



1. Introduction

The WMRC Elected Members' Bulletin serves to provide a summary update to elected members on WMRC issues and developments in the periods between WMRC Council meetings. It's issued fortnightly.

2. Safety

There have been no safety incidents in the past fortnight. An independent safety system and procedure audit and gap analysis has been completed; and we expect to receive the consultant's final report this week. Last week Hazard Identification training was conducted by LGIS and attended by CEO, Waste Operations Manager and Transfer Station Supervisor. Regular fortnightly toolbox meetings at the Waste Transfer Station continue.

3. Legal

Following the 8 August 2018 judgement by Her Honour Justice Archer in the Service Charge proceedings, DiCOM lodged a notice of intent to appeal the decision. We do not know on what grounds DiCOM might be intending to appeal; and may remain unaware of the grounds until DiCOM lodges its written appeal statements in around three weeks' time.

In respect of the costs of the recent Service Charge trial,

- The WMRC and City of Stirling will file their respective written submissions by this Thursday, 6 September.
- DiCOM needs to file its written submissions by 13 September 2018.
- The application for costs has been listed for hearing at 10.30am on 10 October 2018.

Court supervised mediation before the Supreme Court will be held on the remaining aspects of the Service Charge case and the Declarations Proceeding. The Court is currently working out suitable dates for the mediation which will be attended by our legal team, Aimee Hynes and me. Our Chairman and Deputy will attend as observers.

4. Business Development

Aimee Hynes and I met with Suez on 22 Aug to discuss opportunities for greater waste transfer station throughput. Suez expressed its interest in operating our Brockway Road Waste Transfer Station on an O&M (operational and maintenance) basis, saying that through this means it could increase the transfer station's throughput.

The next day, 23 Aug, we met with officers of the City of Nedlands to discuss the continuation of waste transfer services to their residents (City of Nedlands residents make up 17 percent of our customers for drop-off recycling and problematic waste). We also discussed the opportunity for the WMRC to tender for the acceptance and haulage of the City of Nedlands' waste when it next goes out for tender (the current waste collection and disposal contract is held by Suez; disposal is at Suez's North Bannister landfill, located some 110 km to the south east).

Today, 3 Sep, we will meet with officers of the Town of Cambridge to discuss the continuation of waste transfer services to their residents (Town of Cambridge residents make up 19 percent of our customers for drop-off recycling and problematic waste); and the potential for the WMRC to provide the Town with waste transfer and haulage services.

5. Town of Claremont Waste Services Review

On Tuesday 28 August, in the company of Cr Bruce Haynes, we met with Liz Ledger, the newly appointed CEO of the Town of Claremont, who is preparing a report for Council on its future options for waste management services. In the lead-up to the meeting, we provided the Town of Claremont with a detailed written brief on the waste management services provided to the Town by the WMRC.

6. Waste Transfer Station Security

On 11 Aug the Brockway Rd waste transfer station suffered a break-in. The malefactors forced the lock on a storage container and stole tools, appliances and consumables to the value of approximately \$14,000. Our losses are covered by insurance. The matter was duly reported to the police.

Such break-ins at the transfer station have been a problem for some years. The transfer station is covered by nightly security inspections, but it's clear that these are insufficient deterrent. We're currently reviewing proposals to substantially improve our security. The new security arrangements will likely involve motion-sensitive lighting, alarms and automatic camera surveillance.

7. Impact of China's National Sword Policy

Until recently, China was a large importer of recyclable materials, accepting more than 30 million tonnes of waste from all over the world every year. Australia alone sent 1.25 million tonnes of recyclable material to China in 2016-17. In January 2017, China began to stringently enforce restrictions on the importation of recycled materials under its National Sword policy. In January 2018, China set stringent new contamination thresholds affecting plastics, paper and cardboard; and metals.

The *National Sword* policy has severely restricted world markets for recyclable materials, and has reduced the financial viability of recycling services, especially in those countries which are heavily reliant on export of collected and sorted recyclables. Western Australia is among those badly affected as the State lacks the industry to reprocess major categories of recyclables including paper and cardboard; plastics; and aluminium and steel.

On 24 Aug, I attended a forum held at WALGA to discuss the effect of the *National Sword* policy. The likely effect of the policy in WA will be to increase the cost of recycling services, owing to the reduced revenue stream from sale of recyclable materials.

8. MWAC Meeting – Waste Infrastructure Planning

I attended the MWAC meeting of 29 August. The following extract from the minutes of the meeting is of interest:

“The CEO of WMRC raised the issue of infrastructure planning for waste and how to progress this process. The Waste Authority Strategic Waste Infrastructure Planning work ceased in 2014 and there have been a number of changes to the industry since that time. WMRC proposed the MWAC support a renewed focus on the coordination of strategic waste infrastructure planning across Local Government. It was suggested that a report be produced by MWAC on the status of waste infrastructure planning and the opportunities that may be present to better coordinate the sector's approach to planning. It was agreed that MWAC should wait and consider what infrastructure planning approaches are included in the State Waste Strategy. If State Government is not taking a leadership role, then following the finalisation of the State Waste Strategy, Local Governments could

take a stronger role. This matter was referred to the Regional Council Working Group for further discussion."

9. WMRC Annual Report

Work is underway on the WMRC Annual Report. I aim to have it ready for Council's approval at its next meeting to be held on 4 October.

10. Staff

No news yet on the arrival of Alex Bell's baby. He or she is taking his or her own sweet time!

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Frodsham', written in a cursive style.

Stefan Frodsham

Chief Executive Officer