



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue No. 78



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**MINUTES - ODOUR MANAGEMENT KEY STAKEHOLDER
WORKING GROUP**



MRC

Odour Management Key Stakeholder Working Group

3rd August, 2023 at 11am

Moved to the 8th August at 8.30am

Agenda

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1. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Attendance –

Operation Manager (OM)
 Environmental Supervisor (ES)
 Waste Management Supervisor (WMS)
 Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 Commercial Relations Officer (CRO)

Apologies

Administration Officer (AO)

Note: Orange text is actions outstanding, discussions/ items raised from this meeting.

2. MRC – OMKS – completed actions

- Administration/ Environmental Department Issues
 - Action – Check old Waste Management Supervisors phone for any odour texts – completed
- Package 1 introduction – both new complainants didn't want to provide email for the package to be sent – just want to ring up and let you know.
 - Action – ES and AO - Encourage the complainant to leave details as it registers the odour event and they can be informed of what the MRC is doing in this space.
- Identified Key Stakeholders to attend meeting or receive minutes - confirmed that DWER and Member Council Information Bulletin now have been added to the list to receive the meeting minutes -completed.
- ES raised that text odour complaints are still coming. Will encourage complainants to following the correct procedure.
- OM raised the need to assess the odour efficiencies of the tarps
 - Tarps not used for odour management, however still used as per DWER licence condition.
- CEO informed that the Draft budget has been reviewed. A Budget workshop is pending for 22 June 2023, with a final review and approval by Council on the 13 July 2023. – completed
- **Investigate – Special Burials / odorous loads** to landfill via the weighbridge categories
 - Action: Investigate times and the number of special /odorous loads that require burial on arrival
 - Investigation Outcome – no deliveries after 4pm (M-F), Sat and Sun delivery – no deliveries after 2.30pm (landfill staff finish)
 - OM said, the 2023/2024 gate fee for odorous loads has increased by 32%
 - Action: OM Raise delivery times with Odorous Load contractor to confirm delivery times as (7.00-4pm M-F), (7-12.00pm S/S) this enable the material to be covered at the end of the shift - completed
 - Action: Reclassified their waste stream - completed
 - Action: WMS to review tipface procedure is managing odorous loads to landfill - completed

- **Southern Boundary odour management**
 - Repositioned the odour pods to the southern boundary for the winter program.
 - On-hold to see the outcome of the Vapour Guard system – installed along the southern wall on landfill, near the workshop (500m long)
 - Action: the Southern Boundary Pod Systems will be installed in early July 2023 - completed

3. MRC – OMKS actions from last month

- Information to provide to /or available on website, new website due soon
Action: 10.8.2023 request form to IT for hyperlinks to the four dot points in odour management on the website
- Reporting chain-in line with MRC charter
Action: AO and ES to review before next meeting.

4. MRC – OMKS – Working Group

Open discussion on its role and assign roles:

Discussion on roles: receiving and processing notifications/complaints

- Administration/ Environmental Department Issues
 - Complaints are coming via email to admin
 - Holidays of Admin – Action: how is cover managed
 - Admin busy – delays in reviewing emails due to busy schedule
 - Procedural suggestion for Odour Complaint phone calls
 - Action: Email template to capture all data
 - Action: Training for Admin cover
 - Action: Further discussion regarding the App – Whisper
- Package 1 and 2 – Community Odour Complaint Registration Package
 - Being shared around the Kinross community
Action: Add to field survey for consistent odour language

Odour Experienced	
Description	X
Rubbish	
Organic compost manure	
Rotten Eggs	
Dead Animals	
Gas Smell	
Sewage	
Milk and dairy	

*please note, methane has no odour

- Odour Flyer Information

D-23-0004579

- Website now - Change to website administration – moved to IT for updating going forward
- Send flyer out to Kinross Complainants–
 - Action: Information to go to Admin and extended staff that answer the phone
 - Action: Raised an IT job card for the upload of flyer onto website

Existing Key Stakeholders			
MPL Burns Beach	Tamala Park Regional Council	DWER	Member Councils' Information Bulletin – Provide key outcomes
Community Champion 1 – Kinross resident	Community Champion 2 – Kinross resident		

Add New Key Stakeholders Suggestions

5. Operations Optimisation Programs to reduce odours

Operational activity to reduce odours on site during the period July 2023

Item	Activities on site to reduce odour issues	Comments
Landfill Operations	EcoSorb (odour neutralisation product (enzymes that eat odour gases))	Should be delivered in the next 2 weeks – delay in shipment from the Eastern states
	Zeolite	5 Ton deployed over weekend (delivery Friday 4th), 20Ton order and being shipped from Queensland, arriving 29th September 2023
	Odorous Loads/ Special Burials	Biosolids are being landfilling in a location next to the side batter of landfill to reduce odour generation and migration
	Covering the waste	150mm limestone and/ or tarps cover applied daily to delivered waste
	Zeolite spread out on wet areas on landfill	Continue to be spread over the working bench
	Investigating barrier mitigation	Third party quoting and presentation

	Southern Barrier Odour Pods	Internal installation – Installed 2 August 2023, flyer ready for Website and sending to Kinross residents
	Landfilling bench	5m reduced to 3.5m
Power Station	Generated Kwh	Powering 2587 homes per month
	Efficiencies – Tonnes Co2-e Abated	13,433 tonnes (May)
Landfill gas	Landfill Gas Monitoring	Within Licence Condition parameters
	Efficiencies	July 2023 Wellfield adjustment Program - completed
Leachate	Leachate pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BioWish and BioKey being added to liquid on a weekly basis

6. Special Investigations

Odour Management – Third Party Desk Top Audit and Off-Site Investigation – Odour Report

Written report

- ✓ Provide a written report on the findings of the Desktop audit and investigation
- ✓ Provide recommendations to improve the current management practice with regard to, but limited to recording, investigation, mitigation and communication

Action: Draft report reviewed by MRC, waiting final copy. Once completed, report will be made available. DWER will also receive a copy

Landfill – Discussion about tonnes to landfill after hours

- Tonnes to landfill
 - Collect after hour tonnes to landfill data in relation to odour complaints
 - See Table 1
 - WMS raised the point that cover is started at 4pm
 - Action ES – to adjust the table 1 to reflect comment above.
 - Action: OM- discussed with City of Perth and City of Stirling waiting for DWER reply to Odour Report.
- Alternative odour reduction investigations
 - Odour mitigation after hours (to be discussed depending tonnes to landfill after hours' investigation).
 - Discussion – ES raised the possibility of a IBC spray neutralising unit being used on tipface.

- Action – Further discussion WMC /operations staff

Budget Discussion:

- 2023/24 Budget in place
 - Ongoing works funded
 - Mitigation measure, part of daily operations
 - Future work budgeted
 - Investigation Leachate Treatment Plant options
 - Preliminary investigations underway
 - Capping of Western side of landfill
 - Preliminary investigations underway
 - Ambient Air Monitoring Units
 - RFQ – two units (mobile)
 - Sensors include Interested in the following gases, hydrogen sulphide, totally volatile organic compounds, nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, Temperature, Humidity, wind, direction
 - Odour Misting/vapour system ring around landfill
 - Requesting a performance based product including service and maintenance

DWER REPLY TO COMMUNITY COMPLAINT REGISTERED ON THE 10TH JULY 2023

- Odour complaint lodged on 10th July 2023, MRC was CC'd into the lodgement
- MRC replied to the DWER and the Complainant with investigation findings
 - Wind blowing in the wrong direction for odour to impact on the complainants' area
- DWER reply: Appendix 1

7. Community complaints investigation/ interpretation July 2023

Complaints received summary reviewed in conjunction with Section 8

Complaint Location for the month of July 2023 and year to date (*Figure 1 and 2*)

- Registered Odour complaints
 - 33 Complaints from 24 complainants, of which 18 were new compliants– for July 2023.
 - 76% of the July complaints for odour came from Kinross
 - However, year to date, Mindarie still has the highest number of complaints

Odour Event Outcomes for the month of July 2023 and year to date (*Figure 3 and 4*)

- 55% of July complainants experience or possible experienced odour
- 33% a high proportion on complainants' events were not investigated as no time and dates were provided – this has been addressed in package 1 being sent out and/or sharing the importance of timely reporting when they contacted MRC.
- Overall (year to date) – 60% of all comp complainants experience or possible experienced odour

D-23-0004579

Odour Event Reporting for the month of July 2023 and year to date (Figure 5 and 6)

- A significant number of July complainants 70% contacted MRC after hours which still links in with the overall high number (year to date) of 56% contacted MRC after hours. After hours has been recorded as anytime outside of operating hours (4.30pm right through to 8.30 in the morning)

Odour Mitigation for the month of July 2023 and year to date (Figure 7 and 8)

- 84% of July complainant's said they experienced odours outside of working hours which still links in with the overall high number (year to date) of 66% odour experience after hours.
- MRC has limited ability to effectively mitigate odours over night
- If 28% of July complainants notified MRC in a timely manner, the MRC would have had the potential to mitigate - this has been addressed in package 1 being sent out and/or sharing the importance of timely reporting when they contacted MRC

Note: Odour Reporting event – is the time the odour is reported, Odour Mitigation is the time the odours is experienced and the ability of the MRC to mitigate.

Final comments:

- Long-time Kinross residents were experiencing odours for the first time over July.

Action

- New consistence language to be tabled/graphed next month (section 4 smell description table)

8. Management of incoming odour complaints (internal process)

Figure 1

Complaint Location July 2023

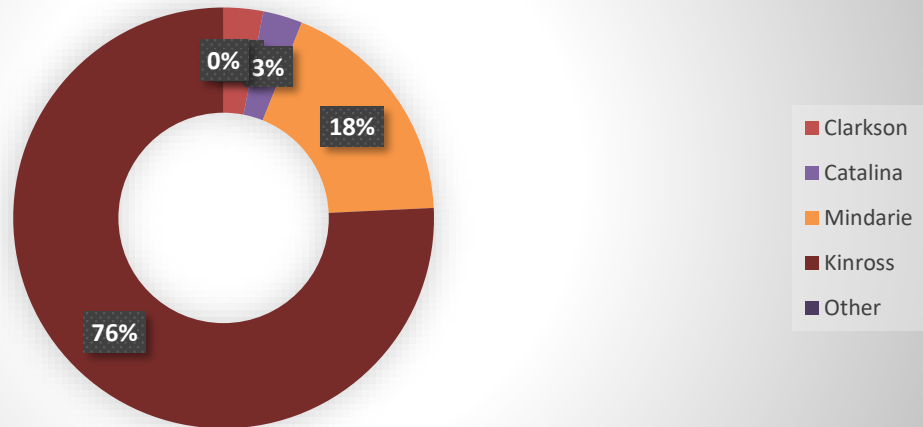


Figure 2

Complaint Location year to date (July) 2023

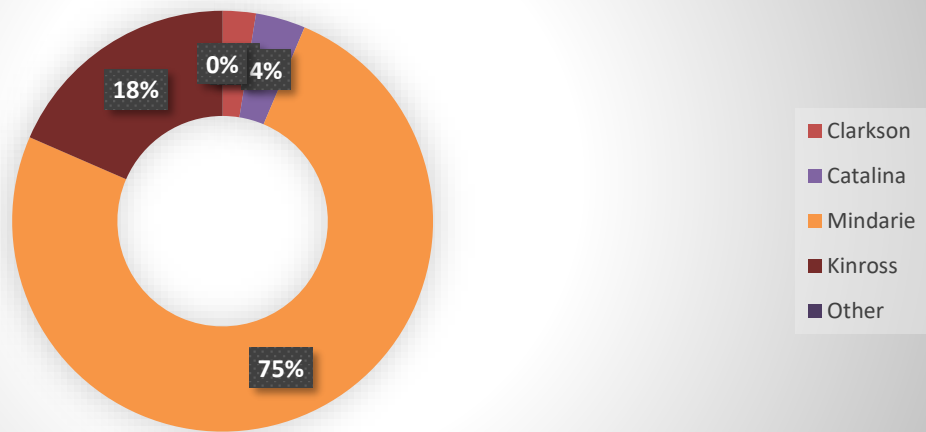


Figure 3

Odour Event Outcomes July 2023

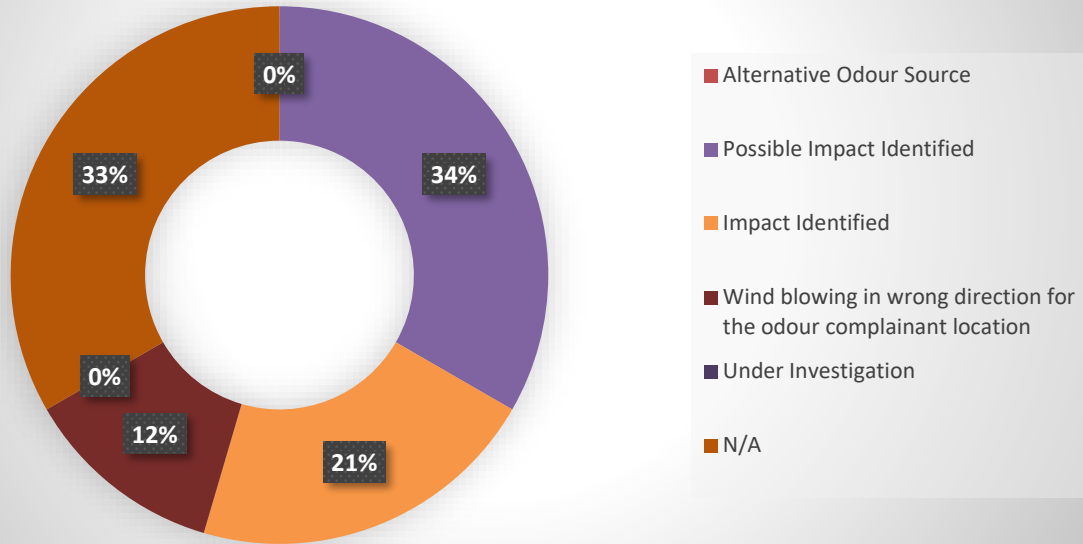


Figure 4

Odour Event Outcomes year to date (July) 2023

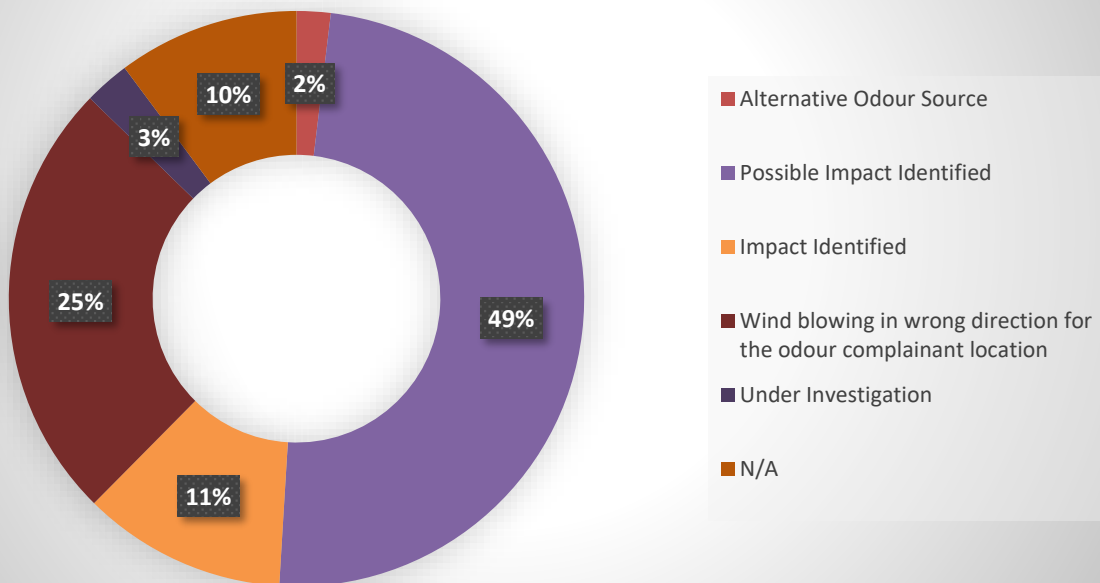


Figure 5

Odour Event Reporting July 2023

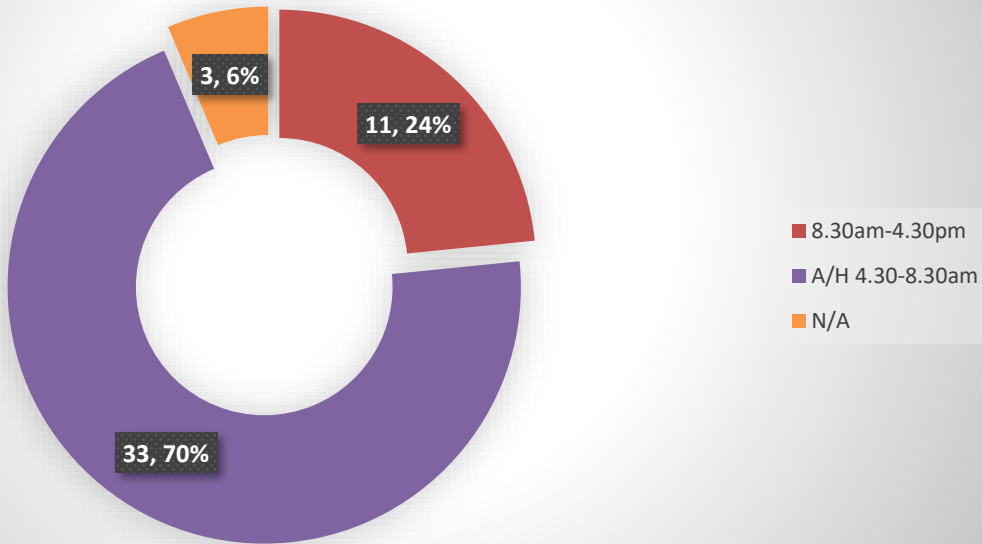


Figure 6

Odour Event Reporting year to date (July) 2023

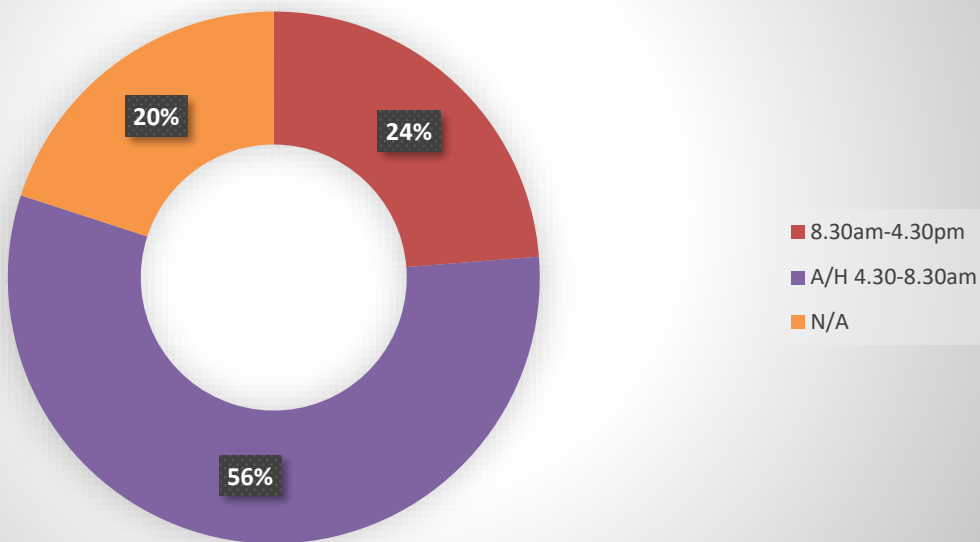


Figure 7

Odour Mitigation July 2023

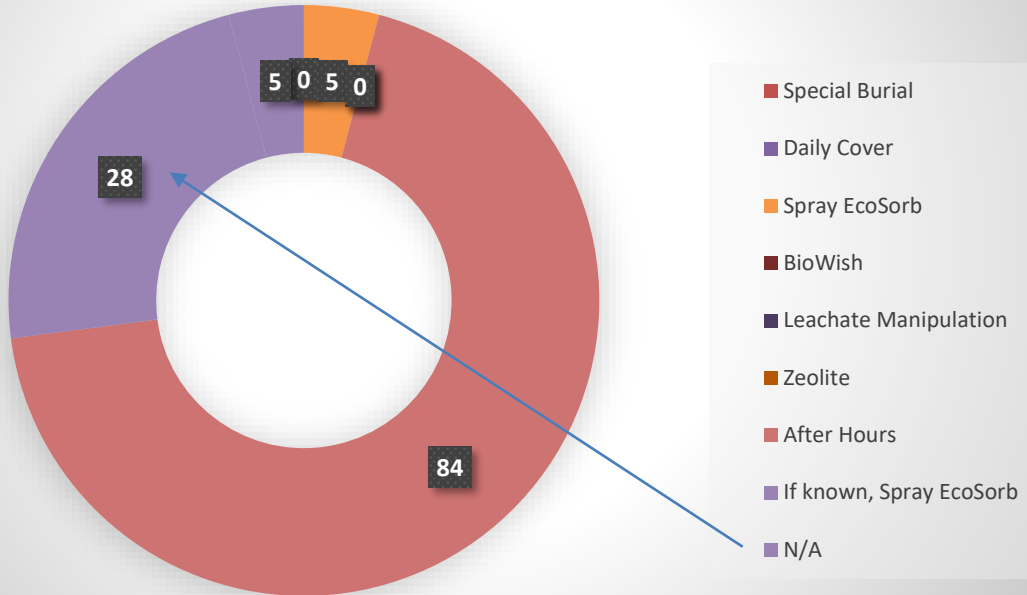
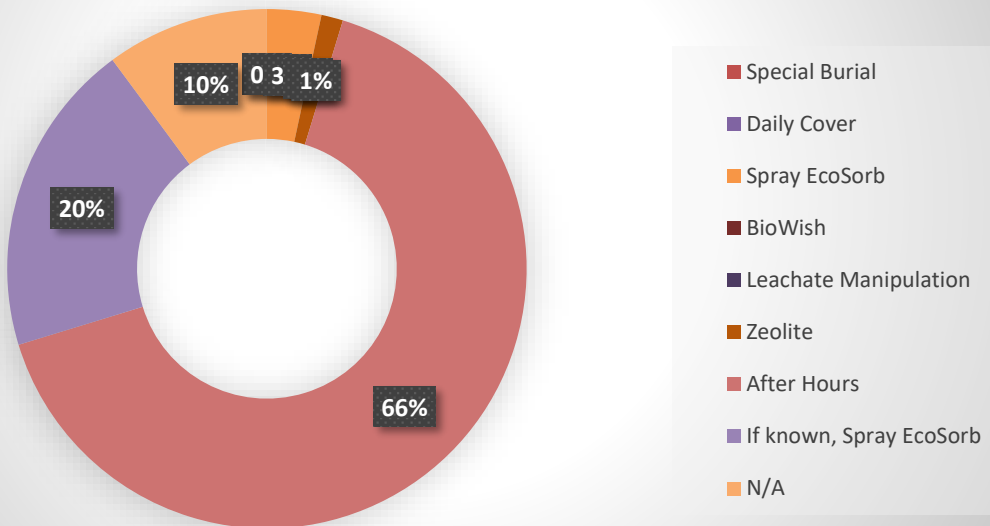


Figure 8

Odour Mitigation year to date (July) 2023



D-23-0004579

Surrounding Site Aerial of Total Odour Complaints Location for 2023 (RED circle showing current odour location for this reporting period, BLUE circle previous reports year to date) D-23-0001631



9. External Correspondence

Community Champions

- Two have been added Key Stakeholders

Development of Catalina Green – TPRC

- Action: provide Statterley and TPRC an information flyer regarding closing, odour and general information

Government Agencies

- Suppling DWER with Odour Report / minutes of OMKS –WG minutes

10. Key Meetings / Events Ahead**11. Next Meeting**

Scheduled early September

**MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) –
MINUTES**



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

Municipal Waste Advisory Council

Minutes

4:00pm Wednesday, 28 June 2023

Online

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Attendance

Cr Giorgia Johnson (City of Bayswater)	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Cr Doug Thompson (Fremantle)	WALGA State Council	<i>Chair</i>
Cr Les Price (Cue)	WALGA State Council	
Cr Bob Hall	City of Greater Geraldton	
Cr Karen Vernon (Victoria Park)	Mindarie Regional Council	
Cr Karen Wheatland (Melville)	Resource Recovery Group	
Cr Andrew Maurice (Mosman Park)	Western Metropolitan Regional Council	
Mr Marcus Geisler	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	
Mr Michael Dufour	City of Greater Geraldton	
Mr Scott Cairns	Mindarie Regional Council	
Mr Stefan Frodsham	Western Metropolitan Regional Council	
Mr Brett Jackson (Kalamunda)	Metropolitan Local Government	
Ms Ruth March (Albany)	Non-Metropolitan Local Government	<i>OAG Deputy</i>
Ms Rebecca Brown	Municipal Waste Advisory Council	
Ms Tazra Hawkins	Municipal Waste Advisory Council	
Ms Nicole Matthews	WALGA	
Cr Michelle Rich	Environment Policy Team	
Ms Shamiso Chadyiwa	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	<i>Observer</i>

Apologies

Cr Tresslyn Smith	Bunbury Harvey Regional Council	
Mr Tim Youé	Resource Recovery Group	<i>OAG Chair</i>
Ms Conor Macgill	Municipal Waste Advisory Council	
Ms Candy Wong	Municipal Waste Advisory Council	
Cr Karen Chappel JP	WALGA President	<i>Observer</i>
Cr John Daw	Environment Policy Team	
Mr Kevin Ketterer (Kalgoorlie-Boulder)	Non-Metropolitan Local Government	
Mayor Ruth Butterfield (Armadale)	WALGA State Council	
Cr Peter Abetz	City of Gosnells	
Ms Yvette Plimbley (Vincent)	Metropolitan Local Government	

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.

1 Procedural Matters

1.1 MWAC Minutes Tabled at WALGA State Council

A summary of the Minutes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting held Wednesday, 19 April 2023 will be noted at the next WA Local Government Association State Council meeting.

1.2 Confirmation of the Previous MWAC Minutes

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION (CR THOMPSON/CR PRICE)

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

1.3 Out of Session Flying Minute – Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan***

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION (CR THOMPSON/CR MAURICE)

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council confirm the outcome of the out of session Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan – 14 June 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Background

The out of session Flying Minute of 14 June 2023 has been distributed to the Council for ratification, the outcome was as follows:

Submission on the *Draft Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan*

For:

Cr Doug Thompson (Fremantle)	WALGA State Council
Cr Georgia Johnson (City of Bayswater)	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
Mayor Ruth Butterfield (Armadale)	WALGA State Council
Cr Peter Abetz	City of Gosnells
Cr Karen Wheatland (Melville)	Resource Recovery Group
Cr Andrew Maurice (Mosman Park)	Western Metropolitan Regional Council

Against, including no response:

Cr Les Price (Cue)	WALGA State Council
Cr Tresslyn Smith	Bunbury Harvey Regional Council

Cr Bob Hall
Cr Karen Vernon (Victoria Park)

City of Greater Geraldton
Mindarie Regional Council

The Flying Agenda Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan and WALGA Submission on the *Draft Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan* are **attached pp. 1 and 3 respectively**.

2 Business Arising

A	Issue	June 2021 MWAC Item 5.8 FOGO in MUDs		
	Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Officer will follow up to determine if information on the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> can be provided to Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) so the members understand the regulatory requirements regarding Local Government waste collection. The Chair requested that the Executive Officer provide information on how the amount/type of education a Local Government undertakes can impact on their contamination rate. 		
	Timeframe		Status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete. Complete. See Information Item 5.5.

3 Decision Items

3.1 Submission on the State Waste Strategy Directions Paper***

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION (CR PRICE/CR WHEATLAND)

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, and Environment Policy Team, endorse the Submission on the *Review of Western Australia's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Directions Paper*.

In Brief

- The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy) Directions Paper*, as the first stage of consultation on the Strategy Review.
- Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback (with comments due Friday, 23 June 2023).

Background

The Waste Authority is leading a review of the Waste Strategy, which was released in 2019. The review will seek feedback on how the Waste Strategy is performing, what is working and opportunities for improvement.

A Directions Paper has been developed to identify opportunities to build on existing initiatives, such as Containers for Change and WA's Plan for Plastics, improve service delivery in regional and remote

communities, align with state policy and further investigate emerging technologies as alternatives to landfill.

The Directions Paper also requests feedback on the Waste Strategy's current objectives, targets and priority materials, application of the Waste Levy and emergency management of waste.

Comment

A draft Submission on the Directions Paper was developed and circulated to Local Government for feedback. A consultation session with Local Government was held on 14 June 2023 to gather feedback from the sector (21 Local Governments registered for the session). The Officers Advisory Group also met on 21 June 2023 to discuss the draft Submission and the key issues for inclusion in the final Submission. The Submission identifies the focus areas for the updated Waste Strategy including:

- Focus on waste avoidance, through evidence-based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles.
- Engagement and opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase material and resource recovery.
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, packaging and tyres.
- Coordination and focus for regional and remote areas to assist with developing regional solutions to increase resource recovery and reduce waste.

Members of the WALGA Environment Policy Team attended the MWAC meeting to provide input into the discussion.

Consultation on the Directions Paper closes on **11 July 2023**. The Submission is **attached p. 13**.

Discussion at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council

MWAC and the Environment Policy Team discussed the draft Submission, key points raised included:

- For some of the non-metropolitan Local Governments landfill was currently the only viable waste management option. For small regional Local Governments to consolidate waste sites, funding would be required. These Local Governments have a small rate base and costs to build and maintain regional infrastructure are significant.
- The current Strategy was broadly on track, and the review should focus on fine tuning the approaches.
- The need for additional focus on illegal dumping, in particular increased compliance and fines.
- Regional Local Governments may want to meet the Targets in the Strategy but have only limited capacity. For example to undertake FOGO processing and would need funding to upgrade facilities and time to update licence conditions.
- For FOGO in Perth and Peel, the focus of the discussion was on the need to have circular solutions which linked into other existing Government priorities such as the development of Urban Tree Canopy and Climate Change Action.

A motion, which was put forward at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Annual General Meeting by the Town of Bassendean, was discussed. The motion called for additional funding for FOGO from the Federal Government to assist Local Governments and Regional Councils to develop processing infrastructure. The ALGA Board will consider this motion.

The Executive Officer outlined the request received from the South West County Zone. The Submission will be updated to ensure it is clear that the Waste Strategy and Infrastructure Plan need to aligned.

That the South West Country Zone requests WALGA to:

1. *Call on the Waste Authority to support a deferral of the draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan to allow alignment between a new Waste Strategy and an infrastructure plan that is to implement waste strategy direction;*
2. *Request the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to defer consideration of the draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan until the terms of a new Waste Strategy are determined, so as to allow alignment between document;*
3. *Incorporate within a submission to the Waste Authority, the following in relation to a new Waste Strategy:*
 - a. *Vigorous support for the circular economy principle, encouraging new technologies to regenerate resources from waste;*
 - b. *Support for localized (close to source) waste processing initiatives that can regenerate waste as a resource;*
 - c. *Maximise the value of waste as a resource, creating commodity value;*
 - d. *Actively encourage innovation in-line with circular economy principles; and*
 - e. *Outline pathways that will enable innovative solutions, including alternative waste processing practices.*

3.2 Soft Plastics Advocacy

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION (MAYOR VERNON/CR WHEATLAND)

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse sending correspondence to the State and Federal Environment Ministers:

- Calling for effective product stewardship for soft plastics.
- Identifying Local Government opposition to collection of soft plastics through the kerbside system.

In Brief

- WALGA, with the other Local Government Associations, is advocating nationally against the proposed inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling collections (by the Australian Food and Grocery Council).
- This item proposes writing to the Federal and State Environment Ministers as part of this advocacy and to support other correspondence sent by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and other Local Government Associations.

Background

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) is undertaking trials for kerbside collection of soft plastics as part of the [National Plastics Recycling Scheme](#) project, with Local Governments directing residents to collect soft plastics in a designated bag and placing in the Recycling bin. AFGC's website and associated communications state the trials and project have '*secured broad support from local councils and the waste and recycling industry for kerbside collection of soft plastics.*' The inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling, whether in a designated bag or loose in the bin, is not supported by ALGA or individual state and territory Local Government Associations.

The federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) recently commissioned Arcadis consultants to provide an options report on *A National Roadmap for Kerbside Harmonisation*, which makes a strong recommendation for soft plastics to be included in kerbside collection.

Through an ALGA representative on the Resource Recovery Reference Group (RRRG), WALGA has reiterated the problematic nature of collecting and processing soft plastics and recommended non-kerbside solutions be explored. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) are supportive of the position of Local Government and will also be undertaking advocacy on this issue.

Comment

Local Government NSW and the Municipal Association of Victoria have sent correspondence to the Federal Environment Minister on this matter. ALGA resolved at its 25 May 2023 meeting to send similar correspondence to the Federal Minister.

It is proposed that WALGA also write to the Federal Minister, copied to the WA Environment Minister.

Discussion at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council

WALGA has also been approached directly by the AFGC and will provide a response summarising the concerns regarding flexible plastics in kerbside recycling.

3.3 Data and Information Policy Statement Review

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION (CR THOMPSON/MAYOR VERNON)

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council rescind the *Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement*.

In Brief

- WALGA Advocacy Position [7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#) and [Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#) were endorsed in 2010 and were used to advocate regarding Local Government reporting requirements as the State Government developed their voluntary data reporting requirements and for funding for Local Government to undertake data collection.
- While the principles and approach to data collection in the advocacy position and policy statement are still valid, data provision by Local Government is now standard, and required under regulation.
- It is therefore recommended that MWAC and WALGA State Council rescind this Advocacy Position and Policy Statement.

Background

WALGA Advocacy Position [7.5 Waste Management Data Collection](#)

Local Government asserts that the State and Federal Governments have a role in compiling and publishing waste management data centrally, as well as providing support to Local Governments in collecting data.

Background

Local Government acknowledges the importance of using consistent data as a tool to make evidence-based decisions. However, there are constraints for Local Governments in collecting waste data in terms of capacity and data availability, which has meant that accurate waste management data is not always readily available. WALGA developed the Data and Information Management Policy Statement to assist the sector in identifying when data should be collected and various uses. The Policy Statement was also used by WALGA in contributing to the development of the Department of Environment and Conservation's waste data collection program, which aims to assist Local Governments in meeting their reporting responsibilities.

State Council Resolution June 2010 – 61.3/2010

Supporting Documents

[Waste Management Data and Information Management Policy Statement](#)

Background Paper: Policy Statement on Waste Management Data and Information Management (2010)

This Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were developed to inform advocacy, as at the time the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation were developing the Local Government Waste Management Census – a voluntary data collection approach. Since that time the Census has been reviewed and there are now compulsory data report requirements for Local Government and the broader waste management industry.

The Policy Statement identifies:

- The importance of consistent waste management data.
- The constraints on Local Government in producing data.
- Sector responsibility in regard to waste management data.
- Key issues to be pursued in order to ensure reliable data.

Comment

While the principles and approach to data collection in the Policy Statement are still valid, data provision by Local Government is now standard, and required under regulation. Following discussion at the Officers Advisory Group meeting it was agreed to recommend to MWAC and WALGA State Council that this Advocacy Position and Policy Statement be rescinded.

Discussion at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council

This item was passed with minimal discussion.

4 Discussion Items

4.1 Waste Levy Rate Increase and Schedule

In Brief

- Environment Minister Reece Whitby [announced](#) the waste levy will increase to \$85 per tonne from 1 July 2024.
- An initial [5-year schedule](#) of waste levy rates per tonne and per cubic metre has been published with further increases to be considered as part of the upcoming *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy) review.
- Consultation on a proposal to expand the waste levy boundary into regional areas will take place later this year.

For Discussion

- Comments on the increase and implications for Local Governments and the proposed expansion to regional areas.
- Focus areas for advocacy on this issue.

Background

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation undertook a review of the waste levy in 2020 which examined the rate of the waste levy, future increases, geographic area of the waste levy and Waste to Energy. WALGA has advocated for certainty regarding the trajectory of the waste levy to enable long term business and service planning. The WALGA Submission on the review is available [here](#).

The Minister for Environment announced the waste levy will increase to \$85 per tonne and \$129 per cubic metre from 1 July 2024, with a 5-year schedule of rates established which will be updated periodically. *Even though a 1-year notice period has been given, an existing 1-year lead time on new waste trucks, coupled with facilities for FOGO not expected to be completed until June 2025, means Local Governments will still incur at least 1 year of the new waste levy.*

Outcomes of the review included a proposal to expand the waste levy boundary into regional areas, with consultation to take place later this year. Details of the proposal are not yet available, however the Department has indicated it will consult on the costs and benefits of several options for the expansion.

WALGA's [Policy Position](#) on the waste levy does not support expansion to regional areas, on the basis that application of the waste levy to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area would prove to be a significant logistical and financial impost on Local Government landfill operators. WALGA has written to the Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation seeking a meeting to discuss the waste levy.

Discussion at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council

The Council discussed the differences between the capacity of larger metropolitan Local Governments and small regional Local Governments to collect the Levy. Illegal dumping in peri-urban areas was raised, it is costing the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale approximately \$1M annually for illegal dumping clean up, with materials including asbestos and tyres regularly being dumped.

The focus for advocacy was discussed:

- Fully hypothecation for the Levy
- Expenditure on positive actions for example FOGO infrastructure funding
- The implications of State Government relying on an environmental levy which will decrease over time.

MWAC requested the WALGA write to the Environment Minister regarding the Levy.

4.2 Product Stewardship for Electrical and Electronic Waste

In Brief

- The Federal Government has released a [Discussion Paper](#) *Wired for Change: Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic systems waste*.
- This is an opportunity for Local Government to identify the key issues for this regulation to be effective, including coverage for all types of electrical and electronic waste and ensuring all costs associated with transport and recycling of these materials are included.

For Discussion

- Engagement with Local Government and encouraging Submissions.
- Key points for the WALGA Submission.

Background

WALGA has made a [Submission](#) on the opportunities to improve the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS), by ensuring expansion of coverage to include all electrical and electronic waste and ensure the Scheme covers all costs associated with recycling these materials (including transport). WALGA has also made a [Submission](#) on the issues with photovoltaic (PV) product stewardship. WALGA, and other Local Government Associations, have provided a range of feedback to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in the lead up to the release of the Discussion Paper.

The goal of the regulation is to:

- Reduce waste going to landfill, especially harmful material found in electrical and electronic waste.
- Increase recovery and re-use of valuable material in a safe, scientific and environmentally sound manner.
- Provide convenient access to recycling services for e-products and solar panels across Australia.
- Help Australia take responsibility for its own waste and reuse the materials to make other products, and support Australia's transition to a circular economy.
- Encourage all those involved in the creation, sale, use and disposal of e-products to act in a way that is consistent with reducing waste to landfill.

Due to the previous detailed Submission, the proposed approach for development of a Submission is:

- 6 July 2023 – Consultation webinar with sector.
- 10-13 July 2023 – MWAC Flying Agenda for final Submission.
- 17-21 July 2023 – State Council consider final Submission out of session.

Submissions are due by Sunday, **23 July 2023**. There will be further consultation, through a Policy Impact Assessment (formerly a Regulatory Impact Statement), which will look at the costs/benefits of the various regulatory options. WALGA will also have the opportunity for input through membership on the DCCEEW E-waste Reform Working Group.

Discussion at the Municipal Waste Advisory Council

The costs associated with electrical and electronic waste recycling are significant for Local Government and effective product stewardship is needed, particularly as the State Government plans to progress a ban on e-waste to landfill by 2024. There was support for Local Governments being encouraged to make submissions on the Discussion Paper and being provided key points for inclusion in a submission.

5 Information Items

5.1 HHW Program Update

- A new 5-year funding agreement has been finalised for the HHW Program, starting from 1 July 2023. It is anticipated the Program will be officially launched in the coming weeks.
- WALGA is seeking to extend the contract with the current service provider, Cleanaway, for 6 months to ensure sufficient time for the tender process for the new Program.

5.2 City of Nedlands to become WMRC Participating Council

- In an initiative led by their Mayor, the City of Nedlands has agreed to become a Participating Council of the WMRC. This will remove the \$25 entry fee which their residents have been paying for every visit to the West Metro Recycling Centre in Shenton Park in return for an annual per household fee paid by the City.
- This will put the City's residents on the same footing as those of the Town of Cambridge which has been a Participating Council for nearly three years.
- Residents will be able to drop off recyclables for free such as e-waste, cardboard, scrap metal, bottle tops, x-rays, and reusables for free such as clothing, sporting equipment, sheets, and towels. In addition, they will be able to drop off bulk, Construction & Demolition, and green waste loads for a fee.

5.3 Policy Statement Review Update

- Updated Policy Statement on Agenda
 - Household Hazardous Waste – deferred to August 2023
 - Waste Management Education – deferred to August 2023
- Initial Review on Agenda (on track)
 - Waste management data and information management
- Initial Review August OAG/MWAC:
 - Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land (consider revisions October OAG/MWAC)
- Initial Review October OAG/MWAC:
 - Waste Levy Policy statement (consider revisions December OAG/MWAC).
- The following Policy Statements will be reviewed in 2024:
 - Container Deposit Systems
 - Extended Producer Responsibility
 - Waste management legislation.

5.4 WALGA Policy Priorities – Update

- WALGA has now finalised the Policy Priorities [document](#), which includes the range of waste management priorities discussed at the December 2022 MWAC meeting. The specific priority actions include:

1. Review of the WARR Strategy, certainty on the trajectory for the WARR Levy and the provision of appropriate regulatory settings and guidelines that assist Local Governments to meet WARR Strategy targets.

Progress: the Review of the WARR Strategy has commenced and a 5 year, rolling, trajectory for the Levy has been released.

2. Development of a WALGA circular economy policy position.
3. Implementation of comprehensive and effective product stewardship for products such as electronic waste, packaging, mattresses and tyres.
4. Expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme, to include wine and spirit bottles as a minimum.

Progress: WALGA is represented on the CDS expansion working group, and is advocating for the expansion, the wine industry is attempting to advocate for a fourth kerbside bin for glass.

5. Specifications and guidelines to facilitate use of recycled materials in civil infrastructure construction (lead by the WALGA Infrastructure Team).

5.5 Waste Education Resourcing

- A short survey with questions focused on resourcing for and approach taken to waste education was distributed to 34 metropolitan Local Governments and Regional Councils. Complete and partial responses were received from 11 Local Governments and 3 Regional Councils.
- Summary of results:
 - 10 Local Governments indicated that waste education was provided internally. 7 of these respondents noted one full-time equivalent (FTE) officer allocated to waste education. The remaining three respondents noted at least two FTE officers.
 - One Local Government specified that waste education was provided by their Regional Council.
 - One Local Government specified that in addition to waste education being provided internally, their waste contractor also delivers waste education in schools.
 - Two Regional Councils each indicated at least four FTE officers allocated to waste education.
 - In the 2022-23 financial year, Local Government/Regional Council waste education budgets ranged from \$15,000 to \$300,000.
 - Some of the types of waste education activities undertaken, and the percentage of Local Government/Regional Council who undertake them, included:
 - 100% Information on Local Government/Regional Council Website
 - 100% Community events / workshops
 - 92% Bin Tagging
 - 92% Social Media posts
 - 85% Printed Calendars
 - 75% School visits
 - Other types of waste education activities noted:
 - Provision of multi-lingual learning kits.
 - Non-compliance bin hangers used by truck drivers for contaminated FOGO bins.
 - Monthly bin tagging competition for GREAT Sorters in select areas.

- Multiple-unit Dwelling (MUD) education program, including pre- and post-audits of bin stores on site.
- Switch Your Thinking subscription.
- Plastic Free July membership.
- Containers for Change Exchange Points installed in parks and town centres.
- Waste Scorecard survey to measure education levels and service satisfaction in the community.
- Waste minimisation subsidies and rebates.
- Keep Australia Beautiful Adopt-a-Spot.

6 Reports

6.1 MWAC Groups

1. **Metropolitan Regional Council Working Group**
Delegates/Nominees: Mr Tim Youé, Working Group Chair
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.
2. **Consistent Communications Collective**
Delegates/Nominees: n/a
This Group met on Wednesday, 7 June where the recycling A-Z List was discussed.
3. **Industry Training Reference Group**
Delegates/Nominees: n/a
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.
4. **Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Group/Operators Meeting**
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

6.2 External Committees & Working Groups

1. **DWER Waste Reform Advisory Group**
Representative: MWAC Chair, MWAC Executive Officer and CEO of RRG
This Group met on Wednesday, 17 May.
2. **DWER Regulatory Reference Group**
Representative: WALGA Executive Manager, Policy
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.
3. **DWER FOGO Reference Group**
Representative: Senior Policy Advisor, RRG, EMRC, WMRC,
This Group met on Thursday, 18 May.
4. **DWER Single-use Plastic Working Group**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

5. **Australasian Recycling Label Working Group**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.
6. **Hazard Coordinating Committee**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
This Group met on Wednesday, 7 June.
7. **Across Agency Asbestos Group**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
This Group met on Thursday, 15 June and discussed various projects currently underway including the development of an Asbestos heat map.
8. **Waste Authority Construction & Demolition (C&D) Working Group**
Representative: Senior Policy Advisor
This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.
9. **Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia**
Representative: Senior Policy Advisor
This Group meets on a monthly basis.
10. **Charitable Recycling Australia**
Representative: Senior Policy Advisor
The Group met on Thursday, 18 May.
11. **Keep Australia Beautiful Council**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
KABC met on Thursday, 20 April and Thursday, 15 June to discuss the focus for the Council over the coming year and the Tidy Towns Awards to be held in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne in May 2024.
12. **Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Representation**
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.

WALGA also represents ALGA on the E-stewardship Reform Working Group (which met on Wednesday, 3 May).
13. **E-waste to Landfill Ban - Technical Advisory Group**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
The first meeting of the Group was held on Tuesday, 6 June. Feedback was sought on some of the definitions which will be used in the regulations.
14. **Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Stakeholder Advisory Group**
Representative: MWAC Executive Officer
The first meeting of the Group was held on Friday, 26 May – the focus of the discussion is the proposed expansion of the Scheme to include additional material types. One of the representatives on the Group has suggested a fourth kerbside bin for glass – advocacy may be required on this matter.

7 Other General Business

7.1 5th Review of the Container Deposit Scheme Minimum Network Standards

WALGA has received notification that the 5th review of the Minimum Network Standards is currently underway, with feedback due 21 July 2023. The review proposes to increase the number of Refund Points for towns of greater than 500 people. The proposal will result in an additional 11 Refund Points state-wide. This is aligned with WALGA's previous advocacy and submissions to increase the number of Refund Points. Rather than make a formal submission it was agreed that the MWAC Chair would send a letter supporting the proposal to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

7.2 Change MWAC Meeting Commencement Time

After a short discussion it was agreed to change MWAC meetings to commence at 3:00pm for all online meetings.

The meeting closed at 4.53pm.

8 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council will be held online at **3:00pm** on Wednesday, **30 August 2023**.



Flying Agenda: Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That the Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment, with consultation open until 23 June 2023.
- The draft Plan has been developed to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets.
- The draft Plan includes analysis of waste infrastructure in each region to identify unique needs, challenges and opportunities.
- Identified priorities include expansion of existing infrastructure, establishment of new processing and consolidation facilities and transfer of materials between regions to utilise existing capacity.
- A draft Submission was developed and provided to the sector for comment. The Submission has been finalised based on that input.

Attachment

- WALGA submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation *Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan*

Background

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) (draft Plan) for comment, with feedback closing on 23 June 2023. The draft Plan aligns with the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (State Waste Strategy) and supports the strategy target of long-term planning for waste infrastructure at a state level.

The draft Plan includes a summary of waste generation, flows and infrastructure needs for each region across the state, focusing on the built infrastructure required for municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. It identifies likely capacity constraints with current infrastructure and provides a framework for future decision making.

Once adopted, the plan is proposed to be reviewed every five years. The forecast modelling used in the draft Plan assumes all 2030 State Waste Strategy targets are met. If the targets are not achieved, impacts on the anticipated capacity will need to be addressed in future reviews of the plan.

Comment

WALGA has developed a Draft Submission based on discussions with the Officers Advisory Group, Municipal Waste Advisory Council and Local Government. The Submission examines the principles identified to guide planning, the specific considerations for regional areas and the limitations of some of the data used to formulate the draft Plan.



The draft Plan provides a useful starting point for engagement and discussion with Local Government regarding waste infrastructure requirements. Local Government has expressed concern that aside from the Plan, there needs to be other supporting policies, programs and approaches to enable the development of the necessary infrastructure required to meet State Waste Strategy Targets.

It is essential that detailed consultation be undertaken with Local Governments (and other waste generating entities) in each region as to the proposed infrastructure activities and their long-term viability, prior to the plan being formally adopted.

In its current form, the draft Plan offers a broad overview of theoretical infrastructure requirements. This approach does not provide a sound basis for decision making and ground truthing of facilities' actual capacity, ability and willingness to accept the proposed waste streams is essential to ensure waste needs of regional communities are met.

WALGA held a workshop on 31 May to seek feedback from the sector, which 47 Local Government representatives registered for. The Submission has been updated following feedback from this workshop and the June Officers Advisory Group meeting. Once the Environment Policy Team and Municipal Waste Advisory Council have considered this item it will be provided to State Council for consideration.

Submission on the Draft Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan

June 2023

Status of this Submission

This Submission has been prepared through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) for the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

WALGA is an independent, member-based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector. WALGA's membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State. MWAC is a standing committee of WALGA, with delegated authority to represent the Association in all matters relating to solid waste management. MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management) as well as a number of Local Government representatives. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

This Submission will be considered by MWAC and the WALGA State Council.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1

WALGA conditionally supports the planning principles identified, with the following recommendations.

Principle 1 - Emphasise the integration of waste management into the planning and development frameworks to ensure effective waste services can be provided.

Principle 1 - Emphasise equitable access to all waste services and infrastructure across the state.

Principle 3 – Provide guidance and funding support to regional Local Governments reliant solely on landfill to investigate alternative collection mechanisms to achieve Waste Strategy targets.

Principle 3 - That the Environmental Protection Act be amended to ensure the Director General of DWER can refuse a license application if a proposed facility will undermine Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy outcomes and targets.

Principle 3 - Assess the 109 landfills managed under the Remote Essential and Municipal Services (REMS) program to establish the role these facilities play within the regions and how this data can be integrated into the plan in future reviews.

Additional Principle – Manage waste as close as possible to source of generation.

Recommendation 2

Develop frameworks and funding support/incentives for regional Local Governments to investigate feasibility of new collection and processing approaches within their region.

Recommendation 3

Provide support and incentives for industry investment in non-metropolitan regions.

Recommendation 4

Investigate the adoption of a similar framework to the Victorian *Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan* (SWRRIP), which includes the development of Regional Implementation Plans to inform overall strategic direction.

Recommendation 5

Include in the Plan the list of facilities in each region which have been used as a basis for the modelling and the licence category.

Recommendation 6

Undertake further investigation into sites included under license categories 67A or a combination of 67A, 61 and 61A as Organics recovery facilities to determine their current and future capacity to process food and garden organics, and their interest in doing so.

Recommendation 7

Clarify the definition of ‘transfer stations’, with reference to licence category or activities on site, and identify sites which have been included in the Plan.

Recommendation 8

Include transfer stations and container refund points in future regional summaries.

1 Introduction

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s [Draft Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) (draft Plan).

The State Waste Infrastructure Plan aligns with the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (State Waste Strategy) and is intended to support the Strategy target of long-term planning for waste infrastructure at a state level. The draft Plan includes a summary of waste generation, flows and infrastructure needs for each region across the state, focusing on the built infrastructure required for municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial and industrial (C&I) waste and construction and demolition (C&D) waste by 2030. The draft Plan identifies likely capacity constraints for waste streams in each region and proposes infrastructure solutions to address these constraints, including new infrastructure, expansion of existing infrastructure and transport of materials to neighbouring regions.

Once adopted, the Plan is proposed to be reviewed every five years. The forecast modelling used in the draft Plan assumes all 2030 State Waste Strategy targets are met. If the targets are not achieved, impacts on the anticipated capacity will need to be addressed in future reviews of the plan.

The release of the draft Plan is welcomed as a first step in providing a framework for State and Local Government, and other stakeholders, to make informed decisions on better practice waste and resource recovery. This Submission examines the purpose of the plan, the principles identified to guide planning, the specific considerations for regional areas and the limitations of some of the data used to formulate the draft Plan.

2 Purpose of the Plan

The Draft Plan is intended to:

“Provide a long-term information framework and principles to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste and resource recovery infrastructure in Western Australia.”

Feedback from Local Government has indicated the importance of ensuring that the Plan can also guide infrastructure licencing and planning approvals, investment and funding. However, for the Plan to achieve this, the issues outlined in this Submission need to be addressed. The [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#) identifies that WA needs to transition to a Circular Economy, and if this is to occur the Infrastructure Plan has a key role which needs to be clearly articulated in its purpose.

3 Planning principles

The draft Plan proposes five principles to guide planning and decision making for waste and resource recovery infrastructure:

1. *Waste management is an essential service*
2. *Waste infrastructure should be in suitable locations*
3. *We have a reduced but ongoing need for landfills*
4. *We need to increase our capacity to recover resources from certain types of waste*
5. *Waste facilities strive for better practice*

WALGA conditionally supports these principles, with further clarification recommended. WALGA also proposes an additional principle, which highlights the need to manage waste as close as possible to its source.

Principle 1 – Waste management is an essential service

Principle 1 states the importance of waste management as an essential service integrated into all aspects of planning and development activities. This aligns with [research](#) WALGA has undertaken regarding how waste management could be considered an essential service. **It is recommended that this principle emphasise the integration of waste management into the planning and development frameworks to ensure effective waste services can be provided.** For example, in development of new sub divisions with laneways, consideration to the number of bins required and how truck access will be achieved.

It is recommended the principle emphasise equitable access to all waste services and infrastructure across the state, as regional communities are often disadvantaged by limited access to waste facilities, and the high cost of collection and processing material is primarily borne by Local Governments.

While the modelling indicates a range of options for infrastructure in each region, it is essential to assess the long-term viability of establishing and maintaining these options with the regional Local Governments concerned. This is explored further in the Regional Considerations section.

Principle 2 – Waste management infrastructure should be in suitable locations

The siting of waste facilities to minimise harm to the environment, human health and amenity is essential in the planning process. In addition to licensing and environmental requirements, collection optimisation options and logistics also play a key role in ensuring the facility is fit for purpose and in increasing its operating life. The consideration of waste 'precincts' to consolidate infrastructure, or alternatively smaller processing facilities catering to defined areas, as part of overall strategic planning has been raised by regional Local Governments, to maximise available resources and generate community benefits through employment and market opportunities. These issues are further explored in the additional principle which WALGA is proposing.

Principle 3 - We have a reduced but ongoing need for landfills

WALGA supports the plan's assessment of the role of landfills going forward, primarily as facilities used as an alternative in unforeseen events, receiving large volumes of waste from natural disasters and for certain streams which lack a viable processing alternative.

In a previous [submission](#) regarding the future of landfills as part of the State Waste Strategy, WALGA acknowledged the need for appropriately planned landfills in the future while reiterating changes to the regulatory framework are required to ensure any facilities are assessed under a consistent, strategic approach rather than on a case by case basis. In relation to the practical application of this approach, WALGA recommended in its January 2020 Submission on the review of the Environmental Protection Act that:

That the Environmental Protection Act be amended to ensure the Director General of DWER can refuse a license application if a proposed facility will undermine Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy outcomes and targets.

When the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act (2007) was reviewed in December 2014, the Background Paper identified that the existing landfills had capacity for the waste being generated until around 2025, or until 2030 if the targets in the Waste Strategy were met. The Paper also identified that there was "increasing pressure for metropolitan waste to be disposed to landfill outside the metropolitan area". The Paper stated "There is a strong case to reform the landfill policy and regulatory framework to include planning, siting and compliance considerations so that landfills can be managed consistent with government policy. Policy considerations should balance the need to ensure availability of sufficient landfill space to manage residual waste and unplanned events...with the need to limit supply to encourage maximum diversion from landfill".^[1] The Association agrees with the assessment of the gap in policy, which has yet to be addressed.

In regional areas currently reliant solely on landfill for municipal solid waste disposal, guidance and funding support must be made available to investigate alternative collection mechanisms to achieve Waste Strategy targets.

Further assessment of the 109 landfills managed under the Remote Essential and Municipal Services (REMS) program is recommended to establish the role these facilities play within the regions and how this data can be integrated into the plan in future reviews.

Principle 4 - We need to increase our capacity to recover resources from certain types of waste.

Recovery of certain material types in Western Australia has been limited by the availability of local processing facilities and viable end markets. In considering required infrastructure for Waste Strategy priority materials, the plan assumes an economically minimum viable capacity for each new facility type, based on anticipated tonnage up to a 'critical mass' point. The inputs to determining the critical mass are listed, however without access to source material it is not possible to determine the weight given to each element, particularly the viability of the end markets for products and potential collection and transport costs.

^[1] Department of Environment Regulation (2015). *Review of Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 Discussion paper*. Available online <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/component/k2/item/6474-review-of-the-waste-avoidance-and-resource-recovery-act-2007>

Industry feedback shows commercial viability of the infrastructure relies on robust markets for recovered material, the potential for which is mentioned in regional summaries (for example, the use of recovered organics in mining rehabilitation projects). Further detailed investigation of these potential markets including transport logistics and financial responsibility is required in order to justify the establishment of material collection and processing infrastructure. The viability of initiating collection systems for priority materials in regional areas must also be considered, as discussed in the Regional Considerations section of this Submission.

Principle 5 - Waste facilities strive for better practice

State Waste Strategy targets state all waste is managed and/or disposed to better practice facilities by 2030.

The State Waste Strategy references better practice as a key focus, stating better practice guidance *'will be outcome-focussed, evidence-based, informed by performance achieved in other jurisdictions, developed in consultation with key stakeholders, and set out in guidelines that are framed to reflect the varying resources and capacities of the users of those guidelines.'*¹

WALGA has in a previous [submission](#) questioned the position of better practice guidance in a regulatory context and how implementation would be monitored and enforced. In particular, regional and remote Local Governments with limited resources will require significant support to implement new approaches or adapt existing infrastructure, and consideration must be given to establishing funding frameworks to meet these targets.

Better practice approaches should build on the regulatory frameworks in place for waste facilities, rather than being compliance-based, and be developed in consultation with industry to ensure effective implementation.

Additional Principle: Manage waste as close as possible to source of generation

In addition to the considerations under Principle 2 of ensuring the site is suitable, it is also important that waste is managed as close as possible to the source of its generation. This reduces the movement of waste and associated transport hazards and impacts, incentivises the development of local industries and solutions, and assist with contingency planning. In a non-metropolitan context, the Draft Plan has suggested that waste be transported from the Pilbara and Kimberley Regions (the issues with this are further explored in section 4 of this Submission). While distances may be less in the metropolitan area, the tonnages are greater, and this principle is essential for optimal management of waste. For example, in northern region of Perth there are currently no material recovery or a waste to energy facilities located. To access these facilities waste, upwards of half a million tonnes of waste will be trucked from the northern suburbs through Perth to south of the river locations.

4 Regional considerations

WALGA acknowledges increasing material recovery across all regions is necessary to meet Waste Strategy targets, however detailed consultation with regional Local Governments, and other stakeholders, is essential to create a viable framework to enable this moving forward.

¹ [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#), Waste Authority

The draft Plan states: *‘Development of waste infrastructure in the regions will be critical to achieving all waste Strategy targets. **The introduction of new collection services and the increase of material consolidation from outer regions** can help generate the necessary material quantities to justify new waste facilities. These facilities can be planned near major regional transportation networks which combine road, rail and port facilities.’*

The modelling considers the most viable options for the establishment of new, and use of existing, infrastructure, based on increased regional recovery of recyclable materials. However, if there is an expectation regional Local Governments initiate collections it is likely to be a significant, ongoing financial impost unless frameworks and funding support are in place.

Many regional Local Governments do not have collection systems in place for target materials, such as kerbside recycling or FOGO collection, due to financial and infrastructure constraints. For example, 36 Local Governments outside Perth and Peel do not currently provide a kerbside recycling collection, and only two non-metropolitan Local Governments north of Perth have trialled FOGO collections. FOGO is in place in seven Local Governments in the South West, and one in the Great Southern region.²

For Local Governments not currently providing a kerbside recycling or FOGO service, establishment costs include infrastructure (bins and caddies), potential fleet investment, variation to collections contracts, and resourcing for operational and support roles including education and communications.

Establishing drop off services at Local Government sites for these and other recyclable materials such as e-waste would include ensuring sites are appropriately licenced to collect the materials for recycling, potentially installing collection infrastructure, ongoing maintenance and resourcing of the collection site, transport costs to an approved recycler and recycling costs. WALGA has received feedback from a number of Local Governments expressing considerable concern regarding their ability to resource such a requirement.

The plan acknowledges the limitations of transporting material between regions due to cost factors, yet the transfer of materials option makes up a significant portion of the modelling due to the projected waste generation volumes and the critical mass principle.

While frequent transport between the Perth and Peel regions, and to some areas of the South West and Wheatbelt, could be considered viable, transport costs in the Mid West, Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions are significantly higher due to the distances involved and limited economies of scale.

The plan acknowledges the barriers facing the Kimberley relating to improving resource recovery, including dispersed population and high cost of transport. The proposal to consider consolidation between the Pilbara and Kimberley regions addresses the viability of combining projected volumes of waste generated, however does not specify the facilities and transport distances involved.

An analysis of current and projected transport costs relative to the proposed actions is required to allow regional Local Governments to better assess the viability of the proposals and the level of support required. This should include both financial and environmental impacts.

² Waste Authority, 2023

Increased transport of materials between regions is expected to be carried out primarily through the State's road network, leading to higher numbers of trucks on the roads, increased wear and tear on regional roads and further demand for drivers which has been a significant resourcing issue for Local Governments and industry for several years.

Regional Local Government feedback shows the consolidation model, where infrastructure is established or expanded for the purpose of consolidating and transporting material to Perth and Peel, is not supported as a priority. The preference is for the creation of precincts within the region to facilitate waste being received and processed locally to maximise benefit to local communities, or a series of small individual processing facilities in key areas.

To support local processing and end markets, industry investment in the regions must be encouraged through incentives and planning. Feedback from the Waste Summits that WALGA has hosted in regional areas (Kalgoorlie, Broome, Karratha, Albany and Shark Bay) have all identified that in their areas, Local Government waste may only be a small proportion of the overall waste stream and therefore effective industry engagement is essential to developing solutions.

WALGA recommends investigating the Victorian [Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan](#) (SWRRIP), which aims to achieve long term planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure at a state and regional level. Victoria's seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Groups have each develop a detailed Regional Implementation Plan which outlines how the region will implement the strategic direction of the SWRRIP at a local and regional level. This offers an opportunity for Local Government and the community to be involved in waste planning in the region and reliably informs the overall strategic direction.³

Recommendation 2: Develop frameworks and funding support/incentives for regional Local Governments to investigate feasibility of new collection and processing approaches within the region.

Recommendation 3: Provide support and incentives for industry investment in non-metropolitan regions.

Recommendation 4: Investigate the adoption of a similar framework to the Victorian *Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan* (SWRRIP), which includes the development of Regional Implementation Plans to inform overall strategic direction.

5 Exclusions and limitations

The modelling used to determine current and future capacity in each region is based on the maximum capacity of sites licenced according to the *Environmental Protection Regulations 2008* and regulated by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The draft Plan identifies:

“Outside of the Perth and Peel regions, the State Waste Infrastructure Needs Analysis modelling classified all facilities under license categories 67A or a combination of 67A, 61 and 61A as Organics recovery facilities. This was regardless of whether the facility was processing food organics and garden organics, only

³ [Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Plan](#), Sustainability Victoria, 2023

garden organics (green waste) or a combination. A preliminary analysis in each region can identify the potential food organics and garden organics capacity in each region, by looking at facilities which are licensed to accept food organics and garden organics but which have not been categorised as processing food organics and garden organics in the State Waste Infrastructure Needs Analysis modelling.”

This method gives a theoretical capacity for food and garden organics processing. Further investigation and consultation with the sites in question is required to determine the practical application. Regional feedback indicates a number of sites included under this method, while holding the category licence, would not be appropriately resourced or structured to process food and garden organics and their inclusion should be reconsidered.

As a result of this regional modelling approach, overall capacity for the region may show as sufficient until 2030 but may not be accessible to Local Governments seeking processing solutions. Local Governments have raised concerns around the potential impact of this modelling on future funding submissions for infrastructure, as there is a risk of applications being declined based on the plan demonstrating needs have been met.

Recommendation 5: Include in the Plan the list of facilities in each region which have been used as a basis for the modelling and the licence category.

Recommendation 6: Undertake further investigation into sites included under license categories 67A or a combination of 67A, 61 and 61A as Organics recovery facilities to determine their current and future capacity to process food and garden organics, and their interest in doing so.

The use of the terms, ‘transfer station’, ‘community recycling centre’ and ‘consolidation centre’ are used throughout the plan, however, what they specifically refer to requires clarification, particularly regarding the facilities which are excluded from the capacity modelling.

WALGA understands ‘transfer station’ to refer to a site licenced solely under Category 62 (Solid waste depot) of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 2008*, being a ‘premises on which waste is stored or sorted, pending final disposal or re-use’. A number of sites licenced under Category 62 hold additional category licences as solid waste facilities or landfills, with the assumption that these have been included in the modelling.

Community recycling centres are described as ‘facilities which offer a variety of reuse, recycling and waste drop off services to the community...often co-located with existing facilities such as landfill’. WALGA asserts this description can also be applied to transfer stations and recommends clarification on the terms.

From these descriptions it can be assumed ‘consolidation facilities’ refers to establishing new infrastructure for aggregation of materials, rather than developing existing infrastructure for future expansion as stated:

“Where capacity need was identified, yet it does not meet a threshold to establish a new facility the Infrastructure Plan identified a need to establish consolidation centres to support bulking and transfer of the material to a region with treatment capacity”.

A reason given for the exclusion of transfer stations, community recycling centres and container refund points from the plan is *“the lack of suitable data pertaining to locations, quantities and type of materials managed and the secondary treatment pathways”.*

As licenced facilities, transfer stations are required to report annually on the tonnage of specific material received, recovered and disposed through the facility. Container refund points are also required to collect and report data to the scheme administrator, which reports regularly on collection volumes, recovery rates and destination of material types.

While it is acknowledged transfer station tonnage may be captured in the Plan through the materials' final processing facility, container refund point volumes, particularly in the regions where kerbside or other recycling options are not available, can have a significant impact on recovery rates within regions.

Excluding Container Deposit Scheme volumes from the modelling is likely to present an inaccurate estimate of Materials Recovery Facility capacity required in the region, as a percentage of the estimated volumes will be captured through existing refund points. The proposed expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to include a wider range of beverage containers is also anticipated to boost redemption volumes and significantly reduce volumes collected through MRFs by accepting glass wine and spirit bottles in the scheme.

Transfer stations are key to effective and efficient management of waste by Local Governments and are highly valued by the community for the range of services they provide. While the plan acknowledges transfer stations as an important element in the waste management cycle, the exclusion of these facilities from the modelling disregards a further source of local infrastructure which can be easily utilised, whether at its current capacity or potential future expansion.

Recommendation 7: Clarify the definition of 'transfer stations', with reference to licence category or activities on site, and identify sites which have been included in the Plan.

Recommendation 8: Include transfer stations and container refund points, and the associated volumes collected, in future regional summaries.

6 Conclusion

WALGA considers the draft Plan provides a useful starting point for engagement and discussion with Local Government regarding waste infrastructure requirements. The draft Plan outlines a range of stakeholders in the development and implementation of the plan, which is beneficial in identifying roles in the planning process. Outlining the decision-making process for new infrastructure would also be useful, to identify the key points at which each stakeholder group is active and their level of involvement.

Local Government has expressed concern that aside from the Plan, there needs to be other supporting policies, programs and approaches to enable the development of the necessary infrastructure required to meet State Waste Strategy Targets. It is essential that detailed consultation be undertaken with Local Governments (and other waste generating entities) in each region as to the proposed infrastructure activities and their long-term viability, prior to the plan being formally adopted. In its current form, the draft Plan offers a broad overview of theoretical infrastructure requirements. This approach does not provide a sound basis for decision making and ground truthing of facilities' actual capacity, ability, resources and willingness to accept the proposed waste streams is essential to ensure waste needs of regional communities are met.

The modelling in the draft Plan is based on 2020 data, meaning that actual progress against the State Waste Strategy targets is not reported in the draft Plan. It is important that the finalised Plan, and future revisions, include a report of progress against Strategy

targets as this will impact on infrastructure requirements. This is particularly relevant given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on waste generation rates, as well as material recovery achieved through the Container Deposit Scheme since its introduction in October 2020 which is not reflected in the 2020 data used in the draft Plan.

Submission on the Directions Paper: Review of Western Australia's *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*

June 2023

Acknowledgement

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) acknowledges the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. WALGA acknowledges the continuing knowledge and cultural practices that they bring to the Local Government and biosecurity management sectors to support resilient and sustainable land management.

Status of this Submission

This Submission has been prepared through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) for the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based organisation representing and supporting the work and interests of 139 Local Governments in Western Australia, comprising 1,215 Elected Members and approximately 22,600 Local Government employees, as well as over 2.5 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia.

Western Australian Local Governments vary greatly in:

- size, ranging from less than 1.5 to over 370,000 square kilometres,
- population, just over 100 to more than 224,000 people,
- the number of staff employed, from less than 10 to over 1000,
- in revenue received, which in 2019-20 ranged from just over \$2 million to just over \$226 million.

MWAC is a standing committee of WALGA and includes major Regional Councils (undertaking waste management) as well as a number of Local Government representatives. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Vision, Objectives and Targets

- That the State Government, in consultation with Local Government, develops a position and plan for a circular economy in Western Australia, which includes consideration of costs, benefits and options.
- That the 'recover' objective specifically includes the use of recovered material.
- That targets for recovery are included – for example % recycled, % composted, % waste to energy and % to landfill.
- Additional Targets be considered for the Strategy which provide a metric to measure waste reduction initiatives and litter/illegal dumping.

2. Building on opportunities

- Each Government Department publish an action plan which details the timeframe and actions each Department will take in relation to the Waste Strategy Vision, Objectives and Targets.

3. Data and Performance

- That to improve performance tracking, and determine the success of interventions, efforts be focused on ensuring waste management data is published in a timelier manner.
- That the Waste Authority undertakes an analysis of the composition of the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) waste streams, from various business operations, to inform waste avoidance and resource recovery solutions.

4. Principles

- In defining 'shared responsibility' for the implementation of the Waste Strategy, roles and responsibilities must be clearly understood and agreed to by all stakeholders.

5. Focus Materials and Waste Streams

- That the Waste Authority clarifies the aim of the focus materials in the Waste Strategy.
- That the Strategy include a targeted program for the C&I sector to assist businesses to reduce their waste and increase resource recovery.
- That the Waste Strategy includes an action to source data from the agriculture and mining industries to inform regional approaches to infrastructure development.
- That the Waste Authority considers the inclusion of mining and agriculture in a future Waste Strategy.

6. Collection Systems

- That accessibility requirements for collections be included in planning requirements for new developments to ensure effective waste collections can be undertaken.
- That existing collection schemes, such as Containers for Change, be leveraged to collect additional material, such as that covered by effective product stewardship schemes.

9. Contingency Planning

- That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation reviews the work on Emergency Waste Planning which has been undertaken, lessons learnt from emergency events and approaches other jurisdictions are considering, in determining policy or regulatory options.

Introduction

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Waste Authority [Directions Paper: Review of Western Australia's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#). The Directions Paper is the first stage of consultation on the review of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy). Responses to the Directions Paper will inform the development of a draft Waste Strategy, anticipated to be released in late 2023 for a minimum 12-week consultation period. If the draft Waste Strategy is modified following the initial consultation, the Waste Authority will provide the modified draft Waste Strategy to all organisations which made a submission.

The Directions Paper provides an overview of current State Government commitments in relation to the Waste Strategy and the performance of the State against the current Waste Strategy targets. The current commitments include:

- Statewide communications and behaviour change
- Increased recovery of organics from Municipal Solid Waste streams
- Government procurement practice
- Review and update date collection and reporting systems

- Reviewing WA's waste infrastructure
- Waste Levy review
- Provide funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources
- Other commitments such as WA's Plan for Plastics and Container Deposit Scheme.

The Directions Paper includes the current data on recovery across all waste streams and identifies that although progress has been made in achieving the targets, there is still work to be done.

The [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007](#) sets out the purpose for the Waste Strategy as:

to set out, for the whole of the State —

(a) a long term strategy for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery, benchmarked against best practice; and

(b) targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal.

This Submission responds to questions relevant to Local Government included in the Directions Paper. These responses are based on WALGA's submissions to the 2018 [Consultation Paper](#) and [Draft](#) of the current Waste Strategy, other relevant Submissions and feedback from the sector.

1. Vision, Objectives and Targets

Does the current vision in the waste strategy reflect your ambitions for a sustainable WA?

Are the current waste strategy's objectives helpful in driving priorities and informing waste management decisions by governments, industry and the community?

Do our current targets reflect the relative priority placed on each objective? Do we need additional targets to monitor performance?

Vision	WA will become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.		
Objectives	Avoid <i>Western Australians generate less waste.</i>	Recover <i>Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste.</i>	Protect <i>Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.</i>
Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 10 per cent reduction in waste generation per capita ○ 2030 20 per cent reduction in waste generation per capita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 Increase material recovery to 70 per cent ○ 2030 Increase material recovery to 75 per cent ○ From 2020 Recover energy only from residual waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2030 No more than 15 per cent of waste generated in Perth and Peel regions is landfilled. ○ 2030 All waste is managed and/or disposed to better practice facilities

Vision

The Vision sets out the direction for the State, as a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy where human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. There is a linkage between some of the vision, objective and targets in the Waste Strategy, however the use of recovered material is not specifically identified in any of the objectives or targets.

WALGA considers that further clarity is required on the environmental protection element of the vision. Local Government feedback was that the point source environmental impact of a waste facility was one element of environmental protection, but that the carbon impacts of waste upstream (in the generation of the waste) as well as downstream (in landfill) should also be considered.

Another key area where further work and certainty is required is the overall State Government position on a circular economy for Western Australia. A defined circular economy position and plan is required to back up the vision and identify the role of each sector in achieving a circular economy in Western Australia.

There has been only limited discussion outside of the waste management industry on what a circular economy is and if a move to a circular economy is an approach that would benefit the state. WALGA considers that a circular economy has the potential to bring significant benefits to the waste management industry in WA. However, detailed analysis of the circular economy in a WA context is required to understand and quantify the costs and benefits and options for moving to this approach. The work undertaken by [Green Industries South Australia](#) for example, included developing the case for circular economy for the State and has now progressed to driving the transition across multiple industries.

Recommendation: That the State Government, in consultation with Local Government, develops a position and plan for a circular economy in Western Australia, which includes consideration of costs, benefits and options.

Objectives

The current objectives ‘avoid, recover, protect’ are still relevant, however the actions undertaken in relation to the Waste Strategy have tended to focus on the ‘recover’ objective. There is an opportunity to emphasise the use of recovered material in the objectives. for example “Western Australians recover and use more waste resources”.

Recommendation: That the ‘recover’ objective specifically includes the use of recovered material.

Targets

The current targets meet the legislative requirement of the WARR Act as they include waste reduction, resource recovery and diversion of waste from landfill. At a high level, only one of the targets - that relating to material being landfilled in Perth/Peel - is geographically specific –. The other targets apply to the whole state, which does not acknowledge the differences between the metropolitan and regional / remote areas in relation to capacity to implement better practice waste system.

Avoid – Until such time as economic growth can be decoupled from waste generation, a per capita figure does not provide a useful measure on the effectiveness of waste reduction initiatives.

Recover – Feedback from Local Government, and WALGA’s previous Submissions, identified that more specific targets for recovery would assist in clearly identifying the amount of material which should be processed using each option.

Protect - the focus is on the amount of waste disposed to landfill and waste facilities operating to better practice standards. Aside from these elements, there are other contributors to protecting human health and the environment, including the management of litter and illegal dumping.

Recommendation: That targets for recovery are included – for example % recycled, % composted, % waste to energy and % to landfill.

Recommendation: Additional Targets be considered for the Strategy which provide a metric to measure waste reduction initiatives and litter/illegal dumping.

2. Build on Opportunities

What do you think are WA’s strengths and opportunities which we could harness to improve our waste and recycling performance? How do you think we can best harness these strengths and opportunities?

Since the Strategy has been introduced there has been clear progress in achieving important initiatives, such as Containers for Change, the WA Plan for Plastic and large funding Programs for infrastructure which have built momentum and expectation. There has also been cross Government action, facilitated by the Strategy Action Plan, which identifies the requirements for each Department. Considerable work and consultation has been undertaken by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation into waste reform measures, such as a recovered materials framework, however this work has yet to come to fruition.

The opportunity that WA has is:

- For the State Government to continue to take a leadership role in relation to its own operations by ensuring high level, across Government, commitment to the vision, objectives and targets in the Waste Strategy. This includes each Department having a Strategy Action Plan which identifies the actions required and the timeframe these actions will occur in. Local Government emphasised that Government Department procurement provided an essential opportunity for market development for a range of materials, including C&D and organics.
- For the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to use the extensive consultation undertaken on the review of the Environmental Protection Act and waste reform to develop a national best practice approach to regulation and support for the industry.
- To continue and enhance the collaborative approach in developing regulatory reform and initiatives, which has been facilitated by groups such as the Waste Reform Advisory Group.
- Leverage the success of existing Schemes, such as the Container Deposit Scheme, to show what effective product stewardship is and lead national discussion and action (for example, as identified in the recent Meeting of Environment Ministers [Communique](#) – WA is leading the national work on Tyre Product Stewardship).

Recommendation: Each Government Department publish an action plan which details the timeframe and actions each Department will take in relation to the Waste Strategy Vision, Objectives and Targets.

3. Data and Performance

What is the most important metric for tracking our performance? Where should we be focusing our collective efforts?

The targets in the Strategy, and tonnage recovered/landfilled, are the main metric currently used for measuring and tracking performance. However, as noted in the Directions Paper, the data being used is 2021-22. This lag makes it difficult to measure any intervention until several years after it has been implemented. One suggestion for measuring performance is to look at landfill composition, as that will provide a clear picture of what is currently being landfilled and provide areas to focus.

Feedback from Local Government indicated that data collection from waste from households and Local Government was relatively robust, as there has been significant focus on increasing recovery of MSW. However, for the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) waste sector there was very limited waste composition data and data that was available lacked the necessary granularity to assist in developing waste avoidance and resource recovery solutions. The need for further focus on C&I is also identified in Section 5 of this Submission.

The overall accuracy of waste data was an area identified for further focus by Local Government. Currently waste collection and recovery/disposal is only tracked for certain Controlled Waste. For State Government to fully understand waste flows, it was suggested that an investigation of waste tracking options used in the UK and EU be considered.

Local Government feedback also identified that the current online data reporting system for the sector could be further streamlined to improve speed and comparability of data.

Recommendations:

- **That to improve performance tracking, and determine the success of interventions, efforts be focused on ensuring waste management data is published in a timelier manner.**
- **That the Waste Authority undertake an analysis of the composition of the Commercial & Industrial waste streams, from various business operations, to inform waste avoidance and resource recovery solutions.**

4. Principles

Do you think current waste strategy principles adequately inform waste management decisions by government, industry and the community? Should the updated waste strategy include additional principles?

The principles identified in the Strategy are:

- Shared responsibility and partnership
- Innovation and growth
- Better practice
- Waste as a resource
- Intergenerational equity.

WALGA considers that the principles should be simple and straightforward, providing clarity on what the Strategy is attempting to achieve. The current principles meet this outcome and provide sufficient direction, however it is essential that how they will be embedded in the Strategy implementation is made clear. In particular, having a clear and

agreed understanding of how the shared responsibility approach will be used to ensure all parties to the Strategy should be empowered to commit to implementation on an equal basis.

Recommendation: In defining ‘shared responsibility’ for the implementation of the Waste Strategy, roles and responsibilities must be clearly understood and agreed to by all stakeholders.

5. Focus Materials and Waste Streams

Is it useful for the waste strategy to identify focus materials? If so, which materials are most important for delivering the objectives and targets in the strategy?

What are the priorities for C&I waste? What types of actions could best support better C&I performance?

Are there other sectors (outside of MSW, C&D and C&I) that we should engage with to improve our waste and recycling performance? How can we capture the innovation and expertise already in WA, for example in the mining and agricultural sectors, to improve our performance?

Focus Materials

In the current Strategy the list includes Construction and Demolition (C&D), organics, metal, paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, textiles & hazardous waste. Given these represent a significant portion of the waste stream, it is not clear what the intent of the focus materials is. For higher tonnage materials, such as C&D and organics, their recovery will already be a focus because of the significant contribution to the targets in the Strategy. The focus materials could provide a way to prioritise other low tonnage high impact materials, such as Household Hazardous Waste.

At a National level, the Environment Minister publishes an annual list of priority products for product stewardship, this provides industry with notice regarding the Government’s intent to investigate options and encourage industry. An alternative approach to including focus materials in the Strategy could be to publish a list of focus materials and approach – for example waste avoidance for food organics – which would provide the industry and Local Government with a focus (the priorities on the list could be the same for many years, as it may take time for change to occur). Other materials may be a priority for recovery, as they are more difficult to minimise, or the approach could be national product stewardship.

Recommendation: That the Waste Authority clarifies the aim of the focus materials in the Waste Strategy.

Commercial & Industrial

There has been very limited assistance provided to the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector, focus could include targeted program such as the NSW [Bin Trim Program](#), which assists businesses (on a sector by sector basis) to assess and reduce their waste and improve resource recovery. In the non-metropolitan area Local Governments frequently assist in managing C&I waste as there may be limited or no other service providers.

Other Waste Sectors

In the non-metropolitan area, sectors such as agriculture and mining are often larger waste generators than Local Government. Coordinated effectively, significant opportunities could be realised in terms of job creation and improved resource recovery if these waste

generators were engaged and participated in a regional waste program. For example, a localised hub could be used to aggregate and process local organics from agricultural, wastewater, MSW and C&I waste streams. Feedback from Local Government indicates that agricultural and mining wastes are often being buried or burnt on site and this could make data capture difficult.

At this time the Association does not support the expansion of the Strategy to include additional types and sources of waste, due to limited the progress on current waste streams and limited data on the waste streams from these sectors.

Recommendations:

- That the Strategy include a targeted program for the C&I sector to assist businesses to reduce their waste and increase resource recovery.
- That the Strategy includes an action to source data from the agriculture and mining industries to inform regional approaches to infrastructure development.
- That the Waste Authority consider the inclusion of mining and agriculture in a future Waste Strategy.

6. Collection Systems

What are the priorities for delivering better waste collection systems for the future? What opportunities do we have to implement these priorities in growing population centres?

How do you think we can leverage off existing schemes (such as Containers for Change) to further improve waste collection systems across WA?

Collection Systems

Local Government has identified that some of the inhibitors for collection systems include practical issues, such the need to ensure accessibility for waste collection is included in planning for new developments. As population density increases the need for specific programs and resources to improve waste management in Multi-Unit Dwellings is essential.

Recommendation: That accessibility requirements for collections be included in planning requirements for new developments to ensure effective waste collections can be undertaken.

Leverage existing Schemes

There is a significant scope to leverage existing systems, such as Containers for Change to provide a hub for product stewardship and a network of collection locations for materials which cannot be disposed of in kerbside bins. Local Governments have provided very positive feedback on how the Containers for Change Program has assisted in providing recycling options for regional and remote, as well as metropolitan, communities. WALGA [identified](#) this as an opportunity for the Scheme in the initial consultation, as for example, many of the Container Deposit Scheme depots in South Australia also collect e-waste and scrap metal. However, this will only be achievable if the material collected is also covered by an [effective](#) product stewardship scheme which covers all the costs associated with collection, transport and recycling. This approach will also assist in ensuring these services are accessible across WA, even in areas with limited Local Government services available.

Recommendation: That existing collection schemes, such as Containers for Change, be leveraged to collect additional material, such as that covered by effective product stewardship schemes.

7. Regional Areas and Aboriginal Engagement

What sort of opportunities might be effective in delivering better waste outcomes in regional and remote communities, including remote Aboriginal communities?

How do we harness and apply the skills and experience of Indigenous Australians to an updated waste strategy? In addition, what approaches will support better waste management outcomes for Indigenous Australians?

Regional and Remote

To achieve better waste outcomes for regional and remote communities, WALGA considers a regional waste infrastructure plan should be developed that includes all waste streams, and focuses on local solutions. One option to assist with the development of this approach is through regional collaboration and engagement. WALGA is currently administering the Regional Climate Alliance Pilot for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and this approach provides a template for how region wide collaboration can achieve positive outcomes. Some Local Governments in regional areas have also identified that it is likely that landfill will continue to be their main option for waste management.

Non-Metropolitan Local Governments have identified that their residents often do not have the same opportunities to reduce their waste compared to the metropolitan area. For example, in some regional areas there is only one shop in town, or residents are not able to make low waste choices (for example bulk purchasing with no packaging). In developing waste reduction initiatives, an assessment of the feasibility of the choices presented to consumers in the current system is required. Successful waste reduction initiatives provide the community with information on how to change their behaviour as well as access to resources and infrastructure that allow them to do so.

Aboriginal experience and engagement

The review of the Strategy provides an opportunity to embed Aboriginal knowledge and approaches to Caring for Country and to expand the use of waste management as a career opportunity. For example, Containers for Change, through its procurement approach, has assisted in providing opportunities for employment and engagement. In the Kimberley region all refund points are provided by Aboriginal Corporations.

There is an opportunity for Local Government to increase engagement with those Aboriginal communities and people who receive waste management services from the Local Government. For example, the Shire of East Pilbara effectively engaged with their local communities and, with funding from the Waste Authority, developed educational videos by a local film maker spoken in the Martu Wangka language with English subtitles and created a waste and recycling guide with translations in Martu Wangka. This makes waste communication material relevant to the whole community.

8. Waste Levy

Do you think further increases to the levy rate are required to reduce waste to landfill? How can the waste levy more effectively influence waste management practices and incentivise increased material recovery?

WALGA has provided an extensive Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, as part of the Levy review process. WALGA also has a clear Policy Statement on the Levy which articulates the position that all funds raised through the Levy should be used for strategic waste management purposes.

The Levy should not be relied on as a mechanism to drive change on its own, it needs a framework to operate within and supporting programs to incentivise avoidance of waste and increased material recovery.

9. Contingency Planning

What sort of mechanisms do you think are effective in responding to sudden changes to waste generation rates or processing capacity?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA, worked with Local Governments that operate waste collection vehicles and private companies to develop a Mutual Assistance MOU. The intent of this document was to ensure that waste collections could continue if the workforce was significantly impacted by COVID-19. There are also intersects with Biosecurity management, for example the threat of Foot and Mouth Disease lead to DPIRD bringing together waste management companies and Local Government to undertake contingency planning. The private sector and Local Government have also actively cooperated to ensure ongoing service provision, for example when the Cleanaway Material Recovery Facility burnt down.

With funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, WALGA undertook a project to identify a framework and approach for Local Governments to plan for, and respond to, waste from emergency events. Following WALGA's work, the State Government also undertook an emergency events waste project which had a number of recommendations.

Recommendation: That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation review the work on Emergency Waste Planning which has been undertaken, lessons learnt from emergency events and approaches other jurisdictions are considering, in determining policy or regulatory options.

Conclusion

The current Waste Strategy has propelled change in how waste is managed in Western Australia, with a number of important initiatives being implemented. This includes Containers for Change, the WA Plan for Plastic and large funding programs for infrastructure. Reviewing the Strategy provides an important opportunity to build on this momentum and further increase public engagement. The key focus areas for the future include:

- Increasing the focus on waste avoidance, through evidence based programs for priority waste streams such as food waste, plastics and textiles.
- Undertaking engagement and developing opportunities for the Commercial & Industrial sector to reduce waste and increase recovery.
- Influencing the development of effective Product Stewardship Schemes at national level, for priority materials including electronic waste, packaging and tyres.
- Coordination and support and for regional and remote areas to assist in developing regional infrastructure solutions to increase resource recovery and undertaking initiatives to reduce waste.

EMRC – NEW TRANSFER STATION

EMRC – NEW TRANSFER STATION



The Chief Executive Officer attended the official launching of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's (EMRC) new Waste Transfer Station (WTS) at its Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park, on 7 September. The opening ceremony was presented by Cassie Rowe MLA and attended by a number of councillors and dignitaries from the EMRC's wider stakeholder group and other local governments.

The capital cost for this project was around \$10 million. Construction of the WTS was completed on 7 August 2023, and operations commenced on 8 August 2023.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said at the event that this new facility will enable the EMRC to capture, consolidate, divert and convert waste material into valuable commodities as well as reducing truck movements and therefore reducing emissions and traffic congestion. He also said that the new facility has the capacity to transfer up to 230,000 tonnes per annum of Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial & Industrial waste and FOGO material from communities and commercial entities in Perth's Eastern Region.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

List of resolutions for the financial year 2023/2024 plus any outstanding resolutions from previous years			
OCM /SCM Date	Item #	Resolution	Status
13.7.2023	10.1	That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 01 June 2023 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings. Moved Cr Cvitan, seconded Cr May RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0) That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 22 June 2023 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings. Moved Cr Hatton, seconded Cr Cvitan RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	FOR INFORMATION
	11.1	Receive the Financial Statements set out in Appendix No. 1 and 2 for the months ended 31 May 2023 and 30 June 2023. Moved Cr Ferrante, seconded Cr Hatton RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	FOR INFORMATION
	11.2	Note the list of payments made under delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, for the months ended 31 May 2023 and 30 June 2023. Moved Cr Thornton, seconded Cr Cutler RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	FOR INFORMATION
	11.3	APPROVE the co-funding of a Scoping Study with Tamala Park Regional Council that explores options, opportunities, risks, costs and impediments for potential greater collaboration and/or resource sharing between the two entities. Moved Cr Thornton, seconded Cr Gobbert RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	COMPLETED
	11.4	1. That the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted including the following: 1.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income That the Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature/Type in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.2 Statement of Financial Position That the Statement of Financial Position in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.3 Statement of Cash Flow That the Statement of Cash Flow in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.4 Notes to and Forming part of the Annual Budget 2023/24 That the Notes to and Forming Part of the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.5 Reserves That the Reserve accounts in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.6 Capital works program 2023/24 That the Capital Works Program in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.7 Operating budget by Department That the Budget by Department in the Draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 1.8 Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24 That the Schedule of Fees and Charges in the draft 2023/24 Annual Budget be adopted. 2. That interest earned on cash funds associated with cash backed reserves be credited to the respective reserves 3. Financial Reporting and Materiality As per Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Section 34 (5) each financial year, a Local Government is to adopt a percentage or value, calculated in accordance with the AAS (Australian Accounting Standards), to be used in financial statements for reporting material variances. For the purpose of materiality in financial reports for the 2023/24 financial year, variances shall be those greater than \$50,000. Moved Cr May, seconded Cr Ferrante RESOLVED That the recommendation be adopted (CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	COMPLETED
	12	That the Members Information Bulletin Issue No. 77 be received. Moved Cr Ferrante, seconded Cr Cvitan	For Information

		RESOLVED	
		That the recommendation be adopted	
		(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 11/0)	
	13	REQUESTS the Mindarie Regional Council's CEO prepare a report for Mindarie Regional Council's next Ordinary Meeting considering:	For Information
		1. the disposal of the Neerabup RRF facility; and	
		2. options for holding the proceeds of the disposal such as a growth fund to offset the future costs associated with closing the Tamala Park Landfill and ongoing site management costs	
		SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:	
		That Council:	
		REQUESTS the Mindarie Regional Council's CEO prepare a report for Mindarie Regional Council's next Ordinary Meeting considering:	
		1. the disposal of the Neerabup RRF facility; and	
		2. options for holding the proceeds of the disposal such as a growth fund to offset the future costs associated with closing the Tamala Park Landfill and ongoing site management costs	
		LOST 5/6	
		<i>For: Cvitan, Gobbert, Hill, May and Miles</i>	
		<i>Against: Crs Castle, Cuter, Ferrante, Hatton, Thornton and Vernon</i>	
01.06.2023	14.1	SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED	
		1. Nominates Tenderer B as the first preferred tenderer for the Waste to Energy Tender.	COMPLETED
		2. Nominates Tenderer A as the second preferred tenderer for the Waste to Energy Tender.	COMPLETED
		3. 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.	COMPLETED
		4. 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.	FOR ACTION
		5. Seeks a further report when the Waste Supply Agreement and Participant's Agreement are ready for Council's consideration.	FOR ACTION
		Put separately :	
		1. 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."	COMPLETED