

EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

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The EMRC CIRCULAR

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1 Message from EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler

There's already much to celebrate in this first EMRC Circular of 2022!

The first deliveries of FOGO-derived products for a major urban infrastructure project is a major milestone on our journey towards a fully circular economy. Working in partnership with our member Councils the Town of Bassendean and the City of Bayswater, which have both rolled out FOGO programs in the last 18 months, we have reached a point where FOGO is poised to make a significant contribution towards the construction of major transport infrastructure – creating economically-valuable products from material which until recently would have been considered fit only for landfill.

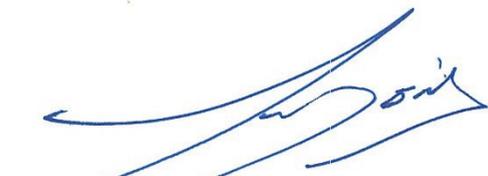
We're extending a warm welcome to Mindarie Regional Council as a member of the Green Deal Alliance (GDA). Established by the EMRC in October 2021, the GDA aims to provide pathways to increased resource recovery infrastructure in the Perth/Peel region and across WA's south west, creating meaningful jobs, building community resilience and protection for our natural ecosystems.

EMRC Team Members going 'above and beyond' are celebrated in this issue with the winners of our Extra Mile Recognition Program receiving their well-deserved awards. We also welcome two new managerial appointments and congratulate two Team Members who have qualified for long service awards. One of our valued weighbridge officers also has some very good news to share – see the story on page 10.

Capping off a great start to 2022, the Circular Economy webinar roadmap started rolling in February with a series of online events designed to benefit businesses and local governments in their approach to joining the Circular Economy revolution.

There will be much more good news coming down the track as the year progresses, which I hope to bring you in future issues of the EMRC Circular.

Meanwhile, the health and wellbeing of all our stakeholders remains our priority. Stay safe and keep well.



Marcus Geisler
Chief Executive Officer



Red Hill Waste Management Facility site manager Tanya Beinhauer and I were pleased to host Hon Ken Wyatt, Federal Member for Hasluck, during his recent visit to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. We discussed various issues including the EMRC's Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund application for a large-scale on-site FOGO processing facility, highlighting the importance of joint investment by industry, state and federal governments.

The fund, comprising \$57 million, is aimed at supporting the diversion of nutrient-rich household and commercial organic waste from landfill to soils by building new or enhancing existing organic waste processing infrastructure. The principle is 1:1:1 funding, in its application EMRC proposed 2/3 by industry (EMRC), matched by 1/6 from state and 1/6 from federal governments.

2 EMRC Passes Major FOGO Milestone

February 2022 is a highly significant date for the EMRC's Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Recovery Strategy with the first deliveries of 2,000m³ of FOGO-derived topsoil and soil conditioner products for a major urban infrastructure project.

Following the EMRC's successful negotiations to supply materials to Downer, the Public Transport Authority's delivery partner for METRONET's Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project, the first loads were delivered on Thursday, 10 February 2022. The FOGO-derived base material is sourced from the EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility. Other additives added off-site by EMRC partners to achieve fit-for-purpose specifications.

Prior to the first deliveries, samples of FOGO-derived soil conditioner and topsoil native mix were provided by the EMRC and accepted by the PTA's Landscape Project Engineer, meeting a key project requirement of a fit for purpose, low phosphorus native mix, compliant with Australian Standard AS 4454 and AS 4419. The Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA) will monitor the performance of the products to support the development of the model specification for significant future road and rail projects.

Over the past 18 months, the Red Hill Waste Management Facility has been processing FOGO material for member Councils the Town of Bassendean and the City of Bayswater, and building capability for FOGO receipt, conditioning, pasteurisation and maturation by deploying controlled aerobic composting technology.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, 'FOGO collection from every household is a key component of the State Waste

Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) 2030 Strategy, prompting councils to move towards building in-house processing capability and expanding community owned infrastructure as well as optimising control at all stages of resource recovery being education, engagement, collection, processing and sustainable end markets.

'This expected extra capacity will in turn enable the State Government's Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID) and the SWA to move towards 100% recycled content by using soil conditioner and compost in their projects, which includes METRONET's Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project.'

Green Deal Alliance (GDA) Chair Andonis Missikos said, 'The EMRC's leadership is exemplary as it's driving the acceleration of the Circular Economy in WA as per the requirements of the state and federal government's policies for waste reform. The SWA's role through its Innovation-Hub is bringing the 'Best Minds together from all sectors, accelerating the removal of obstacles in the supply chain between willing buyers and suppliers. The move "TOWARDS 100" policy approaches driven by OMTID's Vision on its 'Big Build' Projects augurs well for the Strategic Co-Investment Goals of SWA through the GDA.



Above: A truck delivers FOGO material to the METRONET Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project



This story represents a great step forward on the EMRC's journey towards a sustainable future...and is a worthy winner of this issue's Circular Economy in Action Award!

3 EMRC's Green Deal Alliance Welcomes a New Member

The Green Deal Alliance (GDA) has welcomed Mindarie Regional Council on board as a new member.



The EMRC established the GDA in October 2021 with two State Government entities: the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID) and the Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA). OMTID was established to streamline the delivery of major infrastructure projects (road and rail) valued at more than \$100 million. Several procurement processes, including for METRONET projects, are being fast-tracked to assist the post-pandemic economic recovery. The Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA) is a unique stakeholder alliance established in 2020 by OMTID to deliver on the commitment made to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to identify additional specific opportunities for using recycled materials in upcoming major infrastructure projects.

The GDA is a voluntary arrangement between state and local government regional bodies. The aim is to promote sustainable development goals (SDGs), in this instance SDG 12 - responsible consumption and production, and SDG 17 - partnerships for the goals. Parties that make an agreement commit to certain shared goals, monitoring these goals and implementing measures for achieving them. The agreement can be used as a steering instrument instead of legislation.

The GDA aims to accelerate the establishment of a local government and state government platform to provide a structured and efficient pathway towards increased resource recovery infrastructure in both the Perth/Peel region and in WA's south west.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, 'We are delighted to have Mindarie Regional Council and the Resource Recovery Group on board as our newest GDA members. Together our membership is looking forward to exploring some exciting and innovative infrastructure ideas for the benefit of all our communities.'

Mindarie Regional Council CEO Scott Cairns agrees. 'Alliances such as the GDA have the potential to drive the development of markets for recycled products in to the future. By working more closely together, state and local government partners are well-placed to advance the use of recoverable resources such as FOGO products for the benefit of communities across the state.'

Mr Geisler continued, 'Collaboration, collaboration and collaboration will deliver the Circular Economy outcomes we aspire to, including meaningful jobs and resilience of our communities and ecosystems.'

GDA Chair Andonis Missikos said, 'We welcome all regional councils on board as well as industry and community sector partners in an 'Alliance of All Parties', working together implementing our "TOWARDS 100" policy promise through achievement of our 2030 recovery targets.'

METRONET's Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project is the first OMTID-METRONET demonstration project using purposely sourced FOGO-derived materials and also represents a significant move towards the introduction of Circular Economy principles in state infrastructure projects.

4 East Rockingham Waste To Energy Facility Takes Shape

The half-billion dollar East Rockingham Waste To Energy (ERWTE) facility was the destination for a site visit by EMRC Councillors and Deputy Councillors on 10 February 2022.

Waste To Energy plants create fuel from household and commercial waste and the 10ha East Rockingham facility will play a role in sustainable waste management in WA. The East Rockingham facility will create around 50 jobs for the life of the project. Among many impressive features of the construction process is the use of one of the world's heaviest-lifting cranes – required to lift large steel beams and modular units into position.

The EMRC, one of the founding residual waste supply partners of the project, plans to send significant amounts of residual waste to the facility after its scheduled opening in November 2022. When fully operational, the ERWTE will generate 28.9mw/h, enough to power 36,000 Perth homes.

EMRC have negotiated a 'waste arising' supply contract on behalf of a number of it's member councils, which means ongoing flexibility, no locked in volumes and keeping open the opportunity for more resource recovery from the residual waste stream through collection and/or processing.



Above: A digital impression of the completed ERWTE. Left: site visitors during their guided tour of the construction site. Below: an aerial view of the site, showing one of the world's heaviest-lifting cranes.



5 Star Studded Extra Mile Award Presentations Celebrate The Best of 2021

The EMRC's Extra Mile Recognition Program, through which Team Members nominate colleagues who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the EMRC's values, has four categories:

- ↺ Shooting Star of the Month Award for EMRC employees;
- ↺ Rising Star Award, presented twice-yearly – for employees new to the EMRC;
- ↺ All Stars Award presented twice-yearly to an EMRC team; and
- ↺ Super Star of the Year – compiled from the Shooting Star monthly award winners.

A presentation ceremony on 17 December 2021 celebrated winners of each of the four categories and gave Team Members an opportunity to congratulate winners of all four categories. Reproduced below are Team Member's citations for each of the category winners. Congratulations to all our Stars!



Super Star of the Year – Weighbridge Officer Katrina Kennedy with Chief Operating Officer Brad Lacey and EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler

'Katrina moved from her role at the Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park to the Baywaste Transfer Station at short notice. Her willingness to take on the role meant that operations at Baywaste continued uninterrupted and Katrina has since made a magnificent contribution to the team.'

'She has consistently maintained a professional and composed communication style with customers. Katrina has also been instrumental in maintaining communication with internal and external stakeholders. Most recently, Katrina managed the receipt of shipping containers from multiple providers over several weeks. Often, logistics providers amended schedules at short notice, which Katrina was able to track and coordinate very effectively.'

'One of the most significant contributions Katrina has made is to the improved administration of the site, resulting in improved reportable information for our internal and external stakeholders.'



Katrina with (left) Chief Operating Officer Brad Lacey and (right) EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler



Shooting Stars of the Year – Environmental Officers Waste and Compliance Sunday Eke and Raju Maddi

'The EMRC produces a comprehensive report on toxic substances emitted to the air, land and water from each of our operational sites which may have a potential effect on human health and the environment, following the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) reporting process. Raju and Sunday, who both joined the EMRC in 2021 and were new to the process of reporting to the NPI, worked collaboratively and incredibly hard to complete the requirements of the NPI reporting process by the deadline of 30 September 2021.'



Raju Maddi

'The data collection process to compile the report is highly intensive. Both Sunday and Raju demonstrated the importance of team work while completing many other duties and were successful in submitting the report before the deadline. Well done to both of them.'



All Stars: the EMRC HR Team

'I would like to nominate the entire HR team for their continual support, dedication, attention to detail and above all for always having a 'Can Do Attitude'. Over the past year there has been a restructure, we have implemented new performance reviews for all levels within the EMRC, conducted many interviews for new positions and much more.'

'There are many other areas that the HR team supports Team Members. There is simply not enough space for everything for which they have provided support. To be honest, I see the HR Team as the quiet achievers. They just get on with it and deliver on all that's required. It makes me very proud to have people like the HR Team in my corner. Thank you, guys. You should all be very proud of yourselves.'

Left: The EMRC HR Team with EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler. Left to right: Senior HR advisor Jamie Beaney, Coordinator OSH Michelle Rock, HR Officer Gillian Sirl and Manager HR Angela Wolstencroft



Sunday Eke pictured with Chief Project Officer Doug Bruce



Rising Star: Waste Education Officer Abigail Jones

'There is no doubting Abi's enthusiasm and dedication to waste avoidance, reduction and circular thinking. Abi is a committed team member who expects a high standard from herself and frequently identifies new ideas and opportunities. Her ideas come together from identifying ways to expand waste education messaging to the broader community who may not be motivated by a traditional 'do the right thing' rationale.'

'Since Abi started working at the EMRC, she has established herself as an integral team member who brings enthusiasm and passion into all aspects of her work.'

'Abi is a lateral thinker, which is crucial as we transition to a new sustainability strategy and position ourselves as industry leaders and innovators.'

'With consistent displays of initiative, she sees areas where the team can improve and streamline and jumps in to identify solutions. Abi is coordinating the FOGO Schools project that requires her to liaise with DWER and the Department of Education. She displays adaptability and knowledge with the ideas and support she offers. She delivers work of a high standard, is innovative and on task and is a valued colleague. The EMRC is lucky to have you as part of the team!'

'Abi consistently displays all of the organisational values. Her first project was the Waste and Recycle Guides for member Councils, a task with a steep learning curve requiring responsiveness to stakeholder needs and innovation. Abi took the project on with an open mind to learn and support our member Councils through the process; she delivered on time while managing tight timeframes and developing positive relationships with Council staff.'



Abigail Jones (left) pictured with Chief Sustainability Officer Wendy Harris (right)

6 Weigh To Go! Meet the EMRC's Customer Service Supremos - Part 1



Above: a warm welcome from Jade Beresford and Annabel Ansi, weighbridge Team Members at the Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park. Below: Jade efficiently processes a customer's paperwork



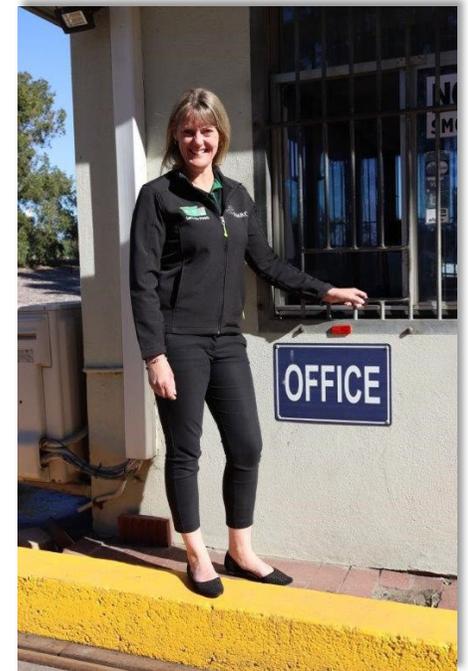
First impressions always count. And for many visitors welcomed to the EMRC's operational sites, their first impressions are provided by the Team Members at our weighbridges.

In addition to their key task, our weighbridge ambassadors also take responsibility for administration duties and invoicing – but most importantly, acting as first point of contact for our valued customers.

More recently, a vital task to inform and ensure that all visitors are compliant with Covid-19 requirements has been added. Weighbridge Team Members play a vital role ensuring that onsite safety requirements are 100% understood and followed.

Chief Operating Officer Brad Lacey said, 'Customer service always comes first for our weighbridge Team Members. They consistently display our values, ensure accuracy and are dedicated to providing great service to our customers.'

Katrina Kennedy (right), weighbridge officer at Baywaste, has made such a positive contribution to customer relations and business continuity that she earned the prestigious title of Super Star of the Year 2021 (see story on page7)



Over at the Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park, Jade Beresford and recent joiner Annabel Ansi greet customers at the recently- commissioned weighbridge, which has replaced the old structure at the southern end of the site.

Jade transferred to the facility from her original role as receptionist at the EMRC's Ascot office.

She said, 'One of the best things about working as a weighbridge officer is getting to know the regular drivers. We're on first name terms with plenty of them, and the rapport we have built is something we really value.'

In Jade's case, the rapport has led to something stronger – she's become engaged to Ryan, one of the regular visitors to Hazelmere, and the pair are due to marry in August 2023!

In the Next Issue – meet the Customer Service Supremos at more of the EMRC's Operational Sites

7 Meet Carmen Sadleir - EMRC's New Manager Environmental and Waste Compliance

Holding the position of Coordinator Landfill Services at the City of Rockingham, and previously as the Manager of Health and Environment at the Shire of Northam, Carmen has over 16 years' local government experience. She has extensive experience in landfill development and operations, environmental compliance, waste collection services, environmental health, town planning, building surveying, procurement, projects and financial management. Some of her specialist skills and career highlights include:

- ↖ Securing substantial WA Waste Authority funding for projects such as rolling out kerbside recycling to the Shires of Northam and Toodyay, construction of a Transfer Station and Reuse Shop and acquiring funding for the City of Rockingham's E-Waste recycling program;
- ↖ Major project management including construction of gatehouses and associated services, landfill cell construction, landfill rehabilitation, storm water drainage, leachate management, monitoring bore and pump installations, internal road network construction, recycling infrastructure construction and liquid waste pond construction and transfer station safety solutions;
- ↖ Strategic waste management including forward planning for landfill sites and organising Strategic Waste Management Plans with consultant engineers and professionals.



8 Meet Juan-Mari Davies - EMRC's New Manager Operations

Juan-Mari comes from an extensive waste management background, having commenced in the industry in Johannesburg, South Africa working with Veolia. From there Juan-Mari joined Enviroserve, the largest waste management company in sub-Saharan Africa. Since moving to Australia in 2017, Juan-Mari has worked with Cleanaway and most recently with the City of Wanneroo as a Senior Project Officer and Manager, responsible for rolling out a three-bin project to some 75,000 households.

Juan-Mari said, 'Some time ago, I visited the EMRC's Hazelmere, Baywaste and Red Hill facilities and witnessed best practices, good housekeeping, and a drive to be the leaders in resource recovery and innovation. I wanted to be part of that story.'

She continued, 'I like to rethink things, unlearn what I thought used to be right, and learn from others. If I had a superpower, it would be collaboration. I love teams and how you can learn from and support one another.'

'I believe a trusting and safe workspace is where innovation, improvements and robust conversations flourish. I'm look forward to learning about the strengths of Team Members across the whole of the EMRC.'

9 Long Service Awards for Izabella Krzysko and Chris Snook

Congratulations to two EMRC Team Members who received long service awards at the end of 2021 for ten years' and five years' service respectively.



Izabella with EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler and Chief Financial Officer Hua Jer Liew

Izabella Krzysko's decade at the EMRC began in 2011 as a temp, taking on the task of developing new contracts for EMRC staff. That project was handled so efficiently that when the Human Resources business unit underwent a minor restructure a few months later, she was offered the role of HR advisor. Izabella has been an integral member of the EMRC Team with a wide variety of roles and responsibilities. Izabella's responsibilities as HR advisor included giving advice to staff on a huge range of workplace and employment issues, and she demonstrated a passion for assisting colleagues across a range of HR issues.

More recently, Izabella's dedicated attention to detail is a strength that supports her role as Manager Procurement and Governance. As a qualified industrial lawyer, she has a thorough understanding of how to maximise benefits from procurement processes and her wise counsel has again and again proven to be invaluable, creating new efficiencies and saving money.

She often goes above and beyond her role and throughout her 10 years has always been very supportive of her colleagues. This was quickly recognised with awards of Employee of the Month, the first time in October 2012, and the second in February 2014. Her dedication always serves as an inspiration to all who work alongside her.

Chris Snook's five years at the EMRC began in 2016 as Information Services Support Officer. Having graduated from Murdoch University the previous year, he immediately stood out as being a good fit for the EMRC.

Chris soon developed extensive expertise in helping staff with IT issues. He is well regarded by other Team Members for his support and has received recognition from his colleagues on many occasions. During his five years at the EMRC Chris has taken on many challenges including:

- ↪ Managing the upgrade from Office 2010 to 2019;
- ↪ Building a mini 'Intranet on a (USB) Stick' for Councillor inductions;
- ↪ Managing Windows updates and deploying software updates to workstations;
- ↪ IT asset tracking;
- ↪ Deploying new computers and upgrades; and
- ↪ Supporting staff during COVID lockdowns.



Chris with Chief Financial Officer Hua Jer Liew

10 EMRC Launches Circular Economy Webinar Roadmap 2022

A Roadmap designed to increase awareness and catalyse the transition to a more Circular Economy in WA has been launched by the EMRC.

Part of a unique educational program created in collaboration with Circular Economy Western Australia (CEWA), the Roadmap is designed to benefit businesses and local governments in their approach to joining the Circular Economy revolution.

The Roadmap details nine webinars planned to run until November 2022. Each of the webinars will cover different aspects of how the move towards a Circular Economy will provide a boost to the regional economy and Perth's Eastern Region as a whole. The nine topics in the program will build a composite picture of how a Circular Economy works in practice and the educational aspect of the program will enable participants to start planning a move towards a Circular Economy. This will benefit organisations, state government agencies, local governments, communities and EMRC stakeholders

The first webinar on Friday, 25 February 2022, titled 'What Is A Circular Economy?', provided participants with an opportunity to understand the principles of a Circular Economy and set out a practical approach to change existing thinking. The webinar featured a case study of [Orange Tractor](#), an award-winning organic vineyard based near Albany in WA's south west.

Topics covered in the other eight successive webinars, which are closely aligned to the EMRC's recently-launched Sustainability Strategy, will include minimising food waste, embracing circularity in the home, local government procurement in a Circular Economy, reducing biodiversity loss and paving the way towards Net Zero emissions.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, 'The Roadmap will take WA's business community on a journey towards a fully-understanding Circular Economy approach.

'The launch event begins the process of gaining practical skills and knowledge to start making the transition. "Think forward, act now" and get involved to see for yourself how the Circular Economy can make a difference.'



11 2022 EMRC Council, Agenda Briefing Forum and Committee Meeting Dates

EMRC Council, Agenda Briefing Forum and Committee meeting dates for 2022 are as follows.

Ordinary Council Meetings commence at 6:00pm and are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from February to November.

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|----|----------------------------|
| Thursday | 26 May 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 23 June 2022 | | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 28 July 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 25 August 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 22 September 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 27 October 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 24 November 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |

Agenda Briefing Forums commence at 6:00pm and are held on the second Thursday of each month from February to November.

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|----------|------------------|---------------|----|----------------------------|
| Thursday | 12 May 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 9 June 2022 | | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 14 July 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 11 August 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 8 September 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 13 October 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 10 November 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |

Information Sessions follow Agenda Briefing Forums.

Audit Committee Meetings commence at 6:00pm and are generally held on the first Thursday of each month from March to November.

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------------|----|----------------------------|
| Thursday | 5 May 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 2 June 2022 | | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 7 July 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 4 August 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 1 September 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 6 October 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Thursday | 3 November 2022 | (if required) | at | EMRC Administration Office |

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