

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. COVID-19 measures

The West Metro Recycling Centre, as an essential service, remains open for receipt of waste and resident drop off for bulk, recyclables and problematic waste. Good hygiene and social distancing are being well practised at the Centre.

The WMRC Administration office is running on a skeleton staff, with most staff working from home. The Recycling Hotline is being answered by staff on a roster system. Our meetings, including Council meetings, are being held through Teams or Zoom as appropriate. Our community activities have all been cancelled; we are investigating the delivery of community education through Zoom; and have increased our level of promotion over social media. We are monitoring the situation and will adapt as necessary.

3. COVID-19 impact on waste

I anticipate that with much of the population spending most of their time at home we can expect to see more domestic waste created. With people working and eating three meals a day at home, rather than eating out or having lunch at work, we'll likely see more general waste, food waste and food packaging.

I suggest Councils should look to budget extra for waste collection and disposal in the coming 12 months. I think it likely many of the new practices will become new long-term habits, so the impact may be prolonged well past the time when the COVID-19 threat has dissipated. In framing the WMRC budget for 2020-21, we have allowed for a 15% increase in waste receipts from member councils.

We'll keep a close eye on trends over the weighbridge in the weeks to come and keep you informed.

4. Safety and Security

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

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

5. Waste Plans

We're making excellent progress in working with Member Councils on the Waste Plans required by the *State Waste Strategy 2030*. DWER indicate they have assessed 4 Waste Plans from across the councils tasked with completing them. Given the time taken to adapt to new working conditions there is a possibility that we will not be able to get all draft Waste Plans to DWER by 1 April. We have requested and received an extension from DWER, though their review may take longer than 30 days. We have already received feedback from DWER to the City of Subiaco's draft Waste Plan and will incorporate

those comments into Waste Plans for ourselves and other Member Councils. Please contact libby.eustance@wmrc.wa.gov.au for further details.

6. Bin Tagging

This project was suspended on Tuesday pending a risk assessment undertaken by WALGA. We are analysing the data gathered to date and will work with Member Councils to use it as the basis for online community communications.

7. Resident Recycling Centre Access Pass

Following the resolution at the WMRC OCM on 6 February, the WMRC is still continuing to work with neighbouring Council CEOs to progress the recycling centre access pass. The access pass will limit access to the West Metro Recycling Centre's specialised recycling and collection services to residents of contributing councils in the circumstance that either Nedlands or Cambridge decline to contribute for the services their residents receive.

As all Member Council residents will be requested to show their access pass or proof of residence to enter the site, it provides an opportunity to streamline the resident Council Tip Pass distribution. The CEOAC meeting on 19 March recommended that WMRC work with relevant Member Council staff to ascertain the number of green and bulk waste passes for inclusion with the resident access pass for 20/21.

8. Plastic Free July

We have secured an offer of cost-effective membership of Plastic Free July on behalf of Member Councils. The result is that Member Councils will not need to join. We will progress this with Plastic Free July; obviously their offerings will be a little different this year.

9. Verge Valet

Verge Valet continues to be much appreciated by residents of Mosman Park with an exceptional level of satisfaction (93% from 72 responses to survey, 134 collections to date) continuing to be reported by users. We are working on ensuring the messaging to residents is crystal clear around the timing of putting waste on the verge as there has been some confusion as residents adapt.

10. FOGO Forum

This was due to run on 27 March. It will now be run online with the first session 'Setting the Scene' planned for 17 April at 11am. If you wish to participate in any or all of the sessions, please register by emailing fogo.rollout@dwer.wa.gov.au.

11. Li-Ion batteries

Around 10% of all batteries collected from the community are of this type and they pose an enhanced fire risk. Our stockpile of household batteries has been cleared; they were stored in accord with current safety recommendations. We are awaiting further direction on the safe storage/transport of these batteries at the West Metro Recycling Centre.



Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer