

# EMRC Newsletter

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## 1. CEO's message



The EMRC welcomes you to 2018 and our first newsletter for the year. We are excited about what we have achieved already this year with many more significant projects planned for the coming months ahead.

I am very pleased to announce that two of the most landmark documents in EMRC history were signed in March.

The EMRC has entered into a Waste Supply Agreement with the Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) consortium and a Participants Agreement with the Cities of Belmont, Kalamunda, Swan and the Shire of Mundaring.

The agreements will see 95,000 tonnes of residual waste diverted from landfill to the East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility and represent a major step forward by the EMRC into the future of waste management.

You may have noticed that the EMRC websites have a fresh new look. The EMRC Corporate, R-gang and Perth's Eastern Region (formerly Perth Tourism) websites were revitalised and launched in late 2017. I invite you to visit any of the new sites to see the wealth of information available about our projects and services and how we link in with our member Councils and groups in the region.

Also in late 2017, the report and findings of the trial of the EMRC Steamwand SW700 was finalised. Led by the EMRC environmental team, with the help of the Shire of Mundaring and Friends of Railway Trail, the Steamwand SW700 has proven to be an effective alternative to traditional chemical eradication methods.

I would also like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter. Enjoy the time with your family and friends as you take in all that Perth's Eastern Region has to offer this autumn and stay safe on the roads.



**PETER B. SCHNEIDER**  
Chief Executive Officer

## 2. EMRC moves forward into the future of waste management

The EMRC has taken a large step forward into the future of waste management with the signing of the Waste Supply Agreement with Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) for the East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility on 14 March.

The previous week, representatives from the Cities of Belmont, Kalamunda, Swan and the Shire of Mundaring joined the EMRC's, Chairman Councillor David McDonnell and CEO Peter Schneider for the signing of the Participants Agreement at the EMRC.

These agreements will see 95,000 tonnes of residual waste diverted each year from the Red Hill Waste Management Facility landfill site from as early as 2021.

Residual waste is what remains after all strategies of reducing, re-using and recycling have taken place.

Reducing, re-using and recycling has always been, and will continue to be, the key strategy of waste management at the EMRC. There will always be some level of residual waste remaining so putting it to use as a renewable energy source, as an alternative to fossil fuel, makes economic as well as environmental sense.



New Energy Corp CEO Jason Pugh (left), Enzo Gulloti with EMRC chairman Cr David McDonnell and CEO Peter Schneider at the signing ceremony.

The East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility is Australia's first utility scale municipal solid waste to energy facility that will use state of the art technology recognised as 'world's best practice' for producing saleable energy from waste that would otherwise go to landfill.

The facility will have the capacity to convert 330,000 tonnes of waste per year into clean renewable energy, producing 28 megawatts (MW) of baseload energy which is enough to power 36,000 homes.

## 3. EMRC wins Australian Road Safety Award

The EMRC's 'Share the Space' campaign has been recognised as the nation's top Local Government Initiative at the Australian Road Safety Awards presented in Melbourne on 21 March 2018.

The EMRC coordinated the campaign which was launched in August 2017. It comprised of a collaboration of stakeholders and nine local governments including the EMRC member councils.

The campaign aims to increase awareness of others using paths or roads, being courteous and improving safety of community members sharing transport routes including those who walk, jog, cycle or drive vehicles.



EMRC CEO Peter Schneider (right) with Victorian Minister for Ports; Roads and Road Safety, Honourable Luke Donnellan MP. Source: Australian Road Safety Foundation

The EMRC designed and developed a series of three short videos that were shared via social media and online by the member Council's as well the Town of Cambridge, City of Cockburn, City of Vincent, Bicycling WA and Westcycle.

In addition, the campaign also reached a wide metropolitan audience via advertising on the back of Transperth buses and a nine-day run in August and September 2017 on radio station Nova 93.7FM.

#### 4. Steaming to success

The EMRC's alternative weed management trial and report has been completed and finalised. The project was designed to determine the effectiveness of reducing weeds with minimal environmental impact.

Salt and Vinegar, Pine Oil, Pelargonic Acid, Super-saturated Steam, Competitive Planting and Mulch were methods used. Super-saturated steam was tested using the EMRC's Steamwand SW700 machine. Purchased in 2015, with funding from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (now Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), Rivers and Estuaries Division, the trial was conducted at the Railway Heritage Trail in Mount Helena from July 2016 to July 2017.

Some of the key findings include:

- The process, resources and expected outcomes (both negative and positive) of alternative techniques may differ from traditional methods. This is important to take into account when planning a trial.
- Mulch has been shown to be very effective at managing weeds with minimal resource requirements.
- Competitive planting in conjunction with mulch and follow-up treatment is effective at managing weeds and has the added benefits of improved aesthetics and enhanced habitat values.
- Steam is also effective at managing most weeds with the exception of mature weeds or weeds with large underground energy storage systems.
- Pelargonic Acid has been shown to be effective on some weeds provided the appropriate follow-up is carried out.
- Pine Oil also has the ability to manage some weeds however the trialled product did present some barriers in its use.
- Salt and Vinegar is effective at managing weeds if all parts of the plant are covered with the solution and follow-up applications are completed.

The trial was a component of the 'Steaming to Success' project supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program. Technical advice, on-ground assistance and support were received from the Shire of Mundaring and the Friends of Railway Trail in Mount Helena.

The full report and photo monitoring results are available online at the EMRC [website](#). For any enquiries about this article, please contact Jaya Vaughan at [jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au](mailto:jaya.vaughan@emrc.org.au) or (08) 9424 2245.



EMRC monitoring the alternative weed management trial plots. Photo credit: EMRC

## 5. Audit findings for the Red Hill Waste Management Facility

The EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility received a big tick following a recent audit for the conformance to its Environmental Management System (EMS).

The EMS has been developed in accordance with the ISO 14001:2004 internationally accepted standard. This standard certifies that the Red Hill site operates with an integrated approach to environmental management by putting sustainability at the heart of its business.

SGS are a leading provider of ISO 14001 EMS certification and, as part of the certification process, undertook a two day audit of the Red Hill site in January 2018. The audit had two key objectives, the first to determine conformity to the management system and the second to address requirements to transition the EMS from the 2004 standard to the new one.

The audit confirmed that the first objective has been achieved and the Red Hill site will continue its certification to ISO 14001:2004. The EMRC is now in the process of meeting the requirements of the second objective and updating to the EMS, in line with the new ISO14001: 2015 standard.

This is timely for the EMRC, as recent changes made by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) stipulate that after 15 March 2018, accredited certification bodies such as SGS, may only conduct audits of environmental management systems using the new version of ISO 14001:2015.

In addition, the IAF has also stated that organisations that have certification to that standard need to achieve certification to the new 2015 standard by September 2018. Organisations that do not achieve compliance to the 2015 standard by this deadline, will no longer hold valid certification.

For any enquiries about this article, please contact Sandra Evans at [sandra.evans@emrc.org.au](mailto:sandra.evans@emrc.org.au).

## 6. Fauna surveys finds pygmy possums and honey possums

The Red Hill Waste Management Facility is not just a landfill site as it also provides valuable habitat for a diverse range of native flora and fauna species.

The EMRC owns and operates the waste facility and ensures that the protection of this habitat is a major consideration in all operations at and around the waste facility. It does this in a number of ways including progressively rehabilitating each cell with native vegetation as the cell is closed.

The EMRC also owns and manages a large area of native forest on the southern boundary of the facility, comprising Lot 82 and Lot 501. These two lots represent over 52 ha, and coupled with the adjacent John Forest National Park, provide an extensive habitat and food source for our native wildlife.

Fauna surveys are undertaken periodically at the waste facility. At a recent survey, a number of different native species were sighted including a western pygmy possum and a honey possum as shown below. Such surveys illustrate the importance and success of the rehabilitation program in providing vital habitat for our native species.

For any enquiries about this article, please contact Sandra Evans at [sandra.evans@emrc.org.au](mailto:sandra.evans@emrc.org.au).



Photos by Dr Margot Oorebeek and Ray Turnbull

## 7. EMRC calls for nominations for bushcare workshops

The EMRC will again be hosting its highly successful and popular series of bushcare workshops in 2018. Instead of having the EMRC selecting locations of where the workshops are to be held, this year the program's coordinators are encouraging people propose where they would like to see a workshop held. This has led to members of the public stepping forward and nominating their favourite bushland area.

The Bush Skills 4 Youth program, hosted by the EMRC, was launched in 2015 with funding from Lotterywest to raise awareness of the value of local bushland areas. The program has continued with funding from the State Natural Resource Management Program.

More than 80 workshops have been conducted throughout the region encouraging young people to explore the bush safely and have fun while learning to respect and care for it.

The program has engaged with a variety of groups including schools, home schooled students, scouts, guides, YMCA and out of school hours care through community events and workshops.

The EMRC believes that taking children outside to explore the interactions of the natural environment, gives them a sense of place and connection. The lessons taught in these programs can also last a lifetime.

Workshops can be one-off or a series and are tailored to the needs, knowledge and particular interests of the group.

To nominate a patch of bushland please email [BS4Y@emrc.org.au](mailto:BS4Y@emrc.org.au) or call 9424 2244.

For more information about the Bush Skills 4 Youth Program visit the website [www.emrc.org.au](http://www.emrc.org.au).

## 8. New EMRC website

The EMRC websites have a new look.

The [new corporate website](#) went live in early December 2017 as did the renamed [Perth's Eastern Region page](#) (formerly Perth Tourism) and the [R-gang site](#).

All of the new sites are bright and colourful and feature some fantastic photos of our region and the work of the EMRC.

The new Perth Eastern Region site includes the popular pages of the events calendar, environmental workshops and interactive activities like the award winning Swan River Ramble.

The new corporate site retains all the useful information and has been updated and refined to make your navigation around the site easier.

Any website is only effective if the audience is getting what they want from it so we do welcome your feedback and suggestions to continually improve the service.

Please send your feedback or suggestions to [communications@emrc.org.au](mailto:communications@emrc.org.au)

You can find the new sites at [www.emrc.org.au](http://www.emrc.org.au); [www.perthseasternregion.com.au](http://www.perthseasternregion.com.au) and [www.rgang.org.au](http://www.rgang.org.au).

## 9. Council and committee meeting dates

EMRC Council and committee meeting dates for 2018 are as follows:

### EMRC COUNCIL MEETING

Commencing at 6.00pm

Thursday, 19 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 24 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 21 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 19 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 23 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 20 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday 18 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday, 6 December	EMRC Administration Office

### AUDIT COMMITTEE (AC) MEETING

Commencing at 6.30pm

Thursday	5 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEOAC) MEETING

Commencing at 12.30pm

Tuesday	3 April	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	8 May (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	5 June	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	3 July (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	7 August	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	4 September (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	2 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	20 November	EMRC Administration Office

### RESOURCE RECOVERY COMMITTEE (RRC) MEETING

Commencing at 5.00pm

Thursday	5 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 June (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 September (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

Commencing at 4.00pm

Thursday	5 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 June (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 September (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 November (if required)	Red Hill Waste Management Facility