

MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

Thursday 14 February 2008
Department of Environment and Conservation
9.00 am – 12.30 pm

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.15 am and welcomed all present.

Michael Kerr advised that he is currently acting in the position of Director, Sustainability Division for two months and that Dr Jill Lethlean is acting Manager, Waste Management Branch during this time. He advised that the Waste Management Branch formally became part of the Sustainability Division in October 2007 and that the Division would fully form once the Director was appointed.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATTENDEES

Mr Michael Kerr	A/Director, Sustainability – for Director General, DEC	
Dr Jill Lethlean	A/Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Policy & Evaluation	
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer	Minutes/Actions
Mr James Milne	Senior Project Coordinator (Organics)	For item 7.4
Ms Sylvia Bulner	A/Senior Project Co-ordinator, WMRA	For item 7.5
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, WMRA	For item 7.5

APOLOGIES

Nil

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interests were declared by members during the meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Waste Management Board meeting held on 13 December 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

3.1 The minutes of the 13 December 2007 meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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 13 December 2007 meeting:

6.1 Agreement with Local Government to provide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services. Michael Kerr advised that the Agreement is currently with the Minister for his approval. The Minister is currently on leave and will progress the matter on his return.

7.6 Feedback on Zero Waste Plan Survey. Jill Lethlean advised that comments have been sought from Local Government on the draft survey report. It was agreed that once comments are received, the report is to be circulated out-of-session seeking the Board's endorsement to release.

9.2 Landfill Levy Review Report. Michael Kerr outlined that there was a delay in progressing outcomes from the Landfill Levy Review Report due to difficulties with the service provider for the Towards Zero Waste website. Remedial action is being taken and it is anticipated that submissions will be processed in due course.

7.10 Organics Sub-committee. Graham Slessar sought clarification on the approach of the sub-committee informally discussing municipal waste protocol with MWAC or WALGA and inviting MWAC to participate in discussions on this matter. The Chair advised that Local Government has provided a list of 8 items to the Minister for discussion, including best practice municipal waste management.

Mayor Creevey advised that the State Council of WALGA will change on 2 April 2008 as a consequence of elections held in October 2007. The next meeting (February) will be the last meeting of the current MWAC. A new State Council and new representatives will be on MWAC thereafter. While there will be a transitional period, MWAC and WALGA remain keen to work cooperatively. Waste policy is ongoing.

Mayor Creevey suggested that the way forward should include a letter from the sub-committee to MWAC, seeking representatives to participate in discussions with the Organics sub-committee on matters of interest, including best practice municipal waste management.

A copy of a paper prepared by Local Government on best practice municipal waste management was circulated to members during the meeting.

Actions from 13 September 2007 meeting:

7.8 Use of Recycled Content Materials in Construction Projects. The Chair advised that he recently met with the Minister, alongside CEO's of the Water Corporation, Main Roads, Verve Energy and Synergy. Matters discussed included purchasing policies, their use and capacity to use recycled materials and views on the use of a nominal charge on CO₂ in their major decision making process.

The Chair briefly outlined that two companies have been through the exercise of applying a nominal charge on CO₂ in their decision making. It showed that a charge of between \$25 - \$50 per tonne did not affect large decisions. In the absence of new supplies of gas in WA, it was noted that the use of coal will increase. Requiring a higher efficiency from coal may be beneficial.

With regards to the purchase of recycled products, the Chair outlined that participants found the message behind purchasing green confusing. Buying environmentally friendly goods is difficult as almost every product makes claims of being greenhouse friendly, recyclable, water efficient, environmentally friendly etc. Trying to determine which message takes priority is considered difficult. The Chair agreed to circulate notes of the meeting to members for their interest.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

4.1 The Board requested that the Zero Waste Plan Survey Report be forwarded to members out-of-session for endorsement, following the receipt of comments from Local Government.

ACTIONS:

4.2 The Chair agreed to circulate notes from the meeting held with the Minister and CEO's regarding the use of recycled materials and associated matters to members for interest.

4.3 Jill Lethlean and Graham Slessar to draft a letter to MWAC seeking representatives to participate in discussions with the Organics sub-committee on matters of interest.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nil

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION**6.1 Used Oil – Current Status**

Bernard Ryan provided a status report on the issues associated with the short and long-term management of used oil in WA.

Bernard advised that a scope of works for a consultancy has been drafted to investigate the fundamentals required to ensure WA has sustainable used oil collection systems and reprocessing infrastructure that maximises high-end beneficial uses of used oil – including consideration of EPR and other Government interventions. The consultancy will also inform WA's input into the national review of the Federal Product Stewardship for Oil program. It is expected that the tender for this consultancy will be released shortly.

Bernard outlined that used oil stockpiles are decreasing. A number of shipments have been progressed since late last year. The issue of storage tanks is still of concern, with storage expected to become limited during 2009. A joint venture group is currently looking into a proposal to build storage tanks.

A collection fee of 15 cents per litre for used oil has been established. Collection services have resumed for small to medium enterprises. However, some services in local government areas have not resumed due to an inability to incur the cost of collections. Bernard outlined that some Councils are experiencing their facilities filling up twice as fast as they are collecting double the amount of used oil. It was noted that the Commonwealth scheme does not appear to have been effective in alleviating concerns.

Bernard advised that Local Government is currently working on a tender for the collection of used oil. It was agreed that DEC provide detailed actions regarding a possible joint proposal through an out of session briefing note to the Board.

The Board queried the work of the EPHC Waste Oil Working Group, chaired by WA. It was noted that a draft report has been prepared for presentation to the EPH Standing Committee in February. It was also noted that a review of the Commonwealth's Product Stewardship for Oil program is also currently underway.

The Chair advised that the Minister will be attending the EPHC meeting in April. The Chair requested that more detail on the work of the EPHC Waste Oil Working Group be provided at the next meeting.

Members queried the progress made on a SWIS grant provided to Western Bio-power for the recovery and recycling of used oil from mine sites. DEC to advise accordingly.

The Board requested that DEC maintain focus on the used oil issue and sought assurances from DEC at Director General level, that it is taken on board as a pressing issue by the department.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

- 6.1.1 The Board requested DEC (Bernard Ryan) to provide detailed actions regarding a possible joint partnership arrangement between State and Local Government for used oil collection services through an out of session briefing note to the Board.

ACTIONS:

- 6.1.2 DEC (Bernard Ryan) to provide an update to the next meeting on the work of the EPHC Waste Oil Working Group.
- 6.1.3 DEC (Tony Beeson) to provide information, for the Board's interest, on the progress made on a SWIS grant provided to Western Bio-power for the recovery and recycling of used oil from mine sites.

6.2 China – Towards Zero Waste Summit – 15 to 18 April 2008

Michael Kerr provided the Board with information regarding a forthcoming *Towards Zero Waste Summit* in China during 15-18 April 2008. The Board discussed the opportunity to send a delegate to attend the Summit.

Due to the transition from the Waste Management Board to the Waste Authority, the Chair advised that any Board member wanting to re-nominate to sit on the Waste Authority is encouraged to attend the Summit. The Board noted the Summit and members agreed to give the matter their consideration. The Chair agreed to discuss with the Minister, the possibility of the Board extending an invitation for an industry representative to attend the summit.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

- 6.2.1 Members agreed to consider their attendance at the *Towards Zero Waste Summit* in China between 15-18 April 2008.
- 6.2.2 The Chair agreed to discuss with the Minister, the possibility of extending an invitation for an industry representative to attend the Summit.

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

The Board noted the final evaluation project reports received from:

- Worms E Waste Recycling – Recycling Computers from UWA (CGS Grant 2005);
- Swan Catchment Council – Bellevue Sustainable Industry Project (SWIS Grant 2004);
- Badgingarra Recycling Centre – Green 2 Green (CGS Grant 2007);
- Murdoch University – Organic Waste Minimisation (SWIS Grant 2005); and
- Joondalup Health Campus – Joondalup Health Campus Worm Farm (CGS Grant 2006).

Michael Kerr advised that Sarah O'Connell (Communications Officer) has tendered her resignation from DEC and that this may affect DEC's ability to follow through on promotion of finalised SWIS and CGS projects until her position is filled.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

- 7.1.1 The Board noted the summary of final evaluation project reports received for completed SWIS and CGS projects and the suggested promotional opportunities and further actions for the projects.

7.2 Significant Correspondence – Ministerial/Board

The Board noted the status of recent Waste Management Board correspondence received from or sent to the Minister for the Environment and the list of incoming correspondence addressed to the Chair and its status.

The Chair referred to advice from DEC to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) requesting the setting of remuneration for Waste Authority members. He advised that the DPC has a set formula for determining remuneration for Government Boards and Committees. The Chair advised that the letter from DEC enclosed a copy of Schedule 3 of the WARR Act to assist in describing the role and functions of the Authority. While Schedule 3 outlines the ancillary functions, the key functions of the Authority are outlined throughout the WARR Act, including responsibilities for receiving, collecting and distributing WMRA monies and the development of a comprehensive work plan for the levy.

The Chair outlined that he has requested Michael Kerr to advise DPC of key responsibilities in relation to the WMRA, as it is considered relevant for the DPC to factor this into their determination of remuneration levels for Waste Authority members.

ACTION:

7.2.1 DEC (Michael Kerr) to discuss with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, key responsibilities in relation to the Waste Authority's role and request that this be factored in to their determination on remuneration levels for Waste Authority members.

7.3 Preparation for Commencement of the Waste Authority

Michael Kerr provided an outline of the current and planned activities associated with the preparation for commencement of the Waste Authority. He advised that it is reasonable to expect the Authority will commence operation during May 2008.

The Chair advised that the Landfill Levy Act 2007 gives empowerment for the Governor to establish Regulations through advice and recommendations provided by the Waste Authority. Therefore, until the Authority is in place, various parts of the Regulations cannot be progressed. Michael Kerr provided members with a copy of the draft Regulations during the meeting (incorporating the Chair's comments).

The Chair advised that under the Regulations, the Authority is also responsible for the development of the mechanism that puts in place the Levy. He advised that there may be a significant period of overhang of the current Levy prior to the formal establishment of the Waste Authority and the move of funds from the existing Levy Account to the WARR Account.

It was noted that the Authority will be responsible for the development of a 5 year waste strategy and business plans, including EPR priorities. The Board acknowledged that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority will play significant roles in progressing key issues.

The Chair referred to the draft Regulations as it refers to the Landfill Levy. The Chair expressed his keenness for the Authority to consider recommendations of Dr Michael Blyth's Landfill Levy Review Report and subsequent submissions received. He highlighted submissions received from Eclipse Resources and requested to discuss issues raised within their submission at the next meeting as part of the discussion on the Landfill Levy Review Report.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

7.3.1 The Board noted current and planned activities associated with the preparation for commencement of the Waste Authority.

ACTION:

7.3.2 DEC (Bernard Ryan) to include issues raised by Eclipse Resources (in their submission on the Landfill Levy Review Report) in the discussion on the Landfill Levy Review Report at the next meeting.

7.4 Position Statement for Recycled Organics – Final Draft

The Board supported the changes to the final draft of the *Position Statement for Recycled Organics* to the Board.

The Board agreed that DEC issue WALGA with a copy of the final draft *Position Statement for Recycled Organics* for its information prior to sending the document to the Minister's office. It was agreed that WALGA's endorsement of the document is not being sought. The Chair agreed to inform the Minister that the document will be released shortly.

Mayor Creevey acknowledged the tremendous amount of work undertaken over a short timeframe and congratulated all DEC officers involved in the process and the Organics sub-committee.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

7.4.1 The Board agreed that DEC discuss the *Position Statement for Recycled Organics* with the relevant WALGA committee over the next week to address any significant issues.

7.4.2 The Chair agreed to advise the Minister that the Position Statement will be released shortly.

7.5 Mid-Term Financial Report – Waste Management and Recycling Account

Sylvia Bulner presented a mid-term financial report to the Board, demonstrating that revenue is in line with expectations; however expenditure is lagging for a number of reasons. The Account will be around \$6 million in surplus, and be in a good position for the development of new schemes and future projects.

A number of reasons were cited for the apparent underspend, including the delay in phase 2 of the Local Government strategic waste management plans, coming through to early 2009. DEC advised that around 40 regional council groups have formed to develop the plans. 57 local councils are working on plans on an individual basis.

The Board expressed concerns over delivery of programs and expenditure of funds expected under the Board's business plan. It was acknowledged that with the Account being \$6 million in surplus, it demonstrates a need to focus resources in key areas. The Board requested information to be provided at next meeting exploring the use of internal or external resources to spending the money.

Michael Kerr acknowledged difficulties in achieving expected expenditure under the business plan. He outlined that DEC is looking at what work it currently undertakes in support of the Board and determining its importance, as well as looking at DEC's role and purpose in that respect. DEC will engage with the Waste Authority as part of this process. The process will go further than identifying projects currently undertaken and will explore what the job of DEC is and what it can do best to makes things happen in support of the Waste Authority.

Michael Kerr highlighted the business plan project summary report which is presented to the Board at each meeting. He advised that an 'impediments' column will be included as part of the report, providing details of variances to expected program delivery and expenditure and reasons for those variances as well as action to be taken to resolve the impediments. It was noted that the reasons for delays in project implementation and expenditure were not simple in many cases.

ACTION:

7.5.1 DEC (Jill Lethlean) to provide a paper exploring the delivery of the Board's Business Plan for discussion.

7.6 Waste Management Board 2007/08 Business Plan Projects – Summary including Consultancies

The Board noted the summary report on the 2007/08 Business Plan projects at Attachment 1. Also provided for the Board's interest was a listing of current consultancies for the 2007/08 period at Attachment 2.

The Board unanimously agreed that the Chair speak with the Director General DEC regarding the need to streamline internal processes to deliver the Board's Business Plan.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

7.6.1 The Board supported the Chair to meet with the DEC Director General to discuss a way forward with streamlining internal processes to assist in delivering the Board's Business Plan projects in a timelier manner.

7.7 Progressing Outcomes from the Landfill Levy Review Report

The Board noted the amended process for lodging submissions on the landfill levy review and the delay in reviewing submissions bought about through the loss of data due to internet server provider difficulties. DEC is currently in the process of contacting various organisations through the *Zeroing In* database to determine if organisations made a submission and if so, requesting that they re-submit. This item was also discussed at Agenda Item 4 – Actions arising from previous meetings (9.2 13 Dec 08 – Landfill Levy Review Report) and at Agenda Item 7.3 – Preparation for Commencement of Waste Authority.

7.8 Container Deposit Scheme for WA

The Chair advised that he has been involved in recent discussions with the Minister and the Liquor Wholesalers Association regarding Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

The Board noted that South Australia has recently announced the doubling of its container deposit amount, to 10c per beverage container, and that the Environment Protection and Heritage Council meeting in April 2008 will include an item for discussion on a National CDS.

8. PRESENTATION

Nil

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Waste Generated from the Industry Sector

The Board noted that two thirds of waste generated in Western Australia is not covered under the WARR Act. Clarification on the role of the Waste Authority in looking at waste from industry and other sources (excluding Local Government) was sought.

The Chair noted correspondence from Eclipse Resources which raises broader issues regarding landfill management beyond the scope of the Landfill Levy Review Report. The Chair also noted that a paper highlighting a comprehensive assessment of landfill management in South Australia has recently been released.

9.2 Fleur Newman – Leave of Absence

Fleur Newman advised that she will be unable to attend the next three Board meetings due to undertaking a three month holiday overseas. This meeting is therefore effectively Fleur's last meeting due to the impending establishment of the Waste Authority in May 2008. The Chair and members thanked Fleur for her contribution as a member of the Board and wished her well for the future.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 13 March 2008 at DEC offices. A Business Planning Session will be held on Thursday 20 March. Details to be confirmed.

11. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

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

Barry Carbon, Chair

WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

13 March 2008