Attachment 1 on SWIS and CGS. This included raising the CGS funding limit to \$20,000, limiting SWIS grants to genuinely strategic projects, providing 70% of total SWIS funding to specific priority areas agreed to by the Board and up to 30% of SWIS funding to initiatives identified by applicants. Suggestions also included conditions being placed on local/regional government bodies and the private sector where assistance has been provided, to actively share results of SWIS grants within their relevant sectors.

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

- 6.1.1 The Board approved the advertising of rounds of the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS) and Community Grant Scheme (CGS) Grants.**
- 6.1.2 The Board approved the 7 priority areas proposed for the next round of SWIS as outlined in Attachment 2 subject to the inclusion of flexibility to allow for unexpected emerging priorities that may arise.**
- 6.1.3 The Board agreed that the SWIS should have the capacity to allow for specific projects that could be tendered through the development of scopes of works (thematic tenders).**
- 6.1.4 The Board agreed to raise the maximum limit for Community Grant Scheme Grants to \$20,000, subject to smaller grants having less onerous accountability requirements.**

### 6.2 Government Purchasing (Civil Works) – Opportunities and Barriers

The Board was advised by DEC of feedback from suppliers in the civil construction industry with regards to current barriers in using recycled materials in civil construction projects (including the Perry Lakes redevelopment, the Peel Deviation and the reconstruction of part of Welshpool Road) and options to address the barriers.

Major barriers identified by parties consulted included the potential for a lack of supply of recycled material, perception issues in relation to the quality and performance of recycled materials and a lack of specific standards relating to recycled materials.

DEC outlined that the lack of supply of material is the most significant barrier, as currently not enough material can be produced to supply the amount required by the Government. The challenge is to divert some of the 1.5 million tonnes of inert waste currently going to landfill, to recyclers. Options to address this could include the requirement of processing waste prior to it being accepted at landfill – including source separation at site and the development of policy which would see where practical, all demolition waste from government projects being recycled. A proposed discussion paper could explore inert waste processing further.

The Chair indicated that following his discussion with the Minister on this matter, he will talk to CEO's of key stakeholders in the industry (including large Government generators, such as utilities) to identify incentives for them to use recycled product. In view of the funding provided to support Local Government in producing strategic waste plans and the considerable amount of construction and demolition waste generated by this sector, it was determined that Local Government should detail within their strategic waste plans, how they are managing their own construction and demolition waste.

**RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

- 6.2.1 The Board supported the Chair in speaking with Chief Executive Officers of key Government generators and other stakeholders in the construction and demolition industry to identify incentives in using recycled products.**
- 6.2.2 The Board agreed that Local Government should be encouraged to detail within their strategic waste plans, how they are managing their own wastes, with particular emphasis on construction and demolition waste.**
- 6.2.3 The Board requested a short briefing note further exploring inert waste processing and an update on the status of discussions with CEO's if available at the next meeting.**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION****7.1 Significant Correspondence – Waste Management and Recycling Account**

The Board noted that the following final evaluation project reports had been received:

- o Rottnest Island Authority – Away from Home Recycling (Ref: SWIS S19835).
- o Gascoyne Growers Markets Inc – Gascoyne Growers Markets Plastic Bag Free Initiative (Ref: CGS C1123).
- o Agsafe Chemclear – Chemclear Program (Ref: SWIS S1848).

The Board noted the inclusion of an additional section within the briefing note highlighting possible promotion and communication opportunities of completed Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme, Community Grants Scheme or Waste Management and Recycling Fund grants. This section will be included within the briefing note provided monthly to the Board. Members agreed that any publicity of completed grants worthy of media interest should be promoted without delay.

**ACTION:**

- 7.1.1 DEC to coordinate the promotion of any completed grants worthy of media interest without delay.**

**7.2 Significant Correspondence – Ministerial/Board**

The Board noted the status of incoming and outgoing Waste Management Board correspondence as tabled at the meeting in Attachment 1.

**7.3 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bills – Update**

The Board received an update on the status of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bills progress.

#### **7.4 Organics Sub-committee – Update**

The Board briefly discussed the Western Australian Local Government Association's 'Draft Policy Statement for Recycled Organics Applied to Land' document. The Board agreed that the draft statement is a useful and constructive document.

The Board was advised on the status of the review of the Bio-solids Guidelines. At present broader issues in relation to the regulatory framework are taking some time to work through. DEC is continuing to collect information on bin systems used across Australia. Ultimately, this will lead to DEC guidelines on preferred bin systems.

In relation to the Organics Strategy and the need to have a high level strategic document that addresses best practice, the Board briefly discussed the need to progress this through a consulting study.

#### **ACTION:**

- 7.4.1 The Chair agreed to discuss the possibility of obtaining a copy of the literature review made available to consultants undertaking the NSW study with the Director General, DEC in NSW.**

#### **7.5 Extended Producer Responsibility Sub-committee - Update**

The Chair advised that the Extended Producer Responsibility sub-committee met recently to discuss EPR related matters. Another meeting will be arranged shortly to continue discussions.

#### **7.6 On-costs charged to the Waste Management and Recycling Account**

The Board noted that over the last two years, the Waste Management and Recycling Account (WMRA) effectively has been subsidised a total of \$3.1 million due to lower than full on-costs being charged to the WMRA by the DEC. In 2007/08, the amount will be around \$2.6 million, giving a three year total on-cost saving, at the end of 2007/08, of approximately \$5.7 million.

It was noted that the savings are in effect Consolidated Fund contributions to supporting waste management and recycling programs funded from the Waste Management and Recycling Account.

#### **7.7 Waste and Recycle Conference 2007**

The Board was invited to nominate two members to send to the Waste and Recycle Conference 2007 with full registration status, under the Board's entitlements of Gold Sponsor of the event. The Board was also invited to nominate other members who would like to attend the conference. It was agreed that Bernard Ryan would coordinate members' availability in attending this year's conference.

#### **ACTION:**

- 7.7.1 DEC to coordinate members' availability in attending the Waste and Recycle 2007 Conference.**

#### **7.8 Waste Management Board Priorities – Status Report**

The Board noted the information providing a status of the 2007/08 Business Plan projects. The information will be presented in the restructured format to reflect the new themes and theme elements as a standing agenda item.

The status of national activities was queried by members, in particular, E-Waste. In relation to E-Waste, the dates proposed to phase out analogue televisions needs to be addressed.

#### **ACTION:**

- 7.8.1 DEC to provide a briefing on the status of national activities at the next meeting.**

**8. PRESENTATION**

Nil

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**9.1 Policy Guidance on Best Practice for Bins**

This item was discussed as part of agenda item 7.4 – Organics sub-committee update.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting is due to be held on Thursday 13 September 2007 at DEC offices. However, due to the meeting falling in the week of the Waste and Recycle Conference, the meeting time or date may change depending on members' availability. The meeting may be held at the conference venue. Details to be confirmed.

Members agreed that the invitation to visit the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's Red Hill Facility in Giddegannup would be best to coordinate in conjunction with the Board's October meeting.

**11. CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Carbon', is written over a horizontal line.

Barry Carbon, Chair

**WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

13 September 2007