



**Waste Authority**



## Official Communiqué of the Waste Authority

Number 4 – from the Waste Authority’s meeting - 4 May 2011

### **Chairman’s Report**

During April, the Chairman participated in meetings with the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and Compost WA. He also attended a monthly meeting of the Waste Management Association of Australia’s (WA Branch) Resource Recovery Facility Working Group where presentations on *‘Implementing an AWT Project’* were delivered. He also attended a workshop on the *Energy 2031 Strategic Energy Initiative* presented by the Office of Energy.

The Chairman met with representatives of the Forum of Regional Councils to discuss waste infrastructure planning. The Waste Authority is consulting with the planning authorities to ensure that there will be a seamless integration of planning for waste infrastructure into state planning instruments.

Finally, the Chairman thanked members of the Authority for their contributions over the last few years, through some challenging circumstances. All current members except the Chairman conclude their term on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

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Authority member Marcus Geisler briefed members on a workshop held with stakeholders to discuss operational aspects of the Western Australian Transitional E-Waste Program (WATEP). Solutions to operational issues were explored and a commitment was made by stakeholders to work through key issues, including the distribution of funding under the WATEP.

The Authority’s [Strategic Direction](#) was reviewed and updated to include a statement on funding policy. The Authority is moving away from providing ongoing funding in favour of being a catalyst for change by providing seed funding to help facilitate or establish sustainable projects aligned to the objectives of the draft Waste Strategy.

The Authority agreed to provide a submission on the [Pilbara Planning and Infrastructure Framework](#), (February 2011), released by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning. The [Authority’s submission](#) provides recommendations to assist in planning the future strategic management of waste in the Pilbara region.

A website developer has been selected for the design and development of a new Waste Authority website. Work is expected to be completed by September 2011. The new site will move to a newly established domain name linked to **wa.gov.au**.

Statistics for the [Towards Zero Waste](#) website for April show the website received an average number of visits during the month, with email campaigns highlighting [Communiqués](#), the [Community Grants Scheme](#) and the [Waste Awards](#) being the most popular pages.

The Authority was briefed on a project being undertaken by the [National Waste Policy](#) “Regional and Remote Australia Working Group” chaired by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Most states and the Northern Territory are contributing case studies to an online publication of waste management projects implemented in regional and remote areas, including Aboriginal communities, throughout Australia.

Each state or territory is contacting its stakeholders to gather project information, which will be assessed for publication by the Working Group. WA’s stakeholders include Authority grant recipients, local government, Aboriginal communities and service providers, mining communities and peak bodies. The aim of the publication is to share ideas and experiences for managing waste, resource recovery and re-use that can be implemented Australia wide. The Authority looks forward to the publication of the case studies.

The Authority was also briefed about planning by the State Government in partnership with local government for the future provision of municipal services, including waste management services, to Aboriginal communities in Western Australia. The Department of Local Government is leading the work. A scoping and costing template is currently being applied in regional and remote Aboriginal communities, and it is worth noting that a trial of the template in the Pilbara determined that improved waste management was a priority for many communities.

Another positive development in the management of landfills in Aboriginal communities has come through a successful Authority collaboration with the Department of Housing, Aboriginal community service providers and other government agencies. A policy to ensure that housing construction and demolition waste associated with the [National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing](#) (NPARIH) is managed in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner has been adopted.

The principles of the policy are:

- To manage construction and demolition waste in accordance with the requirements of key stakeholders.
- To ensure that construction and demolition waste is managed in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner and consistent with value for money outcomes.
- To maximise associated benefits for relevant communities (e.g. increased landfill capacity, economic benefits).
- To ensure efficient use of resources through coordination with related activities where possible and effective use of local landfill sites.
- Where local facilities are not appropriate or available, waste will be removed to a facility suitable for that purpose. (Eg asbestos).
- Opportunities to separate waste components in order to maximise recycling opportunities will be promoted wherever possible.

The Waste Authority is delighted with this outcome and thanks its partners in this work for this outcome, in particular the Department for Housing. The broader issues relating to the management and regulation of landfill sites in Aboriginal communities are to be considered in the mix of initiatives.

**Members Present:**

Mr Jim Malcolm	Chairman
Ms Jan Grimoldby	Deputy Chair
Mr Marcus Geisler	
Prof. Paul Hardisty	
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen	