

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 WMRC Councillors, their deputies, CEOs and relevant officers of our member Councils.

2. Safety and Security

There have been no new safety incidents since our last Bulletin.

Toolbox meetings attended by the CEO are held every fortnight at the West Metro Recycling Centre and monthly for the Administration office.

The new Recycling Centre high-security fence and three remote-controlled gates are fully operational and performing very effectively. There have been no intrusions or theft from the West Metro Centre since the installation.

3. Verge Valet service



This exciting new service is now available to Member Councils to opt in following the lead set by the Town of Mosman Park. The service will be soft-launched this week with the first collections already booked.

A Verge Valet web page complete with information about the service, booking portal and FAQs has been set up at <https://www.wmrc.wa.gov.au/vergevalet/>. The Recycling Hotline is being kept very busy responding to enquiries about Verge Valet.

A 3.5% discount on the collection charge will apply as each subsequent council joins. The service will also be made available to surrounding non-member Councils. Please contact aimee.hynes@wmrc.wa.gov.au for details.

4. Waste Plans Required

The WMRC is working with all Member Councils to complete a congruent set of Waste Plans for Member Councils and the WMRC ahead of the 1 April DWER deadline for the draft plans. Good progress has been made with the City of Subiaco's Waste Plan which is planned to be submitted to DWER by early February. Work on other Member Councils' plans will take place subsequently. Please contact libby.eustance@wmrc.wa.gov.au for further details including treatment of DWER population statistics.

5. Bin Tagging

The WMRC has been successful in obtaining a bin tagging grant from WALGA. All Member Councils save Peppermint Grove are participating in the project which is aimed at reducing contamination in recycling bins. WMRC will employ a casual coordinator and taggers and work with relevant staff at Member Councils to determine tagging areas. Community communication material will be made available prior to the start of the project (anticipated Feb/March).

6. Containers for Change

ParaQuad Industries advise that their application to act as a refund point for the new Container Deposit Scheme when it commences in June has been successful.

WMRC will look to partner with ParaQuad Industries in acting as a collection point for refundable beverage containers for supply to ParaQuad.

7. Kerbside Recycling after Cleanaway fire

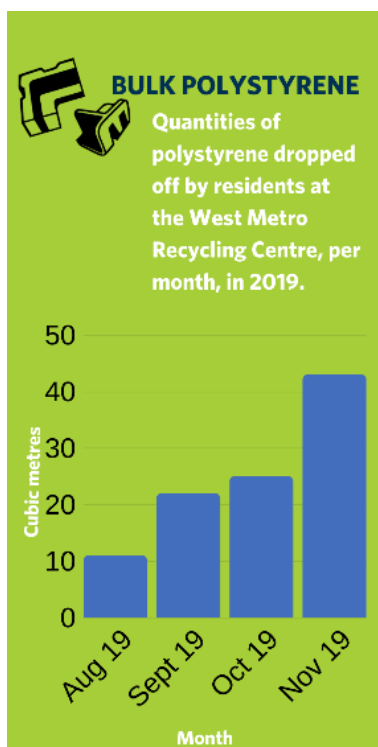
The fire at the Cleanaway recycling plant on November 2019 has had a large effect on recycling across Perth. Among the WMRC Member Councils, only Subiaco's yellow bin recycling was affected. We are pleased to report that since 19 December Subiaco's recycling collections have been processed through SMRCs Canning Vale MRF.

8. Resident Recycling Centre Access Pass

The WMRC plans to introduce this pass to minimise the use of West Metro Recycling Centre "free" services by residents of non-contributing neighbouring councils. In addition, this pass provides an opportunity to modernise and standardise the existing Tip Pass system for consistency of communications and to decrease its administrative burden at both Member Councils and the WMRC. We plan to introduce the Access Pass at the beginning of the new financial year.

The City of Nedlands and the Town of Cambridge have been consulted about the WMRC's plans to introduce an Access Pass. Initial feedback from both has been positive. The matter will be further discussed at the CEOAC meeting this Thursday before an agenda item is completed for the consideration of WMRC Council at its February meeting.

9. Residential Use of the West Metro Recycling Centre



"Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door".

Patronage of the West Metro Recycling Centre is growing by the week. Over 2,400 residential customers called at the Recycling Centre in December 2019. New services, including free mulch for residents and polystyrene recycling are proving particularly popular, as illustrated by the rapidly growing quantities of polystyrene being dropped off for recycling.

The environmental and economic benefits of residential custom of the Recycling Centre are considerable. Every drop-off represents more resource recovery and less waste to landfill, including of hazardous materials that might otherwise end up in residual waste bins.

Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer