

## 1. Introduction

The WMRC Bulletin serves to provide a summary update on key issues and developments in the periods between WMRC Council meetings. It is issued fortnightly and circulated to WMRC Councillors, Deputies, CEOs and key office bearers across the region we serve.

## 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. A contingency plan is in place should Government guidelines change or our services be directly affected by the coronavirus. Services through the WMRC Administration office are being delivered with extensive use of online tools.

## 3. COVID-19 impact on waste

We are continuing to see an increase in domestic waste arising from people spending most of their time at home. This is also true for waste and recyclables being self-hauled by residents to the site with an overall increase of 16% on bulk and 29% on greenwaste boot and trailer loads in the three months to March 2020 compared with the same period in 2019.

## 4. High usage of household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off

Recent data from WALGA, which coordinates the HHW collection scheme, shows that WMRC collected 9% of all HHW included in the scheme from a member council resident proportion of 2.2% of the total. The total HHW collected in the October-December 2019 quarter was over 8.7 tonnes, mostly comprising paint, batteries and gas cylinders.

## 5. Resident Recycling Centre Access Pass

Correspondence continues with Nedlands and Cambridge staff and elected members to promote the concept of a small per household annual charge for their residents to access the West Metro Recycling Centre through the residents' access pass (RAP).

Member Councils are in the process of deciding how many Recycling Centre passes ('tip passes') will be included with the RAP for their residents.

## 6. Verge Valet – bulk waste service

Verge Valet continues to be much appreciated by residents of Mosman Park with an exceptional level of satisfaction (96% from 125 responses to survey, over 500 bookings to date) continuing to be reported by users. With levels of awareness of the service now relatively good, around 40 – 50 households a week are enjoying the service. We are working with the Town of Cottesloe on joining the Verge Valet program as from July 2020, such that the improved service can be introduced at no additional cost to the Town's budget for bulk waste collection.

## 7. Waste Plans

The April 2020 DWER monthly waste plans broadcast advised of a six-month extension to the deadlines for submitting both draft and final waste plans. Most Member Councils' draft waste plans are close to submission (Subiaco's has already been submitted and reviewed); and we will be working with officers to work out the best way forward. The revised deadlines are:

- **30 September 2020** - draft waste plans for review and feedback to DWER for review.
- **31 March 2021** - finalised, Council-approved waste plans submitted to DWER.
- **1 October 2022** - the first full year report on FY 2021-2022.

Please contact [libby.eustance@wmrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:libby.eustance@wmrc.wa.gov.au) for further details.

## 8. FOGO preparations

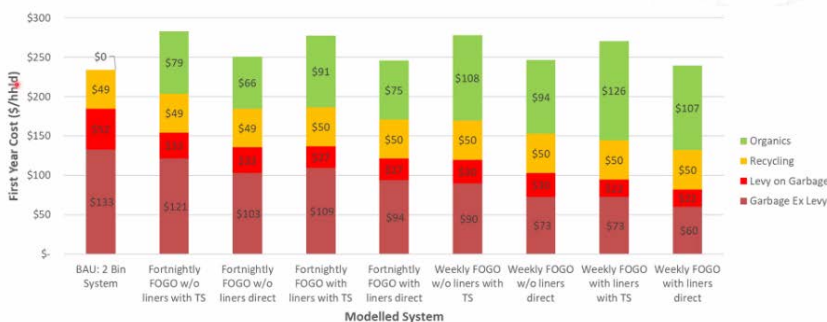
The first DWER FOGO online forum attracted over 100 online participants. Three more are scheduled:

- Processing and markets - 1 May 2020
- Local government services - 15 May 2020
- Engagement and education - 28 May 2020

For further information contact [fogo.rollout@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:fogo.rollout@dwer.wa.gov.au)

The Better Bins Go FOGO funding package is anticipated to be released at the end of June. In the meantime, WMRC will continue with its assessment of FOGO processing options with the aim of securing a processor in advance of Member Councils introducing a FOGO service.

Average Costs per Household per Annum – Council X  
With EMRC SWC



The WMRC is investigating the use of EMRCs cost modelling methodology (example information for providing an accurate cost estimate of the change from a GO service to a FOGO service to assist Member Councils' decision-making process.



## 9. Online Waste Education

Our first live Waste Watchers Webinars are due at 10:30 am Wednesday and repeated 6:30 pm Thursday. They are FREE 1hr events, but bookings are essential [here](#) . Please promote these useful and interesting events to your residents and staff.

Our online animated videos available on [YouTube](#) .

Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer