



# MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

## Friday 9 March 2007

Level 4 Boardroom, Department of Environment & Conservation  
The Atrium, Level 4, 168-170 St Georges Terrace, Perth

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:00am.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Barry Carbon	Chair
Ms Fleur Newman	
Mr Geoff Richards	
Mr Graham Slessar	
Mayor Patricia (Paddi) Creevey	
Mr Robert Atkins	For Director General, DEC

#### ATTENDEES

Mr Michael Kerr	Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Dr Jill Lethlean	Manager, Products Programs	
Mr David Healy	Manager, Stakeholder Programs	
Mr David D'Arcy-Burke	Manager, Communications	
Mr Tony Beeson	Manager, Waste Management and Recycling Account	
Ms Valerie Miller	Executive Officer	
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Policy and Evaluation	
Mr Sam Wilkinson	Snr Project Coordinator	
Mr Paul Ward	Snr Project Coordinator	
Mr Mark Neilson	Manager, Finance DEC	For item 6.1 For item 8.5 & 8.6
Dr John Ottaway	Principal Consultant (asst. Director) Environment	
Mr Reuben Gregor	Project Coordinator	For item 9.1

#### APOLOGIES

Ms Anne Nolan  
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen

### 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

A conflict of interest was declared by the Chairman during the meeting due to his involvement with Atlas 5 years ago. He declared that he would not be involved in any action on this matter.

#### RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

The Board

2.1 Noted Mr Carbon's conflict of interest.

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 9 February 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record subject to the following amendment to Item 7.3 as follows:

7.3.3 "Noted that the Department of Environment and Conservation will work with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to develop a draft Agreement on the delivery of a program to collect and dispose of household hazardous waste.

7.3.4 The Board agreed to inform local government it was supportive of the use of Waste Management and Recycling Account (WMRA) funds towards collection depots to collect household hazardous waste".

The Board discussed the need for a template with a summary of the Board's decisions with funding implications for the Minister. It was also agreed that the Minister should receive Agendas and Minutes of the Board meetings.

### 4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Members accepted and noted the actions from the previous meeting. Members agreed that the listing provided a true and correct statement of Board actions.

The Chair requested an update on negotiations with local government regarding the future of the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

#### **ACTION:**

**4.1 DEC to provide an update on progress of negotiations with local government on the future of the household hazardous waste program to the next Board meeting.**

### 5. ITEMS FOR DECISION ONLY

Nil.

### 6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

#### **6.1 Respective roles and business planning - Michael Kerr**

##### a) Legal advice on delegations

The DEC has received advice from the State Solicitor's Office regarding delegations for expending funds from the Waste Management and Recycling Account. The Board was informed that the legal advice indicated that approval of the annual business plan by the Minister does constitute a legal delegation to the DEC CEO to expend monies from the WMRA.

##### b) Merging of WMRA and DEC accounts

Mark Nielson, DEC's Finance Manager, advised the Board that, due to recent changes in government financial management policy, it is intended to merge the WMRA bank account with the DEC bank account on 31 March 2007. The Board discussed that although this change would not alter the separate management of the WMRA, there may be a perception among stakeholders that this increases the chance of WMRA monies being used for purposes other than funding waste management programs.

It was noted that the name of the Fund has changed to the Waste Management and Recycling Account. The Board agreed that DEC, on behalf of the Board, should develop a clear protocol that ensures the transparency of WMRA expenditure.

It was resolved that the Minister should be advised of the proposed merging of the WMRA and DEC bank accounts and the potential for this to be contentious.

It was noted that the Waste Management Board receives a Quarterly Financial Report on the Waste Management and Recycling Account, and that the next report was due to be presented to the Board at its April meeting, being the first meeting after the close of the Quarter.

## **RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

### **The Board:**

- 6.1.1 Resolved to advise the Minister of the proposed merging of the WMRA and DEC bank accounts, and that this is potentially contentious.**
- 6.1.2 Request the DEC to prepare a clear protocol for the management of the WMRA to ensure transparency of WMRA expenditure.**

### **ACTION:**

- 6.1.3 The Board recommended that DEC write to the Minister seeking his approval before the merging of WMRA and DEC bank accounts explaining why this is potentially contentious.**

## **6.2 Future Direction - Michael Kerr**

Mr Carbon advised the Board that he would meet with the new Minister and his staff in the near future and circulated a list of topics he proposed to discuss with the Minister's office.

The Board agreed to form an Organics sub-committee, consisting of Graham Slessar, Carolyn Jakobsen and Geoff Richards. The sub-committee would meet with relevant DEC officers out of session to discuss details of future initiatives on Organics, including Standards for Organics.

The Chair requested a briefing paper for the next Board meeting listing all priority areas identified by the Board and key stakeholders to support a strategic planning session that would inform the Waste Management Branch's 2007/08 Business Planning process.

The Chair requested the DEC to prepare a Briefing Note for the next Board meeting that reviewed progress on the implementation of the 2006/07 Business Plan and discussed "lessons learnt" from last year's plan.

## **RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

### **The Board**

- 6.2.1 Resolved to hold a strategic planning session at its April meeting.**

### **ACTIONS:**

- 6.2.2 DEC to prepare a Briefing Note for the April Board meeting listing priorities identified by the Board, the Minister and key Stakeholders**
- 6.2.3 DEC to prepare a Briefing Note for the April Board meeting on progress of implementation of the 2006/07 Waste Management Board Business Plan and include a discussion on "lessons learnt" regarding development and implementation of Board programs.**

## **6.3 Requirement to Cap Landfills - Sam Wilkinson**

Sam Wilkinson advised the Board that the Government was seeking a statement from the waste management/recycling area to put into the Premier's proposed Statement on Climate Change. The Board examined the Briefing note summary which had been prepared.

The Board also examined a document, Best Practice Environmental Management: Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Class III Landfills, which has been drafted by the Regulation Branch of the DEC.

The Board considered that the Best Practice document was trying to do two separate things:

1. provide technical advice on best practice landfill management, which the Board considered had been done very well; and
2. indicate actions that "must" be undertaken depending on the size of a landfill.

The Board considered that the later component of the guide, particularly relating to requirements to capture methane should be adopted under regulation rather than within a Best Practice document.

The Board agreed that the Public Policy Objectives on any regulation of greenhouse controls on landfills were :

- To assist in meeting the State's greenhouse gas emissions targets;
- To obtain better reporting and data on landfill gas generation;
- To provide a level playing field and certainty for the waste management industry; and
- To provide an incentive to divert organic waste(e.g. food scraps and garden waste) from landfills.

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

##### **The Board:**

- 6.3.1 Resolved that the emissions of methane from landfills in Western Australia should be regulated.**
- 6.3.2 Noted the document "Proposed Landfill Gas Collection and Destruction Standard – Fact Sheet "from the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment as a model for the regulation of emissions from landfill.**
- 6.3.3 Resolved not to endorse the DEC's draft guideline for Best Practice Environmental Management; siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Class III Landfills, in its current form.**

##### **ACTIONS:**

- 6.3.4 Advice to the Minister from the Board to be prepared on options for regulating landfill gas in Western Australia.**
- 6.3.5 The Board delegated to the Chair to provide input on the form of words relating to resolution 6.3.1 that could go into the Premier's Climate Change Statement with the Minister's office, on behalf of the Board.**

#### **6.4 Future Zero Waste Forum - David D'Arcy-Burke**

The Board was requested to endorse the topic for the upcoming Zeroing In forum to be "Waste and Climate Change".

The Board examined and discussed a summary that had been provided by Mr D'Arcy-Burke. It was noted that funding for Zero Waste Forums is included in the current approved Business Plan.

#### **RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

##### **The Board:**

- 6.4.1 Endorsed the topic for the upcoming Zeroing In forum to be "Waste and Climate Change".**

##### **ACTION:**

- 6.4.2 Briefing note to be prepared on the proposed forum.**

#### **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Nil.

#### **8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION**

##### **8.1 Significant Correspondence – WMRF – Tony Beeson**

The Board noted that the following contract termination and final evaluation project report had been received:

- Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) – Education Strategy GPE/19/00; and Upgrade and Enhancement of Red Hill Waste Disposal Facility Environmental Education Centre. GPE/04/01.

##### **8.2 Significant Correspondence – Ministerial – Tony Beeson**

**The Board noted and approved that:**

The Manager, Waste Management Branch:

- 1) Approves and notes:
  - a) contract terminations;
  - b) project milestones;
  - c) project reports;
  - d) contract changes;
- 2) Advises the contract administrator of the outcome

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

**The Board**

**8.2.1 The Board noted the listed contract transactions.**

**8.3 Used Oil situation in WA- Robert Atkins**

The Board noted the situation report prepared by Steve Beilby of the Department of Conservation and Environment (DEC) which had been circulated.

**8.4 Packaging - Jill Lethlean**

The Board had previously noted and discussed the background paper on packaging waste that had been prepared by Dr Lethlean at the February meeting. A presentation on the National Packaging Covenant was done by Reuben Gregor (item 9.1).

**8.5 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bills – Update - John Ottaway**

The Board noted the updated information which had been prepared by Dr Ottaway and the extreme urgency of this matter. It was agreed that it was very important that the WARR Bill be tabled in Parliament as soon as possible this year.

**8.6 Study Tour – Waste Practises in China - John Ottaway**

The Board noted the information provided by Dr Ottaway; and gave its support to the contribution of \$10,000 from the WMRF towards the overall expenses, subject to the Minister's approval.

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

**The Board**

**8.6.1 Supported the contribution of \$10,000 from the WMRF towards the overall expenses of Dr Ottaway's study tour in China, subject to the Minister's approval.**

**8.7 Study Tour – US and Canada – Michael Kerr**

Mr Kerr informed the Board of his intended study tour of US and Canada. The Board supported his participation.

**RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:**

**The Board**

**8.7.1 Supported Michael Kerr's participation in a EPR / CDS study tour of US and Canada.**

## 9. PRESENTATIONS

### 9.1 National Packaging Covenant - Reuben Gregor

The Board received a presentation from Reuben Gregor regarding the National Packaging Covenant. The Chair requested a brief summary of the status of the WA Used Packaging Materials Regulations.

#### **ACTION:**

**9.1 DEC to email the Chair a brief update on the status of the draft Used Packaging Materials Regulations.**

### 9.2 Results of Recycling Attitudes Survey – Synovate

The Board noted that the presentation from David Srdarov of Synovate regarding the results of the Recycling Attitudes Survey had been rescheduled for the April Board meeting.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Premiers Circular re – Crime and Corruption

The Chairman brought to Members' attention a circular regarding the Corruption and Crime Commission.

## 11. NEXT MEETING

Please note that the next meeting will be on Thursday 12 April 2007.  
Boardroom, Level 4, The Atrium, 168 St George's Terrace, Perth

## 12. CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 12:45 pm.

APPROVED/APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT



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Barry Carbon, Chairman  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

12 April 2007