

EMRC Newsletter

ISSUE 127– March 2019

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1. Acting CEO's message



The EMRC welcomes you to 2019 and our first Newsletter of the year. We are excited about what we have achieved already with many more significant projects planned for the coming months ahead.

Firstly I would like to endorse Red Hill Waste Management Facility for successfully achieving recertification to ISO14001:2015 for conformance to its Environmental Management System (EMS). It fills me with pride knowing we continue to lead by example in waste management.

We also would like to highlight the valuable findings of our Stakeholder Perception Survey. This biennial survey provides us with valuable insights into how we are perceived by our stakeholders, with which we can plan for the future with more certainty. Analysis of this data will rejuvenate our motivation to continuously contribute towards Perth's Eastern Region growth.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter break and I encourage you to spend some quality time with your family and friends and to enjoy all that Perth's Eastern Region has to offer this autumn.



WENDY HARRIS
Acting Chief Executive Officer

2. Audit Finding for the Red Hill Waste Management Facility

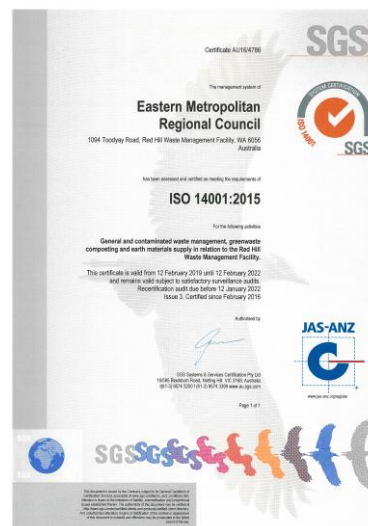
The EMRC has successfully achieved recertification to ISO14001:2015 for conformance to its Environmental Management System (EMS) developed for the Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

This is a huge achievement for the EMRC and recognises the organisation's commitment to best practice and continual improvement in the areas of waste management.

The EMS has been developed in accordance with the ISO 14001:2015 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 business.

The recent three day audit of Red Hill's EMS was undertaken by SGS, a leading certification company, who confirmed the EMRC has met the requirements to maintain its EMS for Red Hill with the ISO14001:2015 standard.

This has taken a lot of hard work and commitment from many people involved in achieving the standard and benchmarks the EMRC as a leader in the area of waste management.



EMRC was awarded the ISO14001:2015 Certificate

3. Red Hill Provides a Sanctuary for our Native Fauna

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

When a landfill cell has reached capacity, it is capped and then revegetated with native species. Each year a survey of native fauna is undertaken at the landfill facility. The survey serves to compare the revegetation areas with adjacent remnant forest areas such as the John Forest National Park, to assess the success of the rehabilitation program. It also helps the EMRC determine fauna species distribution and abundance across the site.

The survey undertaken in December 2018 indicates that there has been a positive growth in reptile species diversity with two small ground dwelling reptiles recorded in the site for the first time; the *Hemiergis initialis* and *Lerista distinguenda*, both of which inhabit thick layers of leaf litter. Many

revegetation sites are now mature enough to produce a substantial quantity of leaf litter, which is likely to be attributed to these new sightings.

The revegetation sites have an abundance of flowering shrub land, so they support nectarivorous species such as the New Holland Honeyeater and Honey Possum.

Three conservation significant or priority species were observed during the survey; the Quenda, the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. This is exciting news for the EMRC and illustrates the importance and success of the rehabilitation program in providing vital habitat for our native species.

For further information, please contact Sandra Evans at sandra.evans@emrc.org.au.



Southern Brown Bandicoot



Honey Possum

4. Stakeholder Perception Survey

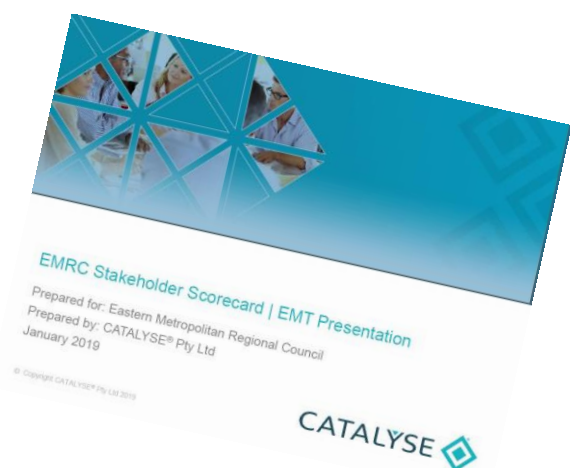
Creating more opportunities for infrastructure investment in Perth's eastern region was one of the priorities highlighted by respondents to the EMRC's latest Stakeholder Perception Survey.

Every two years, the EMRC invites a wide range of stakeholders to give their views on how the EMRC is achieving its vision, what they think of the EMRC's performance on a wide range of issues including waste management and regional advocacy, and provide insights into future priorities for the both the EMRC and the region as a whole.

The survey was conducted in October and November last year and the results analysed by survey consultants Catalyse. Presentations on the survey findings were made to the EMRC's Executive Management Team, the CEO Advisory Committee and the EMRC Council.

Highlights of the latest survey include:

- Stakeholders continue to cite waste management, recycling and resource recovery as the EMRC's core strengths



- The EMRC is considered to have growing strengths in regional advocacy, planning and coordination
- Among priority areas identified for the future were energy, water and climate change initiatives, developing the region's digital capacity and advocacy on environmental management issues relevant to Perth's eastern region

5. Eventbrite up and Running

Finding and registering for EMRC events is now easier than ever thanks to Eventbrite.

The EMRC are now utilising the global online event registration tool to assist with the ever growing popularity our workshops and community events.

Go check all the EMRC has to offer on Eventbrite today - www.emrcevents.eventbrite.com.

6. EMRC 2018 Employee of the Year

Michael Roller, the Quality Officer at Red Hill Waste Management Facility, has been named 2018 Employee of the Year.

During 2018, Michael was also named the March and September employee of the month as a result of constantly providing extensive support and going the extra mile to help out at Red Hill.

We would like to thank Michael for all his hard work throughout the year and congratulate him on this prestigious achievement.

For more information please contact Izabella Krzysko at Izabella.Krzysko@emrc.org.au



**EMRC's 2018 Employee of the Year,
Michael Roller**

7. EMRC Adopts New Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy

Up to 15% of the EMRC's investments will be diverted from financial institutions which support fossil fuel industries, following a unanimous decision taken at the Council's February meeting.

Councillors voted to amend the EMRC's investment policy in favour of banks and other lenders which have switched their lending policies towards renewable technologies, such as solar and wind power generation, at the expense of those which continue to invest in fossil fuels.

The decision follows a careful assessment of the opportunities now available from lenders and deposit-taking institutions which avoid investment in potentially harmful environmental activities.

EMRC Chairman David McDonnell commented that as members of a responsible local government organisation, EMRC councillors had kept themselves fully informed on the potential long-term impact of climate change on the communities and the six member Councils served by the EMRC.

He added: “The Council’s decision, reached after a thorough investigation of the issues involved and a recommendation from our Investment Committee, underlines our unwavering commitment towards safeguarding the long-term future of our communities and environment.”

A range of issues including compliance with risk management policies and securing favourable rates of interest were considered as part of the approval process.

8. EMRC Staff and Councillors Attend Bunbury Harvey Regional Council FOGO Facility Factfinding Visit

In 2013 the City of Bunbury introduced the service of composting Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste to its residents. With the help of the FOGO system, more than 60 per cent of Bunbury’s kerbside waste has been diverted from landfill. With regular tours of the composting facility on offer, the EMRC eagerly took the opportunity.

On Thursday, 14 March EMRC staff and Councillors journeyed to the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council FOGO Facility. After the tour EMRC Chairman David McDonnell commented on how much was learnt from Bunbury Harvey Regional Council’s experience with FOGO.

As leaders in waste management the EMRC are always on the lookout for alternative methods to be incorporated at our waste management facilities. The more we learn and understand these innovative processes the greater the benefit EMRC can contribute to Perth’s eastern region.

9. City of Belmont Organisational Climate Change Risk Assessment

Australia’s climate has warmed by just over 1°C since 1910 (CSIRO & BoM, 2018). Global energy emissions have shown an increase after three years of little or no growth (BP, 2018) and greenhouse gas concentrations are trending above 405 ppm, greater than 145% above pre-industrial conditions (CSIRO & BoM, 2018).

Since 2008, the EMRC has been implementing the *Future Proofing Perth’s Eastern Region: Adapting to Climate Change Program* (‘Future Proofing’ Program). The development of a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP) was undertaken through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, to actively manage and monitor actions to assist and prepare the region for the impacts of climate change. As a result of the development of the RCCAAP, the City of Belmont (‘the City’) along with other EMRC member councils developed individual Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP) in 2010 using a risk-based approach.

As part of the City’s final year of involvement in the *Future Proofing* Program, the City, with assistance from the EMRC, is undertaking a comprehensive review of climate change risks, incorporating the latest science and best practices. The EMRC has prepared a ‘Climate Change Risk Assessment: Synthesis Report for the City to utilise during risk assessments undertaken by technical experts within the Organisation.

For any enquiries about this article, please contact Joanne Woodbridge at joanne.woodbridge@emrc.org.au.

10. Council and committee meeting dates

EMRC Council and committee meeting dates for the rest of 2019 are as follows:

EMRC COUNCIL MEETING

Commencing at 6.00pm

Thursday	18 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	23 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	20 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	18 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	19 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 December	EMRC Administration Office

AUDIT COMMITTEE (AC) MEETING

Commencing at 6.30pm

Thursday	4 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 June	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 September	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEOAC) MEETING

Commencing at 12.30pm

Tuesday	2 April	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	7 May (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	4 June	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	2 July (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	6 August	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	3 September (informal)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	8 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	19 November	EMRC Administration Office

WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) MEETING

Commencing at 5.00pm

Thursday	4 April (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 May (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 June (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 July (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 August (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 September (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 October (if required)	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 November (if required)	EMRC Administration Office