

EMRC Newsletter

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1. CEO's message



The EMRC strives for excellence in all of our work every day. This autumn has been filled with events, seminars and workshops around Perth's eastern region. From Blue Sky Festival to Perth's Autumn Festival, the community can truly benefit from everything that the Perth's eastern region has to offer.

I would like to also announce that the Red Hill Waste Management Facility has been listed for accepting 45 extra types of packaged controlled solid waste types. This allows the Red Hill Waste Management Facility to lead the way in being the first landfill facility in Western Australia to have 50 types of packaged controlled solid types of waste to be accepted.

I hope that everyone enjoys spending time with family and friends during the upcoming Western Australia Day long weekend.



PETER B. SCHNEIDER
Chief Executive Officer

2. Red Hill Waste Management Facility, the only Landfill Facility with 50 types of waste accepted

In March 2018, the EMRC sought an amendment to its controlled waste tracking system waste facility profile to accept and dispose of extra controlled waste types at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. Permission from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was granted in April 2018.

EMRC holds Part V licence L8889/2015/1 as granted under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. Red Hill Waste Management Facility is listed on the Controlled Waste Tracking System (CWTS) to accept 5 packaged controlled solid waste types. We have now been listed for the receipt of an extra 45 types of packaged controlled solid waste.

This allows Red Hill Waste Management Facility to be the first and only Landfill Facility to have 50 types of packaged controlled solid waste to be accepted. The EMRC is very proud With Red Hill Waste Management Facility leading the way under this category of Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004.

Red Hill Waste Management Facility will start accepting these additional packaged controlled solid waste types on 1 July 2018.

For more information please contact Ramal Tissera at ramal.tissera@emrc.org.au.

3. Lotterywest funding: *Farm dams as refuges for freshwater plants and animals in a drying climate.*

The EMRC has been granted funding of \$92,926 from Lotterywest to coordinate an environmental research project with Murdoch University.

This partnership will see the University undertake research in the EMRC member Councils of the Cities of Kalamunda and Swan and the Shire of Mundaring, to determine what native freshwater biodiversity is supported by farm dams.

The project will include training landholders as citizen scientists and increase the capacity of all landholders with farm dams to manage them to sustain native biodiversity through web-based knowledge dissemination.

The vitality of this project is to prevent loss of biodiversity from freshwater bodies in our member Councils located in the Perth Hills. Many freshwater plants and animals rely on perennial water, yet that is becoming scarce in our landscape however small dams may provide this vital solution where water is otherwise scarce.



Dam at top of Altinier property.

The EMRC is and always have been very committed to the environmental services it provides for the region.

The Murdoch University study will conclude in March 2019 with the findings expected to be released in July 2019.

For more information please contact Karen Warner at karen.warner@emrc.org.au.

4. EMRC thanks Lotterywest for another Successful Perth Autumn Festival

For several years Lotterywest have been supporting Perth's eastern region and the EMRC. From sponsoring family events to providing grants to several projects, Lotterywest has been a great partner in ensuring Perth's eastern region is a great place to live, work, play and do business in.

Recently the EMRC had the pleasure to contribute to this year's Perth's Autumn Festival. Sponsored by Lotterywest, The Perth's Autumn Festival saw an abundance of eager faces enjoying everything Perth's Eastern Region has to offer. Food and wine experiences, leisurely bike rides, family events and community festivals were just some of what was on offer every weekend from March to May.

The EMRC looks forward to working with Lotterywest in future Perth's Autumn Festivals and would like to thank them for their many years of support.

Perth's Autumn Festival is promoted by the EMRC on behalf of its member Councils and is supported by Lotterywest.

For more information on the core and fringe events visit www.perthseasternregion.com.au



5. Property, Planning and Conservation Seminar

EMRC hosted a seminar at the Blue Sky Festival on 17 March, at the Lesser Hall in Mundaring. The seminar's purpose was to provide information and practical advice to landholders on how to preserve, enhance and protect the biodiversity values on private property. Information about the flora and fauna in the Perth Hills was also focused on with how you can get involved to protect them for the future.

The program was full of interesting speakers such as Chris Ferreira, the Forever Project, Mike and Mandy Bamford, Consulting Ecologists, Professor Giles Hardy, Murdoch University. Representatives from the Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan addressed issues of bushfire compliance and fuel loads. Luke McMillan, Perth NRM, covered ecological connectivity and biodiversity hotspots relevant to Perth's eastern region and Kathryn Johnson, Susannah Brook Catchment Group, spoke on the role of catchment groups and their importance to conservation of bushland. A local property owner Jamie Falzon covered revegetation techniques and his experience as a participant in the 20 Million Trees Programme.



Seminar was held at Mundaring Hall

With 100 people attending the various sessions throughout the day, these numbers are a testament to the relevance of the topics and the credentials of the speakers.

Most of the catchment groups in the eastern region held stalls in the main hall. Water Corporation, Birdlife Australia and Bush Skills for Youth complemented the event creating an array of displays and activities at the festival.

This seminar is supported by the EMRC, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

For more information please contact Karen Warner at karen.warner@emrc.org.au.

6. Save the date for Avon Descent Family Fun Days

The EMRC is getting excited for this year's Avon Descent Family Fun Days. Bring your family and friends along to one of the many events on the Swan River Foreshore. Enjoy the thrill of competition as you watch these athletes challenge the Avon and Swan rivers in a variety of paddle and power craft over 124 gruelling kilometres.

There will also be local food venues and free events, so save the date.

For more information visit www.perthseasternregion.com.au.

7. EMRC thanks Rob Medbury for 25 years

Robert (Rob) Maxwell Medbury commenced employment at the EMRC on 17 May 1993, and retired from the organisation earlier this year after 25 years of exemplary service.

Rob was recruited to manage the Safety and Risk Management Service, which the EMRC provided to its member Councils. It is testament to his commitment and passion that he supported each of the EMRC's member Councils in developing organisational capacity in safety and assisted them in the transition from depending on the EMRC for safety services towards appointing Safety Officers in each of their respective Councils.

Rob's contribution to the EMRC and its Risk Management Services has significantly benefited the EMRC member councils, various local councils and other organisations. Rob's passion for safety and risk management was second to none. Throughout his career he worked relentlessly to build a culture of safety within the EMRC as well as within EMRC's member Councils.

- Rob initiated a Safety Performance Benchmarking Program - "Inter-Council Comparison Scheme" - to enable the EMRC's six member Councils to get a clearer view of their accident prevention performance. After about 12 months of operation the program was expanded and 17 other Councils joined the Scheme (Bunbury, Canning, Geraldton, Gosnells, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Northam, South Perth, Subiaco and Vincent etc.).
- Rob successfully guided the EMRC into becoming a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in 2004. Rob's leadership in providing high quality and nationally recognised training

was recognised in 2008 when the EMRC became the provider of Main Roads traffic management training and of WorkSafe Safety Awareness Training for the Construction Industry.

- Rob introduced Safety Handbooks, which were extensively used across the local government sector and beyond. They were designed to assist in eliminating serious injuries and reducing minor injuries to minimum levels. The books became the “Safety Bible” for all staff members at every level, and were also utilised by non-local government clients such as the Water Corporation, who ordered over 800 for their staff.
- Under Rob’s leadership the EMRC became one of the first local authorities to put in place a Business Continuity Plan. This plan ensured that that in an emergency situation or any other situation which might impact on the business operations, there were contingencies and specific actions that were to be taken to ensure that operations suffered the least amount of interruption and damage, as a result of some accident.

The EMRC has won a number of awards as a result of Rob’s initiatives:

- Silver Healthy Workplace in January 2014, which demonstrated the EMRC’s commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of staff.
- Local Government Best practice award in 2001 for the Safety Handbook.
- The Municipal award for Excellence for the “InterCouncil Comparison Scheme” in November 1998.

In 2010 EMRC’s Risk Management Service was wound down, but Rob’s support to the EMRC continued. Close to retirement he accepted a part time role at the organisation as the Senior Risk Advisor and in this role continued to drive Risk Management through the organisation.

With the retirement of his wife, Ros, early this year the prospect of an alternative life beyond timesheets and his desk became too tempting. The call of the great Australian outback waiting to be explored in their caravan became too tantalising to resist, and Rob retired on 23 February 2018.

Whilst Rob’s knowledge and experience will be missed we wish Rob all the best for the future.



Rob Medbury with EMRC’s CEO Peter Schneider

8. Council and committee meeting dates

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

EMRC COUNCIL MEETING

Commencing at 6.00pm

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	6 December	EMRC Administration Office

AUDIT COMMITTEE (AC) MEETING

Commencing at 6.30pm

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	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	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	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