



WMRC's Elected Members' Bulletin

17 September 2018

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. We have received an independent safety system and gap analysis report. The report identifies a few areas where our documentation can be improved, but overall gives our system a positive rating. The consultant's independent hazard inspection of the transfer station also demonstrated that our system rates well.

Regular toolbox meetings at the Waste Transfer Station continue to be held every second Wednesday morning.

3. Legal

We await the grounds of DiCOM's appeal against the Service Charge judgement which DiCOM is due to lodge at the end of September. The WMRC and City of Stirling have applied to the court for DiCOM to be required to lodge security for costs in the appeal, as we are concerned they may not be in a position to meet cost orders that might arise against them in the appeal.


The application for costs in the Service Charge proceedings has been listed for hearing at 10.30am on 10 October 2018. Last week, the WMRC and City of Stirling filed their respective written submissions on the costs of the Service Charge trial.

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

On 3 Sep, Aimee Hynes and I met with the Town of Cambridge to discuss the continuation of waste transfer services to their residents (their residents make up 20 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. I will shortly follow up with formal proposals to both the City of Nedlands and the Town of Cambridge regarding contributions to the cost of the WMRC providing services for their residents.

In a letter of 5 September, I wrote to Mindarie Regional Council to offer waste transfer and haulage services (to Tamala Park landfill) to its southernmost municipalities of Perth, Vincent and Cambridge.



We followed up this proposal with a letter from our Chairman, Charles Hohnen, to the Chairman of the Waste Authority, Marcus Geisler, requesting the Waste Authority's support for the principle of essential waste infrastructure serving a natural catchment area rather than being constrained by regional council boundaries. The letter also requested Waste Authority financial support for the upgrading of waste facilities at the JFR (Jim) McGeough Resource Recovery Facility to enable it to better serve its extended catchment area.

5. Chief Executive Officers' Advisory Committee

The Chief Executive Officers' Advisory Committee meets tomorrow (18 September 2018) at the Town of Mosman Park council chambers. An important topic for discussion will be the Review of the WMRC Waste Operations and Business Model.

6. Waste Transfer Station Security

We're currently reviewing quotes received for the upgrade of security at the Brockway Rd waste transfer station to deter further break-ins.

7. Celebrate Lake Claremont

We worked in collaboration with the staff of the Town of Claremont and Earth Carer volunteers to host a wash up station, provide water refill stations, waste and recycling information and a worm farming workshop at the Celebrate Lake Claremont event on the weekend.

8. Earth Carers' Course

We have close to 30 enrolments for the next Earth Carers' Course due to start on 3 October in Claremont.

9. WMRC Annual Report

Work is underway on the WMRC Annual Report. Our auditors advise that our financial statements will not be ready in time for the Council meeting of 4 October, so approval of the annual report will be deferred to the December council meeting.

10. The Post - article Friday 14 Sep 2018

An article on p20 of last Friday's Post newspaper erroneously suggested that residents of Cambridge and Nedlands might be facing a "waste ban", owing to the journalist misunderstanding the WMRC Council minutes regarding services for residents at our waste transfer station. I contacted the Post to explain that:

- as an operator of an important waste transfer station that services the west central metropolitan area, the WMRC has a responsibility to accept household hazardous waste and other problematic wastes from residents wherever they might happen to live;
- we all need such materials to be properly treated or recycled, rather than ending up in general waste headed for a landfill;

- the WMRC is approaching Nedlands and Cambridge to make a fair and reasonable contribution towards our costs and is confident that we'll get a good hearing - we have common objectives of minimising waste and protecting the environment and local governments often work collaboratively for common aims.

11. Staff

The Bell family has grown from two to three with the recent arrival of Evelyn Catherine. Mother Alex and daughter are both doing very well.

Educator Christine Parfitt has left to join the Rottnest Island Authority; and Transfer Station Attendant Rod Mackay will finish up in mid-November for life in the Philippines. We wish them both the best of luck. We will be advertising for replacements in the next week.



Stefan Frodsham

Chief Executive Officer