

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. Past Bulletins are posted on our website at <https://www.wmrc.wa.gov.au/about-us/publications/wmrc-bulletin/>

2. Verge Valet



The Verge Valet web interface for residents has had a makeover in preparation for the launch of Verge Valet in Cambridge at the beginning of November. Check it out at vergevalet.com.au. The web pages are structured to provide clear instructions to residents, including the acceptable types of bulk waste. *Verge Valet Extra*, where residents can pay direct for collections additional to their allowance, is also just around the corner.

As with any new service, there is some public confusion about how the service works. We have found that working closely with customer service, rangers, compliance, waste, and communications staff alleviates it. We will continue to do so.

Resident satisfaction with the service remains high in Mosman Park and Cottesloe – about 80% prefer it, and it is on track to cost significantly less and generate less waste than the traditional system.

3. W2E tender evaluation ongoing

The evaluation of the WMRC's important waste to energy tender is ongoing. This decision will commit WMRC to supplying residual waste for 5-15 years to one of the two plants currently under construction. We have been working with our lawyers on the details of the terms of any agreement. We are negotiating only based on consigning residual (red bin waste) to the plant with no specific guaranteed quantity. In line with existing agreements and expected construction timetables we expect that that we will start to consign this waste from July 2022. As per the WA Waste Strategy, and existing Waste Plans, this will be residual waste from a three-bin system with FOGO (food organics and garden organics) collection from 2025. This will assist Member Councils with meeting their material and energy recovery targets and avoiding expected Waste Levy increases.

4. Modern Cloth Nappy workshop – this Saturday



Modern Cloth nappies are nothing like the old towelling and safety pin models; disposable nappies (even so-called compostable ones) should always be landfilled. Almost 800million disposable nappies are landfilled across Australia every year with each child using around 6000 nappies.

Modern cloth nappies are easier to use than you think, save money, and create less waste.

Please promote this workshop to residents and friends. Booking essential – [here](#).

5. Timing of FOGO introduction

We have developed a briefing paper for the Town of Cottesloe with estimates of the cost of moving to FOGO, the ongoing cost impact per household and a timing recommendation. We conclude that for economy of operation, it will be best for several of our Member Councils to start at the same time. We are happy to repeat the exercise for other Member Councils.

6. Clean your greens bins

We currently enjoy a low rate for processing garden organic waste due to our historically low contamination rate. Recently our GO bin contractors have noted an increase in the contamination level of material from bins in our area. We are undertaking several strategies to understand whether it's caused by isolated households or it's a general issue and to clean up the waste stream (including working with collection contractors and hand-picking the stockpiled waste). We will be working with Member Council staff in the coming months on a campaign to keep our greens bins clean and protect our low processing costs.

7. DWER Consultation

We are working with WALGA and WMRR on relevant existing discussion papers released by DWER. These include [the review of the WARR act](#), and the [Waste Derived Materials Framework](#). We expect to be able to largely support WALGA's submission with further commentary as appropriate.

8. Name the forklift competition



We have acquired a freshly-renovated second-hand forklift which will improve handling efficiency, services and occupational health and safety at the West Metro Recycling Centre. Any suggestions for the forklift's name welcomed by our Operations Manager Keith Swift at keith.swift@wmrc.wa.gov.au. Forky McForkface has already been suggested and rejected as too much of a mouthful. Maybe Fred, Freya or Forrest Dump?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stefan Frodsham'.

Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer