

# MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING - REVIEW OF THE LANDFILL LEVY

Thursday 11 October 2007  
Department of Environment & Conservation Offices, Perth  
12.15 pm – 2.45 pm

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## 1.1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 12.15 pm and welcomed all present.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

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

### ATTENDEES

Dr Michael Blyth	Director, Four Scenes Pty Ltd	
Mr Michael Kerr	Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Policy and Evaluation	
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer	Minutes/Actions

### APOLOGIES

Mr Geoff Richards  
Mr Robert Atkins                      For Director General, DEC

## 2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

### 2.1 Consultant Report on Landfill Levy Review – Dr Michael Blyth

The Board commissioned a review of the Landfill Levy to determine the current and future effectiveness of the levy as an economic instrument for influencing waste management practices, including the reduction of waste to landfill. The review process also considered how a sound methodology for medium to long term increases in the levy could be determined.

The review was undertaken by independent consultant Dr Michael Blyth of Four Scenes Pty Ltd. Dr Blyth presented his preliminary findings to the Board during the meeting. A copy of Dr Blyth's presentation will form part of the minutes. Following Dr Blyth's presentation, members provided the following comments and observations:

- The timeframe for the public release of the Levy Review Report was discussed. It was anticipated that the final draft of the report would be finalised within the next week or so. It was agreed that a copy of the report would be provided to interviewees in the first instance, and made public thereafter. The timing of the public release was to be as soon as practicable.
- The Board's intent to establish a clear vision for the future was seen as one of the most common requirements of stakeholders consulted. The Board noted that many businesses had undertaken major investments and it was acknowledged that a certain degree of 'duty of care' is needed when considering the impact of levy increases so as not to jeopardise these investments.

- Providing for a more effective feedback loop with respect to the levy and individuals in the community was noted as an area that held some promise for maximising the direct impact of a levy.
- Effective dissemination of results from funded projects was seen as highly beneficial by stakeholders and may assist in overcoming the repetitiveness of requests for funding.

Members praised the efforts of the Consultant in bringing together the review including stakeholder consultation, within the short timeframe provided. It was noted that while many issues had been raised in previous forums, the independence of the process and the consultant's willingness to listen to stakeholder comments and concerns added to the success of the process. Stakeholders showed a high level of trust in the Consultant and it provided an excellent degree of interaction and optimism in steering the Board on where it is heading in the future. The process showed that the Board's objectives are shared by stakeholders and that future decisions will carry more support by involving stakeholders in the process all the way through.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of using a similar process in a discussion on the Board's Strategic Direction. It was agreed that this would be highly beneficial. It was noted however, that this consultation would require a wider range of stakeholders.

**RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:**

- 2.1.1 The Board agreed that DEC will work on finalising the draft levy review report with Fleur Newman. Fleur to provide to the Board a revised report along with feedback from stakeholders on their views on both the process and the report being made public.**
- 2.1.2 Following stakeholder consultation and support, the levy review report is to be released publicly for broader discussion.**
- 2.1.3 A stakeholder engagement process similar to that used for the levy review should be developed to assist in setting of the Board's 'Strategic Direction.'**

**3. CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Carbon', written in a cursive style.

Barry Carbon, Chair

**WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

13 November 2007