

Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum

Meeting summary

Date: Thursday 15 November 2018
Time: 6.00pm
Location: Marriott Hotel, Corner Exhibition & Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Item	Description
1.	Welcome to Forum – Cr Dot Haynes (Forum Chair) welcomed attendees and guests from Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA).
2.	Minutes of last meeting Moved: Cr Dick Gross (City of Port Phillip), Seconded: Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council) Motion carried. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 August 2018 were adopted.
3.	MWRRG update – Rob Millard (CEO MWRRG) stated MWRRG is operating under Caretaker Conventions in the lead up to the State election. Rob highlighted recent activities including the Forum 'Paddock to Plate' tour examining food waste and MWRRG's budget bid to extend the Local Buffer Support Program for four years. Rob updated progress on Advanced Waste Processing (AWP) including the release of the Metropolitan Regional Business Case in September and continued development of the South East Regional Business Case. Rob stated that social research on community attitude to AWP is currently underway, as well as an industry Market Sounding on recycling, landfill, AWP and organics. Outcomes of both of these activities will be shared with local government. Rob stated that the Victorian Government's Resource Recovery Facilities Audit Taskforce has released new guidelines on stockpiles. EPA will help industry to support compliance. Matt Nelson from EPA asked councils for co-operation in contacting local planning enforcement officers when inspecting stockpiles. EPA's position on Financial Assurance for landfills and works approvals was recently updated. Hamish Stewart from EPA was present for questions or comments. EPA representatives will attend next TARG meeting to explain the changes in detail. <i>(MWRRG presentation on Forum portal)</i>
4.	SPAG update – Cr Sam Alessi (SPAG Chair) highlighted SPAG's recent activities (refer to September SPAG meeting minutes), including updating SPAG's Terms of Reference. <u>MOTION:</u> To accept the 2018 SPAG Terms of Reference. Moved: Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea), Seconded: Cr Judy Hindle (City of Stonnington). Motion carried. The 2018 SPAG Terms of Reference were adopted. Sustainability Fund investment for waste and resource recovery – Position Paper – Cr Sam Alessi (SPAG Chair) spoke about the process and outcomes of the second annual SPAG/TARG investment workshop held on 22 September 2018 to identify funding priorities. The top three projects selected by workshop participants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchasing and market development support for recycling products – with a focus on end-markets for plastics and road materials • education resources to support FOGO program, resource recovery services education, and e-waste • large scale Advanced Waste Processing – education and infrastructure Misty Johannsen (TARG Chair) highlighted the actions raised at the 2018 Investment Workshop against these three priority project areas (See 2018 Investment Workshop Position Paper for full details). Phil Robertson (City of Greater Dandenong) suggested that government funding be aligned with policy/strategy, and specific headings be included in the Position Paper to signal the alignment. <u>MOTION:</u> To note the Position Paper and accept the recommendations proposed on page 4. Moved: Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council), Seconded: Cr Simon Brooks (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council). Motion carried.

<p>5.</p>	<p>TARG update – Misty Johannsen (TARG Chair) provided an update of the last TARG meeting (see September TARG meeting minutes), including Misty’s reappointment as Chair. Misty presented an overview of changes to TARG’s Terms of Reference.</p> <p><u>MOTION:</u> To accept the 2018 TARG Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea), Seconded: Cr Judy Hindle (City of Stonnington).</p> <p>Motion carried. The 2018 TARG Terms of Reference were adopted.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Motion from the Chair – Cr Dot Haynes (Forum Chair) presented a motion to the Forum on behalf of the combined Victorian Local Government Waste Forum Chairs.</p> <p><u>MOTION:</u> That the Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum supports the campaigns of the Victorian Local Government Waste Forum Chairs and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for the waste and resource recovery issues on behalf of local government to the State and Federal Governments.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council), Seconded: Cr Dot Haynes (City of Manningham).</p> <p>Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea) raised concerns about the broadness of the motion, specifically the reference to the campaigns of other bodies where it was unclear what those campaigns might be. Cr Colleen Gates (Hobsons Bay City Council) pointed out that the motion was worded differently to the one put to the MAV, which focusses on working with local government, not forum chairs.</p> <p>Cr Dot Haynes and Cr Bruce Lancashire agreed to review motion and revisit the topic after the table discussion.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Food & Garden Organics Kerbside Recycling Guide – Gayle Seddon (Program Co-ordinator, MWRRG) delivered a presentation on <i>Introducing a kerbside food and garden organics collection service – A guide for local government</i> (FOGO Guide), released in September 2018. Gayle discussed the organic collective procurement network and its increased capacity to process green waste, and current council FOGO activities. Gayle highlighted the importance of councils providing an end market for compost. A training session on the use of the FOGO Guide will be held on 29 November 2018, and the Education Network will hold a ‘paddock to plate to park’ tour on 6 December 2018. <i>(Presentation on Forum portal)</i></p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Organics recycling: council perspectives</p> <p>Cr Lina Messina (City of Darebin) presented Darebin’s recent food waste recycling trial. Evaluation has found: 36% of households participated; 80% of participants found council communication helpful; 72% of participants support wider rollout of the initiative. Next steps include further analysis and the development of a communication and engagement plan.</p> <p>Cr Jackie Fristacky, (City of Yarra) presented Yarra’s food/green waste trial. Three different service arrangements were trialled for households, with two MUD collection areas. Green Eco Technology was used for MUDs. While the trial is in the early stages, positive results have been recorded so far. Next steps include a detailed analysis of trial results and installation of food dehydrators at MUD sites.</p> <p>Michelle Van Gerrevink, (Sustainability Coordinator, City of Glen Eira) presented Glen Eira’s recent FOGO rollout. Glen Eira has had organics collection since 2003. Residents were provided with a free kitchen caddy for FOGO, with no bags allowed. Challenges include community concerns about odour, lack of compostable bags and shared bins in apartments. Glen Eira offers a discounted bin cleaning service. The council is consulting residents about the frequency of bin collections. <i>(Presentations on Forum portal)</i></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Table group discussion on food and green waste recycling implementation issues and opportunities</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Continuation of item 6 - amended motion.</p> <p><u>MOTION:</u> That the Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum continues to support the combined Victorian Waste Forum Chairs and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for better resourcing of the essential services that Council provides in waste and resource recovery management to the State and Federal Governments.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council). Seconded: Cr Dot Haynes (City of Manningham).</p> <p>Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea) raised concerns about the wording of the motion and the process adopted by the Chair. Cr Lina Messina (City of Darebin) also raised concerns about the process. Cr John Mortimore (City of Knox) proposed slight changes to the wording of the motion (see italics).</p> <p><u>MOTION:</u> That the Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum continues to support the combined Victorian Waste Forum Chairs and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for better resourcing of the essential services that <i>councils provide</i> in waste and resource recovery management to the State and Federal</p>

	<p>Governments.</p> <p>Motion defeated.</p> <p>Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea) submitted an alternative motion, removing mention of specific other groups.</p> <p>MOTION: The Forum supports local government and local government peak bodies to advocate to State and Federal Government for better resourcing and product marketing of the essential services that councils provide in waste and resource recovery management.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Sam Alessi (City of Whittlesea). Seconded: Cr Brian Little (City of Monash).</p> <p>Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council) suggested that the exclusion of MAV and other groups weakened the motion.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
11.	<p>Panel Discussion – Bill Grant (Director, Blue Environment), Greg Mulcahy (Strategic Contracts Manager, MWRRG), Kelly Barnes (Environment Officer, Water, Waste & Litter, City of Darebin), Lisa Coffa, (Coordinator Waste Minimisation and Urban Agriculture, City of Yarra), James Roscoe (Coordinator Waste Services, City of Glen Eira).</p> <p>Panel discussion themes</p> <p>Data variability Bill Grant said data variation is due to varying intensity of councils behaviour change activities, and this has been seen in various case studies. James Roscoe suggested councils should consistently use Sustainability Victoria's guidelines for conducting waste audits. Forum members raised concerns that bin audits are not conducted consistently (e.g. seasonal variation).</p> <p>Bin collection frequency Greg Mulcahy said fortnightly residual waste reduces total waste to landfill (e.g. Nillumbik), however barriers include contamination, bin size and smell.</p> <p>Compost quality from FOGO Bill Grant said farmers will currently buy compost for \$10-20t. Greg Mulcahy noted that the market for compost is still growing, but contamination needs to be kept low to ensure the quality of the product.</p> <p>Nappies Bill Grant suggested deodorising liners as a solution for smelly nappies and council support for a nappy recycling service. Lisa Coffa noted that only two families requested help with nappy disposal, and council provided tips on reducing smell.</p> <p>Community resistance James Roscoe said Glen Eira City did not compel people to use the service, but will continue to consult and educate.</p>
12.	<p>Other business - Cr Dot Haynes (Forum Chair) presented upcoming Forum events and activities</p> <p><i>(Presentation on Forum portal)</i></p>
13.	<p>Close and Networking - Meeting closed at 8.20pm</p>
Attendees	
Councillors:	<p>Tom Melican, Peter Castaldo (Banyule City Council), Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council), Collin Ross (Cardinia Shire Council), Lina Messina (Darebin City Council), Colleen Gates (Hobsons Bay City Council), John Mortimore (Knox City Council), Dot Haynes (Manningham City Council), Mike Symon (Maroondah City Council), Brian Little (Monash City Council), Simon Brooks (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council), Dick Gross (Port Phillip City Council), Judy Hindle (Stonnington City Council), Sam Alessi (Whittlesea City Council), Peter Maynard (Wyndham City Council), Jackie Fristacky (Yarra City Council)</p>
Council officers:	<p>Russell Darling (Banyule City Council), Steven White, Ken Bott (Bayside City Council), Robert Keenan (Brimbank City Council), Misty Johannsen (Cardinia Shire Council), Michael Jansen (Casey City Council), Kelly Barnes (Darebin City Council), Bruce Howden (Frankston City Council), Phil Robertson (Greater Dandenong City Council), James Roscoe, Michelle Van Gerrevink, Glen Greetham (Glen Eira City Council), Georgy Augustine (Hobsons Bay City Council), Bernadette Thomas, Simon Adams (Hume City Council), Matthew Hanrahan (Knox City Council), Drago Lijovic (Manningham City Council), Marianne DiGiallonardo, Tony Rocca (Maroondah City Council), Robert Kacela (Melton City Council), Simon Hill (Monash City Council), Daniel Hinson (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council), Ian Smith (Stonnington City Council), Melanie Kerr (Whitehorse City Council), Brad Byrne, Peter Ali (Whittlesea City Council), Lisa Coffa (Yarra City Council), Graham Brew (Yarra Ranges Shire Council)</p>

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MWRRG staff:	Rob Millard, Josephine Regel, Paul Clapham, Corey Hale, Slavka Scott, Greg Mulcahy, Gayle Seddon, Zandy Powell, Robert Komel, Shelley Markham, Nina Thomas, Katherine Cocks, Jess Hand, Katherine Lyttle, Christine Dirksz, Angela Vangeli, Amara Paranagama, Dee Stanton
Others:	Theresa Glab (MWRRG Board Director), Hamish Steward, Ursula Trujillo, Matt Nelson (EPA Victoria), Jacob Kaye, Zoe Parer-Cook (VAGO), Bill Grant (Blue Environment)
Apologies:	Margaret Donnan, Evy Papadopoulos, John Watson (MWRRG Board Directors), Ian Campbell-Fraser (DELWP), Michael Heffernan (Bayside City Council), Phillip Healey (Boroondara City Council), Amanda Stapledon (Casey City Council), Colin Hampton, (Frankston City Council), Matthew Kirwan (Greater Dandenong City Council), Nina Taylor (Glen Eira City Council), Jack Medcraft (Hume City Council), Simon Crawford (Maribyrnong City Council), Cathy Oke (Melbourne City Council), Bob Turner (Melton City Council), John Sipek (Moonee Valley City Council), Dale Martin (Moreland City Council), Hugh Fraser (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council), Bill Bennett (Whitehorse City Council), Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Shire Council), Sue Phillips (Darebin City Council), Kaylene Johnson (Hobsons Bay City Council), Damian Thorp (Maroondah City Council), Melanie Oke (Melbourne City Council), Donna Schembri (Melton City Council), Noel Kiernan (Stonnington City Council), Ian Barnes (Whitehorse City Council), Simon Clay (Wyndham City Council)