

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, continues to remain open for receipt of waste and resident drop off for bulk, recyclables, and problematic waste. Staff are following social distancing guidelines, cleaning has been increased, new sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the site, appropriate PPE is available and worn when required, weighbridge transactions are with EFTPOS, A contingency plan is also 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. Resident Recycling Centre Access Pass

Although correspondence continues our neighbouring councils to find an equitable way to fund their residents' use of the West Metro Recycling Centre through the residents' access pass (RAP) we are not going to receive a reply from both Councils until after the necessary finalisation data for the RAP/RCP notifications to residents. The RAP will therefore be introduced for the 2020/21 year. Initially this will take the form of a proof of residence check at site until the letters are distributed to all MC residents.

We are planning to send drafts of the new letter containing both the RAP and the relevant number of Recycling Centre Passes to relevant officers in member Councils within the week.

4. Verge Valet – bulk waste service

Verge Valet continues to be much appreciated by residents of Mosman Park with an exceptional level of satisfaction (93% from 135 responses to survey, only 7% indicating that they prefer the old system) continuing to be reported by users. There are still issues with a few residents not using the system correctly; and we are improving communications to residents of larger unit complexes; and compiling a report for ToMP and WMRC Councils with recommendations for improvements into the 2020-21 year. We are working with the Town of Cottesloe on joining the *Verge Valet* program as from July 2020 and are fully cognisant of the need to ensure the service is delivered with at no additional cost to budget.

5. Changes at site

Plans are underway to erect a cover over the Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) drop off area. It is best industry practice to shield these products from the elements. An RFQ has sent out and currently awaiting pricing.

The site is finalising plans to accept **C&D material for recycling**. A location for the drop off has been decided upon. A bay will be configured to store the material, prior to removal offsite for recycling. This is a very positive step for WMRC and we will now be recycling another waste stream that previously was

landfilled. Member Councils will benefit by reduction in disposal costs for inert waste of 58 percent (from \$145 to just \$60 per tonne).

6. 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. Nevertheless, we continue to work with member council staff to submit their draft waste plans to DWER ASAP.

Please contact libby.eustance@wmrc.wa.gov.au for further details.

7. Online Waste Education

After successful live Waste Watchers Webinars, we are programming a further season with a trial of different settings and content material. We will promote these through our usual channels including via Member Council media.

Our online animated videos featuring a talking banana peel are available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/) .

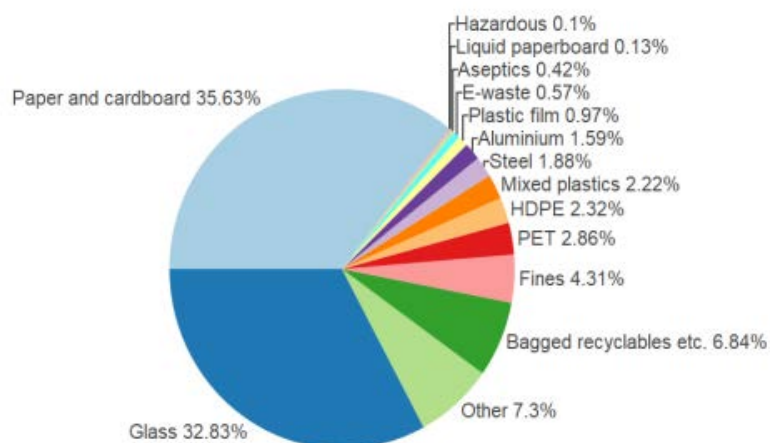
8. FOGO preparations

The second DWER FOGO online forum on processing and market issues attracted over 80 online participants. Some major points noted are that there is no lack of capacity for the use of a market acceptable product derived from FOGO and that decreasing contamination to very low levels is crucial to build market acceptability. Bunbury Harvey Regional Council (where FOGO has been in place for several years) have launched a certified organic FOGO derived product to the domestic, market garden, viticulture and local council market. Two more FOGO forums are scheduled:

- Local government services - 15 May 2020
- Engagement and education - 28 May 2020

For further information and to sign up contact fogo.rollout@dwer.wa.gov.au

9. Contents of recycling bins



As part of the (now-delayed) introduction of a Container Deposit System, audits were carried out on the contents of recycling bins in various areas in metropolitan Perth with the following results (by weight of material). Amongst other things, this indicates a 20% contamination level in recycling bins. People bagging their recyclables is a major problem – they must go in loose. [Details here](#)

Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer