WMRC Bulletin

13 May 2019

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 is 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.

There have been no further break-ins at the West Metro Recycling Centre.

3. Legal

The Court of Appeal has set 22-23 July as the date of the hearing of DiCOM's appeal against the Supreme Court judgment of August 2018.

4. WMRC Tour

The next WMRC Tour will be a site visit to the Millar Road, Rockingham resource recovery and landfill disposal site this week on Thursday afternoon 16th May. 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 at 1200 hrs before departure. Covered shoes required please. Further details and booking here. The password is wisely (all lower case).

→ We already have a full bus load, but can find room for a few more.

5. Free Mulch for Councils and Residents

WMRC's free mulch for member Councils and residents became available for the first time last week, and is already proving a big hit at the West Metro Recycling Centre. Councils interested in using this mulch in their operations are requested to contact WMRC Manager Operations, Aimee Hynes. Email address here.



6. WMRC Strategic Community Plan

The first stage of a new WMRC Strategic Community Plan is complete with a draft revised plan drawn up for initial review by WMRC Council at its 13th June 2019 meeting. Consultation with member Councils will follow prior to public consultation.

7. Waste Local Laws

Member Councils are reminded of the importance of developing a Waste Local Law 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. Recycling Centre Passes (Tip Passes)

These will be distributed to Member Councils in the quantities requested over the next few days. Old design passes will be collected, although any in circulation will continue to be valid.

9. Community Education – Waste Watchers Workshops

Following the well-received first Waste Watchers Workshop, the second (Beyond the Basics) will be held in Subiaco on 28th May. Registration and more information here.

The future of the volunteer program will be shaped by consultation with volunteers on 23 May

10. Community Education – Bin stickers and flyers

Our recycling bin stickers for Member Council residents have been delivered to all front desks. More are available on request. Garden Organics bin stickers are also available.

Flyers for residents with three bin GO systems are currently in progress and have been approved by DWER.

11. 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 65% of callers are from member council residents with Cambridge and Nedlands residents accounting for the bulk of the rest.

12. Policy and Advocacy

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The Waste Authority today released its Position Statement on Food Organic and Garden Organics (FOGO). WMRC will provide feedback on the position statement to the Waste Authority through WALGA. We will pay particular attention to the development of industrial capacity required to service FOGO collections as they are progressively rolled out across the metropolitan area and Peel region between now and 2025.

The Waste Authority's Position Statement is available here:

http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/publications/food-organics-and-garden-organics-position-statement

A submission to DWER's consultation on revision to the Better Bins Program will also be undertaken in concert with WALGA prior to the 17th May closing date.

Stefan Frodsham

Chief Executive Officer