



The information contained in this newsletter relates to matters discussed at the SMRC Regional Council Meetings during January and February 2016. The Meeting Summary may be circulated or tabled to elected members and officers of the member local governments of the SMRC. To request further information on articles in this Meeting Summary please email smrc@smrc.com.au or phone 9329-2700.

Chair, Cr Cameron Schuster	Melville
Deputy Chair, Cr Doug Thompson	Fremantle
Cr Kevin Allen	Cockburn
Cr Michael McPhail	East Fremantle
Cr Wendy Cooper.....	Kwinana

MEETINGS HELD SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Jan 29	Regional Executive Group
Feb 10	Agenda Briefing
Feb 11	Community Advisory Group
Feb 15	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
Feb 15	Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE GROUP- 29 JANUARY

DER PROSECUTION

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) is involved in legal proceedings with the Department of Environment Regulation (DER).

The charge relates to an alleged breach of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 section 49(5)(a), specifically the emission of an odour on 22 March 2012 that was held to be unreasonable.

A statement will be released by the SMRC at the conclusion of the legal proceedings.

SALE OF MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

A Public Tender was advertised in November 2015 inviting experienced organisations to purchase the RRRC's MRF and provide recycling processing agreements with participants. The closing date for submission of proposals is Tuesday 1 March 2016.

The Tender Evaluation Panel consists of the SMRC CEO and an executive officer from each of the Project Participants.

RRRC GROUND LEASE – DEED OF VARIATION

The SMRC and City of Canning have agreed to amend the RRRC Ground Lease with the following:

1. Clarification of the ownership of improvements has been re-worded to define SMRC as the owners.
2. The requirement to notify any exercise to extend the lease has been amended from 2 years notice to any time before the expiry of the term.
3. Licence to use the access roads to enter upon and pass over part of Bannister Road which runs through the RRRC leased land during the term of the lease.
4. Licence to retain and use the weighbridge on the closed section of Bannister road during the term of the lease.

DRAFT STRATEGIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The SMRC has provided Participant Councils and the Community Advisory Group with the Draft Plan.

Member Councils will respond by the end of March to allow final adoption by SMRC of the plan at the April 2016 meeting of Council.

DRAFT SMRC STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLANS

The SMRC is seeking feedback from Participant Councils and the Community Advisory Group on the revised Strategic Community Plan 2015-2025 and Corporate Business Plan 2015-2019.

DIGESTER REFURBISHMENT WORKS

The refurbishment of the digesters is progressing to schedule and is anticipated to achieve practical completion on or before 23 March 2016. The overall completion is 84% to date.

AUDITOR GENERAL AUDIT OF WA WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DER

The Office of the Auditor General is conducting an audit of waste management in WA and the role of the DER and Waste Authority.

The objective of this audit is to determine whether waste is effectively managed in Western Australia by increasing resource recovery and reducing the State's reliance on landfill.

The audit will focus on the following lines of inquiry:

1. Are sustainable waste practices in place to increase resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill;
2. Are waste minimisation strategies monitored and assessed at the state, regional and local level, and are they working; and
3. Are Waste Authority grants distributed to projects and programs that increase resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill.

SMRC CEO was invited to provide feedback from a regional local government perspective. The Auditors also attended the last MWAC OAG meeting.

Tabling of the findings is currently anticipated in the third quarter of 2016 although this may be extended depending on the work.



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COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP- 11 FEBRUARY

On 11th February 2016, the members of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Regional Council met to revise their purpose and priorities moving forward. The group felt that it has a primary role of –

Building awareness of the importance of increasing waste reduction and improving waste management

It also has proposed a name change to 'Waste Recycling Educators Network' (WREN).

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING- 15 FEBRUARY

RRRC QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) is moving towards a fully integrated ISO 9001 system with environment, safety and quality as a single system and a single audit.

A Quality Management System is what ensures a business' products or services meets a certain level of quality; that is, they are reliable, safe, consistent, meet customer expectations, continuously improve and comply with the law.

A Pre-certification audit (stage 1) has been carried out by SAI Global on 28th January 2016 and Certification (stage 2) has been booked for 23rd-25th May 2016.

The RRRC has already obtained the following certifications:

1. Environmental Management compiling with the requirements of AS/NZS ISO:14001:2004 (to August 2016)
2. Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems AS/NZS 4801:2001

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE GROUP- 15 FEBRUARY

PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOD SAMARITANS

The Good Samaritans would like to enter into a partnership agreement with the SMRC and its Participants to assist in getting items which could be donated, and may usually be disposed of in kerbside bins, into their charity bins.

This could be achieved through simple actions such as:

- Their details being more prominent on waste calendars, the website and the app
- Promoting Give.org.au – a website listing all charity shops and bins, funded by the Waste Authority
- Being more informed of their activities
- Adding information to the tour script and informing tour participants; and
- Providing space in publications such as the E-news.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 25 FEBRUARY 2016

CITY OF COCKBURN GREEN WASTE TRIAL

The City of Cockburn formally requested Project Partners to be released from its obligations under the RRRC Project Participants Agreement – Green Waste Project for a trial period.

The City's request is to change its collection services and divert green waste from the RRRC during a 12-month trial of 1,200 residents. The SMRC has been notified by its RRRC Participants that they do not support the request for the following reasons:

- a) Members are encouraged to continue to participate in the drafting of the region's Strategic Waste Management Plan and set directions as a co-ordinated group.
- b) There is a substantial economic impact on the other participants during the trial, which the City has not adequately addressed.

The City is in breach of its obligations under the partner agreement and the Regional Council resolved that further discussion between the project partners occur, before, the SMRC enforces any breach notice.

CORPORATE POLICY REVIEW

The following existing policies were reviewed and adopted:

- a. Purchasing Policy No. 2.5
- b. Record Keeping Policy No. 4. 6
- c. Acting Chief Executive Officer Policy 4.7
- d. Environmental Policy 5.1

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The CEO's 15 delegated authorities were reviewed and approved. The CEO Performance Review Committee's delegated authority to appoint a HR Consultant was also reviewed and approved.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN FOR 2015

The SMRC has completed the Department of Local Government's annual Compliance Audit Return for the period 1st January 2015 to the 31st December 2015 and reported no non-compliance issues.

MID YEAR 2015/16 BUDGET REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

During the first three months of operations following the adoption of the budget in June 2015, it became clear that member's tonnes were not meeting budget estimates. As a consequence of this trend an internal review to address the reasons for the decline was undertaken in October and this was reported to Council during its October 2015 meetings.



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The average Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation per person per year is decreasing from 282 Kgs in the year 2014-15 to our projections of 279 Kgs in 2015-16. This may be attributed to weekly recycling, improved source separation through education and lower household consumption.

The average population growth in the region is 2.4% per annum, however the average growth in MSW waste generation is 1.2% per annum. Noting that there is a weak correlation between increased population and waste generated.

Because of the decline in tonnes the 2015/16 budget revenue is revised down by \$800K. Council subsequently approved a budget amendment on 29 October 2015.

Operating expenditure also decreased and therefore the revenue write-off is fully funded and there is no financial impact on members.

FINANCIAL REPORTS & STATEMENTS

Revenues for the seventh month of the financial year are lower than budget estimates, however, expenses are also lower resulting in a \$700K budget surplus as at the 31 January 2016.