

1. Introduction

The WMRC Bulletin provides a fortnightly 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/governance-transparency/wmrc-bulletin/>

The WMRC wishes all recipients of this Bulletin a happy, safe and fulfilling 2021. Here are some things to look forward to through the year.

2. Waste to energy service

We are expecting to complete a contract with our preferred tenderer, East Rockingham Waste to Energy, following clarification of the last few details of our Waste Supply Agreement. This Waste Supply Agreement sets a per tonne rate which will likely be well under the landfill rate by the time the plant is operational in 2022. We expect there may be a substantial rise in the Waste Levy sometime between March and the end of June this year.

The Agreement is on a waste arising basis; so we will not be tied to sending any minimum tonnage to the plant, enabling us to continue reducing waste and diverting as much waste as possible for organics processing or recycling.

We anticipate being able to offer our Waste to Energy service to local governments across our west central metropolitan catchment area.

3. New community recycling services

The next community recycling stream to be introduced will be for used cooking oil; callers to our Recycling Hotline often requested this service, and we are putting a contract in place to allow us to collect and consign cooking oil for reuse as fuel. We expect to publicise the start of this service soon.

We are also purchasing a cardboard compactor to improve the transport efficiency (tenfold) of our increasingly busy community cardboard recycling service.

4. New silos coming

We are excited to have let a contract for the construction of new silos to replace the current ones which have served us well for nearly 30 years. Continuing to use a silo system to transport up to 25 tonnes of waste at a time retains flexibility in our transfer service. In effect we can easily transport different types of waste to different treatment and disposal sites. The first batch of new silos will start appearing on our roads in April, with more to follow in the 2021-22 year.

5. Waste Plans finally completed and signed off by DWER

Four of the six Waste Plans are with DWER for final sign-off. The other two are awaiting a council decision before submission. All Waste Plans must be submitted to DWER by 31 March. The first annual report on waste plan implementation is due by 1 October 2022 for the 2021-22 financial year.

6. Initial FOGO planning

We are expecting to assist Member Council staff as they plan their transition to Food Organics and Garden Organics collection from the existing Garden Organics only collections. For reasons of both cost and confusion minimisation, it is advisable that there is some coordination between Member Councils for this transition. Lessons learnt elsewhere suggests that there is a 6-month lead time for the changeover. The current delay is a lack of suitable processing facilities; however this is a fast-changing field.

7. Verge Valet

Peppermint Grove is about to become the fourth council to provide the cost effective, convenient and popular verge waste collection that is *Verge Valet*. This will trigger a further 3.5% collection discount for all councils. We are busy fielding enquiries from a further 6-8 councils so far and are looking towards developing a licensed model for non-neighbouring councils.

8. Bin tagging

We have successfully obtained grant funding to support tagging 2,000 bins in the 2021 season. We expect this to be in some or all of the three councils serviced by SUEZ in March-May this year.



9. New school program

We have been working closely with colleagues in the SMRC (Recycle Right) to develop updated materials for primary school incursions. Working jointly with SMRC under the Recycle Right banner gives us cost effective access to design and print services. These will be trialled at a local primary school before being made available for incursions and use at community events.

10. Waste Calendar Service

Again, working with SMRC, we hope to develop a practical and consistent waste calendar for distribution by Member Councils to their residents. This will be available for the 2021-22 year.

11. All your favourite community education programs

...will continue through 2021. Waste Watchers Workshops are scheduled for March and May, recycling and landfill facility tours will also be happening in March and we are planning various volunteer-led events. We are programming in days for community recycling drop off and working with the Town of Cambridge's waste minimisation officer to cross promote and make sure that our events complement each other.

We are always happy to coordinate programs with Member Councils and to attend community events.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Frodsham'.

Stefan Frodsham - Chief Executive Officer