

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

In person, 170 Railway Pde, West Leederville

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1 Attendance and Apologies

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Cr Karen Wheatland (Chair) (Melville)	WALGA State Council
Cr Natasha Colliver	City of Greater Geraldton
Cr Kathryn Hamilton (Bassendean)	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
Mayor Alison Xamon (Vincent)	Mindarie Regional Council
Cr Daniel Lim (Melville)	Resource Recovery Group
Cr Robert Schmidt (Rockingham)	WALGA State Council
Cr Donelle Buegge (Manjimup)	WALGA State Council
Mr Stuart Devenish (OAG Chair)	Western Metropolitan Regional Council
Mr Nick Edwards	Bunbury Harvey Regional Council
Mr Darrell Monteiro (Serpentine Jarrahdale)	Metropolitan Local Government
Mr Marten Tielman	Resource Recovery Group
Ms Rebecca Brown	MWAC/WALGA
Ms Conor Macgill	MWAC/WALGA
Ms Tazra Hawkins	MWAC/WALGA
Ms Mackenzie Young	MWAC/WALGA
Ms Nicole Matthews	WALGA
Mr Rick Bryant (Gosnells)	Observer

1.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Karen Chappel JP	WALGA President
Mr Mark Sewell (Manjimup)	Non-Metropolitan Local Government
Cr Andrew Maurice (Mosman Park)	Western Metropolitan Regional Council
Cr Andrew Sullivan (Fremantle)	Resource Recovery Group
Mr Dale Coyne (Kalamunda)	Metropolitan Local Government
Mr Jer Liew	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
Cr Lewis Hutton (Joondalup)	WALGA State Council
Cr Laurene Bonza (Dundas)	WALGA State Council
Cr Wendy Dickinson (Harvey)	Bunbury Harvey Regional Council

2 Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 Procedural Matters

3.1 MWAC MINUTES TABLED AT WALGA STATE COUNCIL

A summary of the Minutes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting held on Wednesday, 15 October 2025 will be noted at the next WA Local Government Association State Council meeting.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MWAC MINUTES

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Minutes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting held on 15 October 2025, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Cr Robert Schmidt

Seconded: Cr Karen Wheatland

CARRIED

5 Business Arising

Meeting Date	Action	Update
9 July 2025	Local Government exemption on waste rock: WALGA to investigate the relevant legislation, including the potential for Local Governments to be granted an exemption of royalty payments when waste rock is used for community infrastructure purposes.	WALGA has sought information from the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration on this matter.

6 Decision Items

6.1 EMERGENCY WASTE MANAGEMENT TEMPLATE

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Motion

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Template Emergency Waste Management Plan.

Moved: Mayor Alison Xamon

Seconded: Cr Robert Schmidt

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- WALGA, working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Local Government, has developed a Template Emergency Waste Management Plan.
- The aim of the Plan is to provide a way for Local Governments to explore, at a high level, the likely types of waste that could be generated from an event and consequent considerations and management options.
- To assist Local Governments to develop their own Plans, WALGA will host engagement sessions, commencing in March 2026.

Background

There have been a range of situations in Western Australia where recovery efforts have been hampered by challenges associated with emergency waste management. Ineffective emergency waste management has the potential to significantly delay recovery efforts, present a considerable risk to human health and the environment and increase the costs

of recovery. Effective planning for waste likely to be generated by emergency events can assist in addressing this issue.

WALGA is part of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) working group on Emergency Waste Management (convened under the auspices of the State Emergency Management Committee). One of the activities identified by this working group was the development of a Template Emergency Waste Management Plan (the Template) for Local Government.

In 2017-18 WALGA, with funding from Natural Disaster Resilience Program, undertook a [comprehensive review](#) of the legislation and operational environment to identify how Local Governments could better plan for, and manage, waste generated from emergency events. Building on that work, the **attached** Template has been developed with input from the WALGA Emergency Management Team, DFES, the Shires of Broome and Cities of Greater Geraldton and Bunbury. The Template has information included (light blue text) from the Shires of Broome and City of Greater Geraldton to show the intended content. The Template will be used in an iterative way to allow for improvements as Local Government use it.

Comments

The Template will help Local Governments make informed decisions to strengthen emergency preparedness and can be adapted for specific scenarios, such as managing H5 Bird Flu outbreaks.

WALGA will host engagement sessions regarding general principles of emergency waste management and using the Template commencing March 2026. It is intended that the completed plan will be attached to the Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMA). Still to be determined is where the Template will be hosted, as DFES is generating a range of resources.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council endorsed the Emergency Waste Management Template for use as a document that contributes to Local Government preparedness for emergency events. The Template is designed to be applicable with varying funding sources, acknowledging that responsibility for managing the Recovery may shift depending on the thresholds reached during an event.

6.2 SUBMISSION ON DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Motion

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy subject to amendments.

Moved: Mayor Alison Xamon
Seconded: Cr Robert Schmidt

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- On Tuesday 18 November, the Government released:
 - [Beyond WAste 2030](#) – the modified draft Waste Strategy which sets out the vision, goals, targets and priorities for the state

- [Beyond WAste 2030 roadmap](#) – the draft five-year action plan that will underpin the Waste Strategy.
- In developing the Draft Submission WALGA used information from previous Submissions on the Directions Paper and initial Draft Strategy and also gathered feedback directly from Local Government.
- The Draft Strategy is a significant change to the previous Draft Strategy released for comment, with changes to some Targets, the overall strategy focus areas and moving significant amounts of detail into the Roadmap rather than the Strategy.

Background

The [Draft State Waste Strategy](#) and [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) were released on Wednesday 29 May 2024, with comments due 21 August 2024. This followed the Government's release of the Strategy Directions Paper in May 2023. WALGA provided a comprehensive [Submission](#) on the Strategy and Directions Paper. MWAC also considered and provided feedback on some of the Roadmap actions which specifically relate to WALGA.

On Tuesday 18 November, the Government released [Beyond WAste 2030](#) – the modified draft Waste Strategy which sets out the vision, goals, targets and priorities for the state and [Beyond WAste 2030 roadmap](#) – the draft five-year action plan that will underpin the Waste Strategy. With feedback due Tuesday 16 December (a one month consultation period as required by the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*).

Comments

In preparing the draft Submission (**attached**) on the Draft Strategy WALGA has compared the Draft Plan to previous Submissions, hosted a consultation webinar with Local Government, provided other feedback opportunities to Local Government and consulted with the Officers Advisory Group.

The Draft Strategy is a significant change to the previous Draft released for comment, with changes to some Targets, the overall strategy focus areas and moving significant detail into the Roadmap rather than the Strategy. Some of the recommendations from the WALGA Submission on the first Draft of the Strategy have been incorporated including developing an illegal dumping strategy, expansion of the Containers for Change Scheme and a focus on local options for reuse and repair. A short presentation will be provided at the MWAC meeting outlining the key elements of the new Draft Strategy and the draft Submission.

Following consideration by MWAC, the draft Submission will be circulated via flying Agenda for State Council for consideration and endorsement. WALGA requested, and was provided with, a short extension to allow the process to be undertaken.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council endorsed the Submission with amendments that highlight WALGA does not support the Strategy in its current form and considers that there need to be significant changes to ensure that the proposed actions in the Roadmap are sufficient to deliver the 2030 Targets. The proposed changes to the Submission include:

- Stronger emphasis on ensuring the Waste Levy is fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities.
- Increased investment in education and behaviour change campaigns.
- Governance reform for waste management.

- Immediate review of the State Waste Infrastructure Plan to better support the Strategy.

The Council also discussed the omission of a mandatory FOGO requirement. Members identified that the absence of a FOGO mandate, or funding program, means limited incentive for Local Governments to adopt FOGO. The Council identified there are challenges for FOGO implementation including processing capacity, contamination and end markets.

6.3 SUBMISSION ON PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO TYRE INDUSTRY

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Motion

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the tyre industry.

Moved: Cr Robert Schmidt

Seconded: Stuart Devenish

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The Parliament of Australia's Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.
- The first stage of the Inquiry is seeking feedback on the Terms of Reference.
- WALGA has developed a short Submission, based on the [7.15 Product Stewardship Advocacy Position](#) and previous Submissions on Tyre Product Stewardship.
- Submissions are due 23 January 2026.

Background

This stage of the Inquiry is requesting feedback on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. These are:

1. Reviewing tyre manufacturing, distribution, importation, and retail trends.
2. Investigating current practices in tyre reuse, retreading, recycling, and resource recovery, including reviewing federal, state, and local regulations governing tyre production, disposal, and recycling.
3. Exploring technological advancements in tyre design, recycling processes, and alternative materials.
4. Identifying opportunities to develop high-value uses for waste tyres and tyre-derived materials, including applications in construction, manufacturing, and other commercial sectors.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the existing circular economy models and identifying opportunities for research and development to support improved sustainable practices.
6. Considering the role of commercially viable product stewardship schemes and whether these should be made mandatory, and identifying infrastructure gaps in collection, processing, and recycling facilities.
7. Investigating environmental, community, and health and safety concerns related to tyre waste and recycling operations

Comment

A short Submission has been developed (**attached**) focusing on the importance of mandatory product stewardship and identifying the issues Local Governments continue to experience in relation to Tyre management. Local Governments are also encouraged to make Submissions directly to the Inquiry. Feedback from the Officers Advisory Group has been incorporated into the Submission.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council endorsed the Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the tyre industry without amendment. The Chair of the Officers Advisory Group (OAG) indicated that feedback from the OAG on the importance of economic considerations and the material value of tyres had been included in the Submission.

7 Discussion Items

7.1 MWAC FUTURE STRUCTURE

Executive Summary

- The 2025-26 Financial Year will be the final year of MWAC's operation under the current approach.
- WALGA has been exploring alternative governance structures and is seeking feedback from the Officers Advisory Group and MWAC regarding the essential elements of a future structure.

For discussion

- Feedback on key elements of future MWAC structure.

Background

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council MWAC has been in operation for over 30 years as a delegated Committee of WALGA. The current situation, with changes to Regional Councils, and consideration of a more contemporary governance approach, has identified the need to update MWAC's structure. WALGA has been exploring working group/policy forum structure which align to WALGA's existing Governance structure and includes representatives from Regional Councils and Local Government. State Council will consider at the March 2026 meeting a motion to wind up MWAC at the end of the 2025-26 financial year. The alternative structure will be in place following that.

Discussion at Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting

The Council discussed the need for a reform of MWAC to ensure it aligns with the current scope of waste management in the sector and contributes meaningfully to policy processes. WALGA will present a paper to MWAC in February to inform consideration of the most appropriate future structure.

It was also noted that a streamlined MWAC Agenda will be used in 2026, focusing on the key strategic priorities identified for each meeting in Information Item 8.14.

8 Information Items

8.1 POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW UPDATE

Policy Statement	Status	Timeframe
Circular Economy	In progress	Background Paper will be presented to February 2026 OAG/MWAC.
7.7 Waste Management Infrastructure	Review to be scheduled	The funding requirements for infrastructure are covered in the 7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position . WALGA will consider if a more detailed advocacy position on this topic is required in 2026.
All other Policy Statement Reviews complete.		

8.2 BETTER PRACTICE DOCUMENT REVIEW UPDATE

Better Practice Document	Status	Timeframe/comment
Events	Complete	Endorsed MWAC April 2025.
Procurement	Complete	Endorsed MWAC October 2025.
Drop-off	Complete	Endorsed MWAC October 2025.
Waste Local Law	In progress	In progress for completion mid 2026.
Charity bin management	In progress	Refer to Information Item 8.6.
Vergeside	Review to be scheduled	Refresh only in 2026.
Reuse Shops	Review to be scheduled	Refresh only in 2026.
Shopping Trolley	Review to be scheduled	Refresh only in 2026.
Better Practice Optical Surveillance Devices (aka CCTV)	Review to be scheduled	Will be progressed through the Reducing Illegal Dumping Working Group.
Model Process Illegal Dumping	Review to be scheduled	Will be progressed through the Reducing Illegal Dumping Working Group.
Planning	Review to be scheduled	Establish with the planning team if a review is necessary in 2026.

8.3 RESOURCE RECOVERY GROUP (RRG) UPDATE

- RRG have been working closely with Member Councils towards a proposed Collective model in collaboration with the City of Canning. A request for proposal (RFP) process was undertaken by the City of Canning, inviting submissions from companies to operate the Canning Vale Centre.
- Following the RFP process, the preferred operator has been identified as Re.Group with the operating entity being Re.Cycle (Canning Vale) Pty Ltd.
- Re.Group took over the Canning Vale Centre operations on 1 December 2025, as scheduled.

8.4 FOGO ACCEPTED MATERIALS

- On Wednesday, 5 November, the Consistent Communications Collective (CCC) met to discuss streamlining FOGO accepted materials to include only food organics, garden organics and certified compostable caddy liners.
- Key actions from the meeting include developing a timeline for implementation, creating campaign materials and fact sheets with data-driven information and securing funding support.
- WALGA will work with DWER to progress these actions and will reconvene with CCC in early 2026 to progress.

8.5 REDUCING ILLEGAL DUMPING (RID) WORKING GROUP

- Following the endorsement to reconvene the Reducing Illegal Dumping (RID) Working Group in October, WALGA has issued invitations to the relevant Departments and circulated Expressions of Interest to Local Governments. The first meeting is scheduled for 11 December.
- At the October MWAC Meeting it was identified that a MWAC representatives should be included on the Group, with volunteers nominated at the meeting. This may need to be revisited due to a change in MWAC composition.

8.6 CHARITY BIN MANAGEMENT BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINE

- In 2017, WALGA developed the Better Practice Guideline Charity Bin Management.
- WALGA conducted a survey to understand the current landscape of charity bin placement on Local Government land and inform a potential review of the Guideline.
- The survey closed on Tuesday, 14 October with 49 responses. The results showed 82.5% of respondents consider charity bins a low or non-priority, although 11 Local Governments still host bins on their land.
- WALGA will discuss the survey outcomes with the Charitable Reuse Australia Group on Thursday, 20 November.
- WALGA anticipates undertaking a light review of the Guideline for consideration in early 2026.

8.7 HOT LOADS

- A hot load is an industry term for when a truck catches on fire.
- After discussions with Local Governments regarding inconsistent messaging on the correct process for truck drivers, WALGA is investigating appropriate procedure and will provide guidance via a webinar.
- WALGA has met with LGIS and is scheduling a meeting with DFES to progress this work.

8.8 B-CYCLE DETERMINATION

- The [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission](#) has authorised the Battery Stewardship Council to continue the B-cycle Battery Stewardship Scheme for another five years. This voluntary program supports safe collection and recycling of used batteries, reducing landfill waste and fire hazards. Conditions include maintaining button battery safety measures and ongoing stakeholder consultation.
- This means the public collection drop off location in a range of retail outlets and drop-off locations will continue. Local Governments are encouraged to promote the [WasteSorted Find Your Nearest](#) site which lists all battery drop-off locations.

8.9 SOFT PLASTICS DETERMINATION

- The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has granted an eight-year exemption to Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia (SPSA) and industry partners, including Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Nestlé, Mars, and McCormick, for a voluntary, levy-funded soft-plastic collection and recycling initiative. The ACCC flagged significant diversion of soft plastics from landfill as a benefit and imposed conditions on transparency, independent reviews, governance and non-exclusivity.
- This approval will assist with soft plastic collection and recycling through retail outlets.

8.10 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND WORKS

- WALGA is continuing work on public housing and is liaising with the Department of Housing and Works to arrange a meeting.
- The aim is to discuss Local Government concerns and collaborate on a consistent approach to managing bin contamination and illegal dumping for these property types.

8.11 PSHB NEW MANAGEMENT ZONE

- On Friday 14 November, the State Government [gazetted](#) changes to the zones within the Quarantine Area for Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).
- This change sees a significantly larger portion of the metropolitan area, and all 30 Local Governments, having responsibility for managing PSHB infestations.
- There may be a change of requirements for greenwaste processing facilities as a result of this amendment.

8.12 NSW DRAFT PRODUCT LIFECYCLE RESPONSIBILITY REGULATION

- The NSW Environmental Protection Authority has opened feedback on the [draft Product Lifecycle Responsibility Regulation](#) and Regulatory Impact Statement which aims to mandate a product stewardship scheme for batteries.
- As this Regulation may be used as a basis for WA legislation, the information is being reviewed, however a Submission has not been made.

8.13 CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE – REGULATIONS UPDATE

- In September 2025, the State Government announced WA's Container Deposit Scheme, Containers for Change, would expand its scope of eligible containers to accept wine and spirit bottles alongside larger sizes of already approved containers from 1 July 2026.
- The draft Waste Avoidance and Waste Recovery (Container Deposit Scheme) Amendment Regulations 2025 (draft regulations) have been prepared to accomplish this expansion, as well as other amendments to assist in improving and streamlining the administration of the Scheme.
- Key points in the draft regulations include defining new acceptable containers, highlighting prohibited containers such as those made from non-recyclable materials, streamlined approvals of new containers and streamlined reporting conditions for minor beverage suppliers such as boutique breweries.
- Consultation on the Regulations will be undertaken through the CDS Stakeholder Advisory Group, of which WALGA is a member, with feedback closing on 18 January 2026.

8.14 2026 MEETING DATES

2026 MWAC meeting dates, and focus areas, are as follows:

- 18 February – MWAC structure
- 22 April – Regional Collaboration
- 24 June (in person) – Waste Infrastructure.

9 Reports

9.1 MWAC GROUPS

Metropolitan Regional Council Working Group

Delegates/Nominees: n/a

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

Consistent Communications Collective

Delegates/Nominees: n/a

This Group met on Wednesday 5 November.

Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Group/Operators Meeting

Delegates/Nominees: Waste Management Program Coordinator

This Group met on Tuesday 18 November.

9.2 EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

DWER Regulatory Reference Group

Representative: WALGA Executive Manager, Policy

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

DWER FOGO Reference Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor, RRG, EMRC, WMRC

This Group met on Wednesday 26 November.

DWER Recovered Materials Stakeholder Reference Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

Australasian Packaging Label Working Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

Hazard Coordinating Committee

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

Across Agency Asbestos Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer / Senior Policy Advisor

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC meeting.

ASEA Asbestos Advisory Group

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

This Group has not met since the previous MWAC Meeting.

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group met on Thursday 20 November.

Charitable Reuse Australia

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

This Group met on Thursday 20 November.

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Representative

Representative: MWAC Executive Officer

WALGA is representing ALGA on the Government Officers Group for the Australian Packaging Covenant.

Container Deposit Scheme Stakeholder Advisory Group

Representative: Senior Policy Advisor

The Group met on Monday 24 November to discuss the draft regulations for CDS expansion.

Other General Business

Meeting closed 5.13pm.

Next Meeting

The next MWAC meeting will be held at 4:00pm, Wednesday, 18 February 2026, online.