



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue No. 85



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Odour Management Key Stakeholder Group

Minutes June 2024

Mindarie Regional Council
Odour Management Key Stakeholder
Working Group

28 June 2024 Meeting – **Minutes**

Released 04/07/2024



Date: 28 June 2024, 11 pm

Location: Mindarie Regional Council

Attendance:

Executive Manager Operations (EMO)

Environmental Supervisor (ES)

Odour Consultant (OC)

Odour Data Assistant (ODA)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Landfill Leading Hand (LLH)

Apologies:

Waste Management Coordinator (WMC)

ELO: D-24-0005898

1. MRC – OMKS – Previous Meeting – completed actions

- DWER Community Update website
 - **Proposed Action: MRC to request from the DWER if any community residences have requested added information –**
 - **Update: awaiting their reply,**
 - **Action: reach out to the DWER for a reply on 17.4.2024**
 - **Action: have not heard, seek DO advice for action**

Hi Kathrine

I have been provided with the following page view data for DWER's Community Update page. The figures are a total since the page went live on the WA.gov.au website on 20th September 2023.

Page	Views	Users	Avg Engagement Time
/service/environment/environment-information-services/tamala-park-landfill	690	517	45 seconds

The updated wording for the page is with our Director to approve so I am hopeful it will go live in the next week or so.

Kind Regards

- Community Engagement Plan – Questionnaire
 - **Questionnaire - completed results in open discussions below.**
- Odour Management Plan
 - **Update on deliverable timeline – Mid-July 2024.**
- Budget - Council outcomes
 - **DWER and OC informed of council outcomes. EMO held an independent meeting regarding odours.**
- Landfill Gas Emission Investigation
 - **EDL is connecting into the leachate and extracting any landfill gas present – completed.**

- Landfill operators' technique for burying leachate pipe has been amended to reduce likelihood of landfill gas being emitted from the slotted pipe - completed
- Canister testing Source quotes for landfill gas odour testing – matching landfill gas (from landfill) to landfill gas (from power station). – requesting quotes
- ES investigating the last time the landfill gas wells were installed in the landfill and the gas capture of the gas wells previously installed. – completed, discussion with EDL to provide a draft drilling/well installation plan mid July 2024
- Raised the issue of landfill gas odour in the staff toolbox talks - completed

2. MRC – OMKS – Working Group

Open discussion:

1. Community Engagement Plan –

1. Questionnaire

- Outcomes of the questionnaire

Results:

		Questionnaire sent to 231 people - was at the time the number of listed complainants	
Sent /Emailed	231		
Replies	102	3	Complained about the form and didn't fill out
		98	Questionnaire responses
Suburb		47	Kinross
		35	Catalina/Clarkson
		13	Mindarie
		3	Other/ or no response
		98	
Number of years in property		16	1-2 years
		17	2-5 years
		31	6-10 years
		33	10 years +
		1	no data
		98	
Odour description	Mostly reported	Rubbish/garbage, sour or acid, gassy/chemical, sewerage	
Time		30	3-6pm
		55	6-9pm

From the summary sheet within the spreadsheet, the following key questions were raised, see below,

1. Is the smell affecting my health?

Group discussion:

OC: this is a really difficult one to explain. A person exposed to odour may feel physically ill, I mean physically, (can't breath, trying not to take in any more of the odour) however this reaction, is not the odour concentration (parts per million/

billion, in the air) that is making them physically ill (direct exposure) but rather the body's reaction to the discomfort the odour brings.

The concentration levels of odours within the community are not high enough to cause direct exposure symptoms, however, the symptoms are from the discomfort of odour and how it impacts on your way of life are real and being experienced. Thus impacting on your health and wellbeing (indirect impact).

2. What tests are undertaken to show health effects?

ES: Routine testing of ambient exposure (summer and winter). Results are assessed against Work Safe standards for exposure triggers. No exposure levels have triggered the standard.

EMO: 30+ staff work outside, routinely 6 in the landfill itself. Yes, it does smell and sometimes really bad. Working in open air means that the levels of odour concentrations are significantly lower than if you worked in an enclosed waste sorting facility.

3. When will Tamala Park be closed?

EMO: There are two scenarios to this:

- ✓ *Business as usual – all waste from the residents that live in Wanneroo, Joondalup, Stirling, Victoria Park, Cambridge, Perth and Vincent (750,000 residents) continue to be delivered at Tamala Park.*

- ***In 2 years, the landfill will close to accepting rubbish.***

- ✓ *Waste to Energy – some councils move to Waste to Energy (rubbish is taken to an incinerator and processed to produce electricity).*

- ***In 4 years, the landfill will close to accepting rubbish.***

Suggestion: a count down clock to closing on the website?

4. What steps are taken to prevent odours?

- *No night loads being delivered on site*
- *No odorous loads delivered after 3pm*
- *Increase charges to discourage odorous loads*
- *Zeolite being spread on landfill*
- *BioWish being sprayed into leachate ponds*
- *EcoSorb being sprayed daily on the afternoon cell*
- *Daily cover of limestone*

5. What has changed that the odour is now noticed more regularly?

The landfill is filling up. Meaning that the rubbish being delivered to the landfill is being placed at a point higher than the ground level. Weather/ breeze can blow odours more easily into neighbouring suburbs.

Around 2 years ago the organic content within the waste being delivered increased.

6. Is Tamala Park at capacity?

The landfill has <1,390,000 cubic meters of landfill airspace remaining. This equates to approximately 1,251,000 million tonnes of waste material still to arrive on site.

When Tamala Park first opened, it had the capacity to receive 10 million tonnes of waste.

7. What are the future plans for rubbish disposal?

- *The WtE contract would result in Tamala Park redirecting nearly 50% of its incoming waste streams to a processing facility down South.*
- *Should member councils resolve to implement FOGO collection services following the tender which MRC is currently evaluating, then it is estimated*

that another 14% of organic waste matter would transfer from their residential kerbside Red bin to the Green bin. The Green bin contents would then be delivered to the FOGO processing facility, resulting in a reduction in organic matter being landfilled at Tamala Park.

- *As this stage the Landfill Cells are expected to reach capacity by 2028. However, this only stops waste coming to the landfill site. The wider site will still accept residential waste at the onsite transfer station and recycling facility, at much reduced rates. These sites are intended to stay operational post landfill closure. The waste material accepted from these sites is not odorous and will continue to need to be transferred off site for processing.*

Action: the leadership team will discuss the answers to the questions and decide if the answers are included in the reply to all odour complaints that are registered on the system.

2. Community Interviews

- OC reaching out to individual community members, long-standing community members, and regular shares of odour experiences.
- 2 – Mindarie, 2 – Kinross, 2 – Clarkson

Discussion: The group, upon advice from the OC, discussed that the questionnaire is a far better way to hear the concerns of the community than one on one interviews/discussions with key community members.

On hold until further notice

3. The group discussed the possibility of holding a 'Town Hall' meeting for the community and councillors to attend, to give the community a greater 'voice' and allow the opportunity for the MRC to provide clarity on the current situation and future mitigation measures.

Given the MRC's lack of outward-facing staff, up to now, this has been something which has been difficult to contemplate. The group agreed that this would be a good step to take.

The CEO committed to move this forward.

2. Budget Discussion:

- 2024/25 Budget
 - Investigation of Leachate Treatment Plant options
 - Preliminary investigations underway

EMO – council meeting held on 27th June – outcomes of the CIP pending

- Capping of the Western side of the landfill
 - August 2024 mobilising to the site

3. Weather Station:

- RFQ – Awarded to Raich and Associates for a 3-year (1 +1) contract to upgrade the weather station, service, maintenance and annual subscription to Envirodata.

4. Mitigation – 8-week Misting Cannon

The Misting Cannons are expected to be operational by the 8th of July and will run for 8 weeks at a cost of \$145,000. The cannons will be run at nighttime when most odours are experienced.

- Update
 - ✓ Cannons (4) have arrived on site
 - ✓ Two will be located to the north and two to the south.
 - ✓ Currently, MRC is finalising the infrastructure that accompanies the cannons. With it due to be completed by the end of the 5 July 2024

3. Operations Optimisation Programs to reduce odours

Operational activity to reduce odours on-site during February and March 2024

Item	Activities on-site to reduce odour issues	Comments
Landfill	Zeolite	Spread onto ponding area
	Odorous Loads/ Special Burials/	Restricted hours applied to Biosolid deliveries, covered straightaway by the next incoming load.
	Covering the waste	150mm limestone
	Landfilling bench	5m reduced to 3.5m
	New Vibrating Roller arriving to site	Due 10 June 2024
Power Station	Generated Kwh	TBP
	Efficiencies – Tonnes CO _{2-e} Abated	TBP
Landfill gas	Landfill Gas Monitoring	Within Licence Condition parameters
	Efficiencies	May 2024 Wellfield adjustment Program - completed
Leachate	Leachate pond	BioWish added once a week. Ecosorb daily

4. Special Investigations/ Events

Landfill Gas Emission Investigation

Update:

A local drill company's name has been provided to EDL where both parties can discuss the possibility of shallow / horizontal / sacrificial wells on the landfill

5. Community Odour Complaints Register for May 2024

May 2024

During May 2024, one hundred and seventy-five (175) community odour complaints were registered. However, 44 registered complaints were blowing in the wrong direction.

Graphs of the May 2024 – Community Odour Complaints –

1. 25 days of 31 for May 2024 – odours were lodged, 6 days where zero odours experiences were lodged;
2. 116 odour complaints were identified.
3. 44 odour complaints were blowing in the wrong direction; and
4. 15 odour complaints did not provide enough data to investigate. They are lodged in the register as – No Data Provided (NDP).

Of the odour complaints registered

- 32 odours lodged from Clarkson/Catalina, 66 odours lodged from Mindarie, 75 from Kinross and 1 from Ridgewood
- Majority of odour reports were lodged outside of working hours
- Majority of odours reported as occurring outside of business hours

Odour Register Group

- 118 new residents registered odours complaints/76 existing

Month of May 2024													
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Confirmed Odour Impact	not investigated/ no impact	Different Complaints for that week	New Complaints for this month	Existing Complaints	
Date of the month			1	2	3	4	5						
Total Confirmed (+ possible) Odour events			0	24	2	4	4	34	6	33	20	13	
Operational Information													
External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC)			D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP		D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP						
Date of the month	6	7	8	9	10	11	12						
Total Confirmed Odour events	2	4	1	11	1	0	1	26	6	28	9	19	
Operational Information													
External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC)		D\VER, MP		D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP						
Date of the month	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
Total Confirmed Odour events	1	5	3	5	5	1	1	27	14	13	0	13	
Operational Information				E ESE winds	E ENE winds	E ENE winds							
External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC)	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	COV, D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP	D\VER, MP						
Date of the month	20	21	22	23	24	25	26						
Total Confirmed Odour events	2	1	3	4	8	0	0	18	23	30	11	19	
Operational Information					rain	rain							
External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC)	D\VER, MP												
Date of the month	27	28	29	30	31								
Total Confirmed Odour events	3	1	0	0	5			9	6	14	2	12	
Operational Information	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain								
External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC)	D\VER, MP												
Total Confirmed Odour Impact	14	11	7	44	27	5	6	114					
Total for Month								114	55	118	42	76	
Total Confirmed Odour Events The Year to date May 2024													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Nov	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monday	8	11	12	30	14								
Tuesday	9	11	10	15	11								
Wednesday	3	11	7	11	7								
Thursday	3	9	6	6	44								
Friday	4	1	3	4	27								
Saturday	4	6	3	10	5								
Sunday	5	3	6	11	6								
Total Confirmed Odour Events	41	52	53	87	114								
Year to Date - Confirmed Odour Events	41	93	146	233	347								

6. External Correspondence

Letter from the DWER requesting information on:

1. Detailed strategies of the odour management and changes proposed on premises
2. A detailed timeframe for when these actions will be undertaken
3. Details of the method of treatment and how any risks and emission will be managed and minimised during these proposed actions
4. Details of monitoring to be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the actions undertaken on the premise

The MRC will provide a letter to the DWER by COB 1 July 2024 regarding the questions raised above.

7. Key Meetings/ Events Ahead

Nil

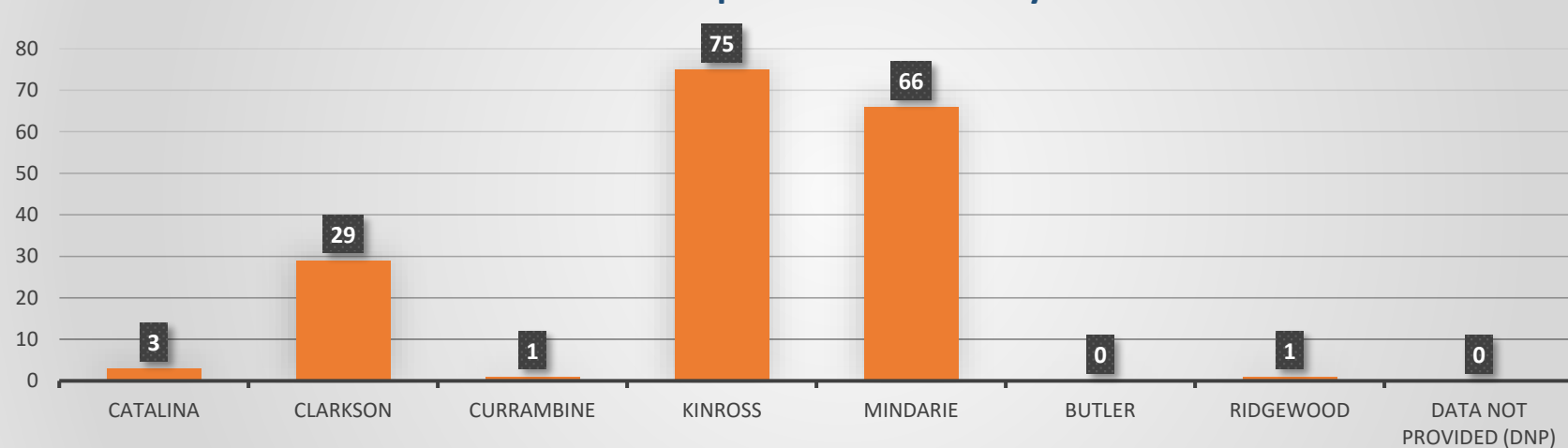
8. Next Meeting

July 2024

Event Odour Outcomes May 2024



Complaint Location May 2024



Donations - Financial Assistance/Support Report

DONATIONS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / SUPPORT REPORT	
File No:	GF – 21 -0000284
Appendix(s):	Nil
Date:	30 June 2024
Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Corporate Services

BACKGROUND

As per Council Policy Number *CP10 Donations – Financial Assistance / Support*, a qualifying not-for-profit community group (incorporated) and schools within the region performing an activity or activities that assists the MRC in achieving its objectives may be provided with a non cash donation of up to \$500 value, for waste disposal at the MRC weighbridge in any financial year.

The policy requires a report to be placed in the Members Information Bulletin annually providing details on the groups to whom support was provided and the type of support provided.

The following table provides details of the organisations that received donations and /or assistance support during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

From 1 September 2021, a contract with an external party exist for the reuse shop and recycling area, as a result, MRC ceased the assessment process for any new applications for this area.

Year ended	School/Not for profit community group	Support in dollars	Support in Tipping (Tonnes)
30 June 24	Yanchep Community Men's Shed	273.09	1.22
30 June 24	Harrison Bonner	43.00	0.20
	Total	316.09	1.42

Annual Employee Matching Community Contribution
Report

EMPLOYEE/EMPLOYER MATCHING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT	
File No:	GF – 21 -0000284
Appendix(s):	Nil
Date:	30 June 2024
Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Corporate Services

BACKGROUND

Council Policy Number *CP15 Employee/employer matching community contributions* provides the opportunity for employees as a group to support the broader community through charitable causes and organisations. In support of its employees, the MRC matches employee contributions to approved initiatives on a dollar for dollar basis from a minimum application of \$100 to a maximum of \$5,000 per financial year, in aggregate.

The policy requires a report to be placed in the Members Information Bulletin providing details on the charitable group and the level of support provided.

The following table provides details of the organisations that received donations and/or assistance support during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Year ended	Charity	Support in dollars
30 June 24	Leukaemia Foundation Donations (Great Shave Employer Matching)	170.00
	Total	170.00

MWAC Minutes June 2024

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, 26 June 2024
4pm, Online

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1 Attendance and Apologies

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Chair Cr Giorgia Johnson (Bayswater)
 Cr Wendy Dickinson (Harvey)
 Cr Natasha Colliver
 Cr Paul Miles (Wanneroo)
 Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge (Fremantle)
 Cr Michael Dudek (Stirling)
 Cr Bronwyn Smith (Wanneroo)
 Mr Michael Dufour
 Mr Scott Cairns
 Mr Brendan Doherty
 Ms Libby Eustance
 Mr Darrell Monteiro (Serpentine Jarrahdale)
 Ms Jacky Jurmann (Northam)
 Ms Rebecca Brown
 Ms Tazra Hawkins
 Ms Mackenzie Young
 Ms Nicole Matthews

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
 Bunbury Harvey Regional Council
 City of Greater Geraldton
 Mindarie Regional Council
 Resource Recovery Group
 WALGA State Council
 WALGA State Council
 City of Greater Geraldton
 Mindarie Regional Council
 Resource Recovery Group
 Western Metropolitan Regional Council
 Metropolitan Local Government
 Non-Metropolitan Local Government
 MWAC/WALGA
 MWAC/WALGA
 MWAC/WALGA
 WALGA

1.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Karen Chappel JP
 Mr Brett Jackson (Kalamunda)
 OAG Chair Ms Ruth March (Albany)
 Cr Laurene Bonza (Dundas)
 Ms Conor Macgill
 Deputy Chair Cr Karen Wheatland (Melville)
 Cr Les Price (Cue)

WALGA President
 Metropolitan Local Government
 Non-Metropolitan Local Government
 WALGA State Council
 MWAC/WALGA
 WALGA State Council
 WALGA State Council

2 Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 Procedural Matters

3.1 MWAC MINUTES TABLED AT WALGA STATE COUNCIL

A summary of the Minutes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting held Wednesday, 24 April 2024 will be noted at the next WA Local Government Association State Council meeting.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MWAC MINUTES

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Minutes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting held on 24 April 2024, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved Cr Dudek

Seconded Cr Colliver

CARRIED

5 Business Arising

5.1 FEBRUARY 2021 OAG ITEM 7.4 CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR WASTE

Action

1. It was agreed that a long-term Local Government Risk Mitigation Strategy for waste management was needed. To facilitate wider discussion on this topic MWAC will develop a Paper identifying the issues and a range of resolutions, including examples from other essential services such as power and water.
2. The existing COVID Mutual Assistance MOU put in place between Local Governments who run fleet and waste service providers expired in January 2023. There was support from the Officers for the MOU to be updated and expanded to cover more than COVID situations.

Status

1. See Decision Item 6.2.
2. Draft MOU developed. Consultation to occur in 2024 with industry and Local Government.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

An update was provided on the MoU which will on the Agenda for a future MWAC meeting for discussion.

6 Decision Items

6.1 POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW - EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY***

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Motion

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council:

1. Rescind the existing WALGA *Extended Producer Responsibility Policy Statement* and Advocacy Position 7.5 *Extended Producer Responsibility*.

Local Government supports the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility, as a mechanism for ensuring manufacturers of products take responsibility (be that physical or financial) for the entire lifecycle impact of their products. By placing greater responsibility on producers, Extended Producer Responsibility can potentially improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms, as well as encourage greater investment in infrastructure, research and development.

2. Endorse a revised WALGA *Product Stewardship Policy Statement* and Advocacy Position 7.5 *Product Stewardship* as follows:

Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy unlikely.

Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes, for all products, that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.

If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.

Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:

1. *Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
2. *Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
3. *Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
4. *Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*
5. *Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
6. *Being evidence based.*
7. *Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*
8. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
9. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
10. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*

Moved Cr Smith
Seconded Cr Miles

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) Policy Statement](#) was first endorsed in 2004 and reviewed and amended in 2008. The Statement outlines the rationale for Local Government support for EPR and some of the key elements of successful Schemes.
- WALGA's Local Government Principles for Product Stewardship was endorsed in 2022, outlining the key elements of effective product stewardship initiatives. These Principles provided more detail to allow Local Government to influence the development of Product Stewardship Schemes.

- Following discussion at the April MWAC and OAG meetings it was agreed to incorporate the Local Government principles into a new Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position.
- The Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position have been updated to:
 - Include a greater focus on the potential for Product Stewardship to influence the design of products, as well as their post consumption disposal.
 - Focus on ensuring all products have a clear and funded end of life pathway.

Background

WALGA's Extended Producer Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2004 and reviewed and amended in 2008, in 2022 Principle for Product Stewardship were endorsed to provide further detail on the essential elements of Product Stewardship.

The current Advocacy Position 7.5 *Extended Producer Responsibility* is as follows:

Local Government supports the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility, as a mechanism for ensuring manufacturers of products take responsibility (be that physical or financial) for the entire lifecycle impact of their products.

By placing greater responsibility on producers, Extended Producer Responsibility can potentially improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms, as well as encourage greater investment in infrastructure, research and development.

It is proposed to rescind the existing Advocacy Position and replace it with:

Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy unlikely.

Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes, for all products, that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.

If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.

Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:

1. *Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
2. *Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
3. *Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
4. *Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*
5. *Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
6. *Being evidence based.*
7. *Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*

8. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
9. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
10. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*

The Policy Statement (**attached**) has been updated to make the language more contemporary and incorporates the Principles for Product Stewardship.

Comment

Local Government has historically been responsible for managing much of the products consumed by the community. Unfortunately, rapidly changing waste streams have turned the process of managing post-consumption products into an expensive and complicated activity for Local Governments. Product Stewardship offers a mechanism to address this.

- Feedback from the Officers Advisory Group and MWAC has been incorporated into the advocacy position and Policy Statement, including:
Change from Extended Producer Responsibility to Product Stewardship, to reflect the current terminology used in Australia.
- Identification of the need for a more systematic approach to product stewardship, so that no product is released onto the market without a clear and funded end of post consumer pathway.
- Focus on the opportunities that can be realised in product stewardship regarding design, although this has been identified previously, it has not been effectively implemented in any of the current product stewardship schemes.
- Recommended a focus on waste avoidance as a priority and designing out waste.
- Ensuring there were measures in place to guarantee materials collected are recovered.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council agreed to update the wording under point two from 'physical or financial' to 'physical and/or financial' as an industry may take responsibility for both.

6.2 SUBMISSION DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY***

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Motion

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the release of the Draft WALGA Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy for comment.

Moved Mayor Fitzhardinge

Seconded Cr Dudek

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The [Draft State Waste Strategy](#) (Draft Strategy) and [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) were released on Wednesday 29 May 2024. This follows the Governments release of the Strategy Directions Paper in May 2023.

- Given the significant impact on Local Government of the Strategy, WALGA has requested, and received, an extension to the deadline which will allow the matter to be considered by all WALGA Zones and State Council.
- The focus of the Draft Strategy is:
 - Better outcomes for regional and Aboriginal communities
 - Increasing our focus on waste avoidance
 - Better management of priority materials
 - Realising the economic potential of recycling
 - Contingency planning and climate resilience.
- New Targets are also proposed for each of the Avoid, Recover and Protect areas.
- WALGA has developed a Draft Submission on the Draft Strategy, drawing on comments on the Directions Paper and feedback from the Officers Advisory Group.

Background

The approach taken in the Draft Strategy is very focused, and considers the key areas identified in the Directions Paper. The focus areas align with [WALGA's Submission](#) on the Directions Paper and pick up on some of the key recommendations relating to regional area, focus on priority materials and the importance of contingency planning.

A "Strategy Roadmap", to identify actions and initiatives, to be developed with stakeholders, is flagged in the Strategy as the implementation mechanism. For the current Strategy, WALGA suggested an Action Plan, which meets similar objectives and this has been a useful tool to track progress and maintain accountability for Government.

Comment

The Officers Advisory Group discussed the draft Strategy and agreed that that the Draft is building on a solid existing strategy. However, Officers considered the Draft is too focused on Waste to Energy (WtE). Instead, it should highlight food and organic waste. Officers also provided feedback on the targets in the Strategy and key focus areas. These comments have been incorporated into the Draft Submission (**attached**).

Timeframe for Submission development:

- 26 June MWAC consider Draft Strategy Submission.
- 1 July Draft Submission circulated to Local Government for comment.
- 17 & 19 July Local Government Webinar / Workshop on draft Submission.
- 31 July Additional MWAC meeting to consider draft Submission.
- 2 August Draft Submission included in State Council meeting agenda.
- 5 September State Council consider draft Submission.
- 6 September Endorsed Submission provided to the Department.

The State Waste Infrastructure Plan has also been released, analysis of this document is underway.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council agreed that the Draft Strategy builds on the current Strategy, however considered that the Draft does not emphasis waste avoidance sufficiently.

Comments on the draft Submission included:

- Emphasising WALGAs existing position on the scope of the Levy (geographic and type of facilities).

- Include resources and programs as way to help combat illegal dumping.
- The importance of specific funding for repair and reuse options at a local level, this could include a specific funding stream for things like reuse shops at Local Government landfills/transfer stations.
- The need for local markets/solutions for recycling, particularly in regional areas, the focus should be on developing local solutions.
- Highlighting the risk of Waste to Energy undermining existing sorting and waste avoidance behaviours.
- Ensuring the waste avoidance section of the Strategy include product stewardship.
- The approach to priority products is supported, but suggest including cardboard and paper to the list, particularly with the export ban coming into force on 1 July and no local processing infrastructure in WA for the material.
- Feasibility studies/funding for local use of greenwaste and cardboard.

The Draft Submission will be updated based on the feedback from MWAC prior to circulation to Local Government for comment.

WALGA is holding two workshops for Local Government to provide input into the Strategy, one in person (1.30 – 3.30pm, 17 July – register [here](#)) and one online (10 – 11.30am, 19 July – register [here](#)) event.

7 Discussion Items

7.1 WASTE TO ENERGY – CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Executive Summary

- DWER convened a meeting of the two Waste to Energy (WtE) Operators, Regional Councils and WALGA to discuss public communication approaches to ensure WtE does not undermine existing waste avoidance and source separation behaviours.

For discussion

- Considerations for Local Governments and Regional Councils

Background

Academic research, presented by Tim Kurz at the 2023 Waste & Recycle Conference and further research undertaken subsequently, shows that if the waste bin is viewed as a 'good thing' because it is generating energy it can undermine waste avoidance and potentially impact on other waste separation behaviours. As WA is the first State in Australia to have large scale WtE facilities it is important to ensure the communication is undertaken well and there are not unintended consequences.

DWER, working with the WtE providers, will generate consistent facts and figures and frequently asked questions, which will be provided to all stakeholders. The discussion highlighted that, for the community, we need to keep the communications simple (their waste sorting behaviour should not change), that WtE was a better option than landfill (landfill replacement) and that the potential terminology should change to be 'energy recovery' rather than waste to energy.

An out of session meeting of the Consistent Communications Collective has been scheduled to provide an update to those directly engaging with the community on this matter. Other communications with Local Government will be explored to assist in providing a consistent message. It should be noted that not all Local Governments in the metropolitan area have signed up to WtE.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council agreed with the risks identified of Waste to Energy undermining the waste avoidance message by labelling the waste bin as the 'good bin'. The messaging to residents remains unchanged regarding the importance of source separation and waste avoidance.

It was clarified that the output of a Waste to Energy facility was approximately 25% of the input; with 20% being bottom ash which is used in other countries for construction purposes like road base and 5% being fly ash, which is hazardous and will need to be disposed of to a suitable landfill.

The proposed terminology of energy recovery was discussed, as landfill sites with gas capture can also produce energy. This will be raised with the Department as part of the communications discussion.

7.2 E-WASTE LANDFILL BAN / NATIONAL PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Executive Summary

- The Regulations relating to the E-waste Landfill Ban, commencing 1 July 2024, have been released.
- WALGA wrote to the Environment Minister following the April MWAC meeting, expressing concerns about the ban and is awaiting a response.
- The Federal Government is progressing an expansion of the TV and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme, to include all e-waste, however recent correspondence indicates the progress may be slower than anticipated.

For discussion

- Areas of impact for Local Government regarding the e-waste landfill ban
- Advocacy options regarding the e-waste landfill ban and product stewardship scheme.

Background

WALGA wrote to the Environment Minister following the last MWAC meeting, expressing concern regarding the Ban and requesting support for Local Government, however has yet to receive a response. This was in line with WALGA's [Submission](#) on the Draft Regulations and Advocacy Position on Landfill Bans.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has been working on the review of the National Recycling Scheme for TVs and Computers, however the Department has recently disbanded the National Working Group progressing this matter and indicated that PV Product Stewardship is priority.

WALGA has requested more information from the DEECCW regarding this and raised the matter with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (as to the impact on the E-Waste Landfill Ban, as it was predicated on these items being covered by a Product Stewardship Scheme). The National Meeting of Environment Ministers is occurring on 21 June, and this provides an opportunity for WALGA to raise this matter, and the progress of other product stewardship priorities.

Following the release of the Regulations, WALGA staff met with DWER to discuss key concerns. Matters raised included:

- Duplicate data reporting: WALGA proposed in its Submission on the Regulations that Local Government could report through the existing [Waste Data Online](#) mandatory reporting process and the Department are progressing this option.
- Recovery of White Goods through scrap metal: The Regulations suggest separate reporting of the amount of white goods collected, however as they are recovered as scrap metal this may not be practical.
- Costs to Local Government: The Department has indicated there may be some funding available for operational costs for Local Governments in regional areas. WALGA are seeking further detail on the likely timeframe for any funding announcement.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council expressed disappointment regarding delays to the Product Stewardship Scheme.

8 Information Items

8.1 POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW UPDATE

Policy Statement	Status	Timeframe
Extended Producer Responsibility	Review in Progress	June OAG/MWAC
Waste Management Legislation	Review Scheduled	Initial review – August OAG/MWAC Revision considered – October OAG/MWAC
Container Deposit System	Review Scheduled	Initial Review – October OAG/MWAC Revision considered – November/December OAG/MWAC
Circular Economy	In development	Initial discussion – April OAG/MWAC Draft for consideration – October OAG/MWAC
Waste Levy	Complete	Endorsed May 2024 State Council
Recovered Materials Framework	Complete	Endorsed February 2024 State Council
Household Hazardous Waste	Complete	Endorsed December 2023 State Council
Waste Management Education	Complete	Endorsed December 2023 State Council
Waste Management Data and Information Management	Complete	Rescinded September 2023 State Council

8.2 WASTE & ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT

- On Thursday, 30 May and Friday, 31 May, nearly 80 delegates gathered in Northam to discuss the key waste and environment challenges and solutions for the Wheatbelt region. The discussion at the Summit highlighted the need for effective regional collaboration and the opportunities for further cooperation with businesses and Local Government.

- The event was opened by Hon Darren West, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action and both Mia Carbon, Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Emily Briggs, Deputy Director General, Climate and Sustainability, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, provided updates on their portfolios.
- Sponsors for the event included, the [Shire of Northam](#), [Waste Authority of WA](#), [Containers for Change \(WARRRL\)](#), [Avon Waste](#), and [Cooee Waste Facility Data Solutions](#).

8.3 COMPOSTABLE BARRIER BAGS

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation undertook a short consultation via a *Barrier bags consultation fact sheet*, which outlined the proposed ban on the sale and supply of non-compostable plastic produce bags for loose fruit, vegetables, nuts and confectionary from 1 September 2024. WALGA provided a response to the Department which identified:
 - WALGA supported the proposed barrier bag position, as it aligns with WALGA's previous [Submissions on Western Australia's Plan for Plastics](#). Mandating compostable barrier bags would enable barrier bags to be used as caddy liners for residents in Local Government areas implementing Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) collections, and potentially reduce soft plastic contamination in the FOGO stream. Research on high performing FOGO systems, and the Better Practice Guidelines developed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, highlight the use of caddy liners is a key factor in recovery rates.
 - Currently Local Governments are providing caddy liners to residents at the point of FOGO implementation and in most cases on an ongoing basis for collection from various Local Government facilities. The availability of compostable barrier bags would result in reduced costs to Local Government in the provision of caddy liners, while making it easier and more convenient for the community to regularly access liners.
 - WALGA broadly supported the design standards proposed, with the following comment regarding *Bag colour: Green or white tinting pigment can be applied to the bag film*: Compostable caddy liners supplied by Local Governments are uniformly green in colour, which assists FOGO processors in identifying certified compostable liners during the sorting process. To maintain consistency and reduce the risk of compostable barrier bags being screened out during the sorting process, WALGA recommends the design standard allows only for green tinting pigment.

8.4 NATIONAL ASBESTOS STRATEGY PLAN

- As part of the Across Agency Asbestos Group, WALGA has received correspondence from the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) regarding Consultation on the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024-2030.
- WALGA made a [Submission](#) on the Draft Strategic Plan and will provide commentary on the final plan based on this previous Submission.

8.5 LANDFILL GAS ACCU METHOD REVIEW

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) released a Paper on *Reform options for ACCU Scheme landfill gas methods Implementing recommendation 10 of the ACCU Review*.
- WALGA was contacted by LMS Energy, a WALGA Preferred Supplier of landfill gas related products and services, expressing concern that the “key recommended options in the Options Paper would result in significant, detrimental changes from current policy settings and increase methane emissions. This has the potential to undermine one of the few, unequivocal success stories we have for reducing emissions”.
- As this matter is very technical in nature WALGA did not develop a Submission, however offered the opportunity for a briefing to impacted Local Governments and Regional Councils and discussed the matter with the Waste Management and Resource Recovery (WMRR) Landfill Working Group.
- Several Local Governments and Regional Councils directly impacted by proposed changes have had a briefing and made a submission.
- At the Officers Advisory Group meeting extreme concern was expressed regarding any change to the existing methodology, as Local Governments and Regional Councils have factored ACCU income into future business cases. The impact is particularly significant for Landfills which are to close in the short-medium term, as ACCU's are the only source of revenue once the landfill is closed.
- It was noted that a number of Local Governments have benefited from ACCUs generated through their move to FOGO and that ACCUs can have a significant impact on the cost effectiveness of FOGO. Feedback was the Federal Government has not considered the full implications of any change.

8.6 E-CIGARETTE COLLECTION STUDY UPDATE

- WALGA is undertaking a limited time e-cigarette/vape collection study, with funding from the Waste Authority, occurring at the City of Stirling's Recycling Centre. Members of public can drop off up to 10 e-cigarettes per visit.
- The study will provide valuable information on the types of e-cigarettes being disposed of, the materials they are made from and the recovery pathways for each constituent part. This will inform WALGA's advocacy for product stewardship schemes for these products.
- To date, the study has collected 1,297 e-cigarettes, which were made up of 44 different brands, 60 different identified individual models, with 1,296 being disposable and only 1 being refillable.
- Perth Chemical Specialists (PCS) are the collection contractor for the study and are tasked with collecting, dismantling and disposal/recycling/recovery of the e-cigarette materials. The constituent parts of the e-cigarettes collected and their outlets for disposal are:
 - 39% of the vapes collected, by weight, are made up of lithium-ion batteries – which will go to a battery recycler.
 - 24% are metals – which will go to a metal recycler or upcycling community project.
 - 22% plastics – will go to a plastic recycler.
 - 14% liquid filled sponge (potentially containing nicotine) – will be sent for complete thermal destruction via energy recovery processor.

9 Reports

9.1 MWAC GROUPS

Metropolitan Regional Council Working Group

Delegates/Nominees: TBC

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

Consistent Communications Collective

Delegates/Nominees: n/a

This Group met on Wednesday 1 May and discussed consistent messaging for a range of topics.

Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Group/Operators Meeting

This Group met on Wednesday 12 June.

9.2 EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

DWER Regulatory Reference Group

Representative: WALGA Executive Manager, Policy

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

DWER FOGO Reference Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor, RRG, EMRC, WMRC

This Group is due to meet on 7 July.

DWER Recovered Materials Stakeholder Reference Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has been established by the Department to provide advice and input into the design and implementation of a Recovered Materials Framework for WA. The Groups first meeting is scheduled for 25 June.

Australasian Packaging Label Working Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting. The next meeting is on 13 July.

Hazard Coordinating Committee

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

Across Agency Asbestos Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer / Senior Policy Advisor

This Group met on 16 June.

Waste Authority C&D Working Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has been disbanded.

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group meet on Thursday 21 April.

Charitable Recyclers Australia

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has is scheduled to meet on Thursday 20 June.

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Representative

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

WALGA is representing ALGA on the Government Officers Group for the Australian Packaging Covenant. This Group is meeting on a monthly basis to provide input and direction into the development of the new regulatory framework for packaging.

E-Waste to Landfill Ban Technical Advisory Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group met on 4 June to discuss the implementation of the landfill ban.

Container Deposit Scheme Stakeholder Advisory Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

10 Other General Business

The meeting closed at 4.51pm.

11 Next Meeting

An additional MWAC meeting will be held at 4pm, Wednesday 31 July (online) to discuss an updated State Waste Strategy Submission. The next ordinary meeting of MWAC will be held at 4pm, Wednesday, 21 August (online).

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

List of resolutions for the financial year 2024/2025 plus any outstanding resolutions from previous years			
OCM /SCM Date	Item #	Resolution	Status
27.06.2024	14.1	<p>Items 1, 3, & 5 were put:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 1 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 3 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 5 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12/0</p> <p><i>For: Crs Castle, Creado, Ferrante, Gobbert, Hatton, Jacob, Mack, May, Miles, Proud, Smith and Vernon</i></p> <p><i>Against: Nil</i></p> <p>Items 2, 4 and 6 were put:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 2 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 4 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. Endorses the actions proposed for CIP Priority 6 in the Recommendations section of the confidential report. <p>CARRIED 8/4</p> <p><i>For: Crs Castle, Creado, Ferrante, Hatton, Miles, Proud, Smith and Vernon</i></p> <p><i>Against: Crs Gobbert, Jacob, May and Mack</i></p>	For Action
28.03.2024	9.4	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse the CEO's proposed internal audit function for Mindarie Regional Council. Request the CEO to provide a further report detailing the three-year work plan that will be the basis of a contract for the Internal Audit service. <p>Moved Cr Hatton, seconded Cr Creado</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the recommendation be adopted</p> <p>(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)</p> <p><i>For: Crs Castle, Creado, Ferrante, Gobbert, Hatton, Jacob, Mack, Miles, Proud, Vernon and Wright</i></p> <p><i>Against: Nil</i></p>	For Action
01.06.2023	14.1	<p>SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nominates Tenderer B as the first preferred tenderer for the Waste to Energy Tender. Nominates Tenderer A as the second preferred tenderer for the Waste to Energy Tender. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to commence commercial discussions with the preferred tenderers identified in 1 and 2 above with the intention of agreeing the terms of a Draft Waste Supply Agreement between the MRC and a waste to energy service provider. Authorises the CEO to negotiate with the MRC's member council CEOs on the terms of a Participants Agreement to support the MRC's ability to meet its obligations under the Waste Supply Agreement. Seeks a further report when the Waste Supply Agreement and Participant's Agreement are ready for Council's consideration. <p>Put separately :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to advise the Member Council CEOs in writing that they and/or the individual MRC Councillors are permitted to disclose the contents of Confidential Report 14.1 to their own Member Councils should they wish to do so in regard to any issues arising therefrom, provided that they do so as a confidential report to a meeting of their Council held in closed confidential session." 	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>FOR ACTION</p> <p>FOR ACTION</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>
29.09.2022	14.1	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses the publication of a tender for the provision of FOGO processing services. Requests the CEO to bring back to council a report, detailing the outcome of the tender and recommendations regarding an award. Approves an increase in the 2022/23 budget for the costs specified in the Financial Implications section of the report. Endorses the recommendation to insure the Neerabup Resource Recovery Facility, as detailed in the Confidential Report. 	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>For Action</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>