

1. Introduction

The WMRC Bulletin serves to provide a summary update to member councils on WMRC issues and developments in the periods between WMRC Council meetings. It's issued fortnightly and circulated to Councillors, their deputies, CEOs and relevant officers of our member councils.

2. Safety and Security

There has been no safety incidents since our last Bulletin. Toolbox meetings involving all operational staff and attended by the CEO continue to be held every fortnight.

Following a number of break-ins, security upgrades have been installed at the West Metro Recycling Centre, including alarms and motion-sensitive lighting and cameras. The security system successfully detected, recorded and deterred a number of break-ins in its first week of operation and the breaches have been reported to police. The security system has led to a sharp decline in the number of break-ins at the centre.

3. Legal

Legal activity on the issues around DiCOM continues. Work continues towards defending an appeal lodged by DiCOM against the August 2018 Supreme Court judgement in favour of WMRC. WMRC has completed and submitted to DiCOM a Statement of Claim seeking recompense for costs involved in disposal of DiCOM's residuals.

4. WMRC Tour

The next WMRC Tour will be a site visit to the Millar Road, Rockingham resource recovery and landfill disposal site in the afternoon of Thursday 16th May 2019. This is where Member Council general waste is disposed of after consolidation at our waste transfer station. A light lunch will be provided at WMRC administration office before departure. Details and booking [here](#). The password is wisely (all lower case).

➔ If you are interested, please book by COB Wednesday May 1st so that we can organise transport and catering.

5. Free Mulch for Councils and Residents

The WMRC has recently awarded a new contract for Greenwaste processing which not only decreases Member Council costs (from \$50/tonne to \$35/tonne vergeside and \$40 GO bin) but also makes plentiful (up to 160 cubic metres per week) matured mulch available to councils and residents for no additional cost. The mulch will be available at the West Metro Recycling Centre. WMRC is also looking to have it delivered direct to Council depots/other suitable sites.

6. Waste Plans

All Metropolitan Local Governments will be required to develop Waste Plans to indicate progress towards Waste Strategy Targets as part of Integrated Planning and Reporting. Guidelines and formats for these are under development and will be the subject of consultation by DWER later in the year. The CEOAC has

recommended that, once these formats are in place, WMRC lead the production of Waste Plans in conjunction with Member Council officers.

7. Waste Local Laws

Member Councils are reminded of the importance of developing a Waste Local Law as good practice and particularly as a safeguard upon the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme and as a precursor to Waste Plans. The WALGA Template Waste Local Law is available [here](#). WMRC remains available to assist where appropriate.

8. Community Education – Waste Watchers Workshops

Development of an initial three modules of the online digital toolbox is underway and we expect completion of the project by mid-June.

Enrolments are coming in for the new Waste Watchers Workshops in April and May. [Details here](#).

9. Community Education – Bin stickers

We have some high quality accurate recycling bin stickers for Member Councils to make available for their residents. We will deliver them to your front desks over the next days. For those councils transitioning to a GO bin system, we will also have some matching Garden Organics stickers available.

10. WMRC Recycle Hotline – 9384 6711

The WMRC Recycling Hotline continues to take calls across a range of recycling queries. Clarification on items accepted at the West Metro Recycling Centre and how to recycle items that do not go in the recycling bin are the most frequent questions. Around 70% of callers are from member council residents with Cambridge and Nedlands residents accounting for the bulk of the rest.

11. Consultation on single-use plastics.

DWER have issued a consultation paper on reducing single-use plastic. There are two ways to contribute – an online survey or a written submission. Information is available [here](#). WMRC will put together a written submission on behalf of Member Councils by the closing date of July 15th 2019.

12. Policy and Advocacy

In the past two weeks, WMRC staff have contributed to the following policy areas through submissions, working groups, committees or forums as appropriate: Waste and Recycle Conference program, Verge Collection, Waste Plan Resource Review.



Stefan Frodsham

Chief Executive Officer