

EMRC Newsletter

ISSUE 130 – Spring 2019

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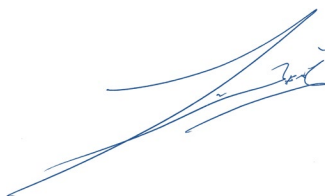
1. Message from our CEO



I feel extraordinarily privileged to have joined the EMRC at such a crucial time in its history. With every week that has passed since my arrival in mid-July, I have felt increasing pride as we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our people, while simultaneously gearing up to meet the challenges to come. My rapidly-increasing understanding and commitment to the plans, projects and strategies being developed by the EMRC is matched only by my growing confidence in the ability of our people to deliver great results. As a result I am certain that every step on our future journey will have positive, lasting effects on this great region that we call home.

Another of my first and strongest impressions is the diverse range of proactive initiatives currently being carried out for the benefit of our member Councils. You only need to scan through this newsletter to get a first-hand appreciation of the huge variety of regional, environmental and waste management activities which we pursue every working day. Variety is the spice of life and our diverse projects certainly reflect our commitment to help make Perth's Eastern Region a great place to live, work, play and do business.

As the EMRC confidently adapts to the challenges ahead – the introduction of our Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Recovery Strategy and the forthcoming Container Deposit Scheme, to name but two – I look forward to bringing you regular updates as we move forward together.



MARCUS GEISLER
Chief Executive Officer

2. EMRC FOGO Recovery Strategy a highlight of 2019 Waste & Recycle Conference

The EMRC's just-released Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Recovery Strategy proved a hit among delegates at this year's Waste & Recycling Conference, held this year at Crown Towers on 25/26 September.

The first morning of the conference saw Environment Minister Stephen Dawson presented with a copy of the Strategy by EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler. The document, available for download from the EMRC website (click [here](#)) sets out the pathway for a 'Recover and Recycling Revolution' for Perth's Eastern Region.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said: 'The conference timing was perfect, allowing us to spread the news far and wide among WA's waste management professionals.'

'Our Strategy embraces the concept of the Circular Economy, which aims to keep maximum levels of waste materials circulating in the economy for as long as possible, which also has the benefit of significantly reducing processing costs.

'By convincing people of the benefits and bringing the community on board, everyone will have a chance to play their part in the FOGO revolution.'



Environment Minister Stephen Dawson receives his copy of the EMRC FOGO Recovery Strategy from EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler (right), watched by EMRC directors Steve Fitzpatrick and Wendy Harris

3. No more FOMO* over FOGO

EMRC staff and Councillors returned from an Eastern States Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Study Tour equipped a range of first-hand insights after visits to several modern FOGO recycling facilities.

The tour was organised as part of the EMRC's commitment to a far-reaching, long-term FOGO strategy for Perth's Eastern Region, enabling delegates to learn more about the operations of several state-of-the-art facilities in NSW and Victoria. With waste recovery, the circular economy and waste diversion as key guiding principles, insights and experience gained from the tour will provide valuable impetus for the new Strategy.



Bin there, done that: EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler (left) and EMRC Chairman David McDonnell (right) at an Eastern States waste education facility

Visits to local, eastern states and overseas resource recovery facilities are considered a vital element of the process when determining alternative waste treatments. Since their introduction in 2000, study tours have become an essential driver in guiding EMRC decision-making for projects including the Resource Recovery Facility and the development of the Resource Recovery Park.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said: "With any new business strategy, it's essential to learn as much as you can from those who are already involved and growing their expertise. In protecting our environment, there is no copyright, but a right to copy. Thanks to our hosts, we were able to gain

valuable insights into best practice and the very latest in waste recycling and management techniques. With this new-found knowledge and inspiration, the EMRC is looking forward to taking a leading coordination role in the much-anticipated rollout of FOGO.

**Fear of Missing Out*

4. EMRC makes a splash with 2019 Avon Descent Marketing Campaign

The Avon Descent white water race is a uniquely Western Australian sporting event held annually on the first weekend of August. Paddle and powered craft boats battle 124 kilometers in a two-day time trial from Northam to Bayswater.

This year, the EMRC again coordinated an extensive Avon Descent marketing campaign promoting six Family Fun Days organised by six participating Councils in Northam, Toodyay, Bassendean, Belmont, Bayswater and Swan from Friday 2 to Sunday 4 August 2019. These events provided the backbone of the regional marketing campaign and successfully engaged local communities and visitors with the Avon Descent race.



Excitement builds at Bayswater's Family Fun Day Event

Held on the banks of the Avon and Swan Rivers, the Family Fun Days offered free entertainment, activities, food and excellent vantage points for watching the race. Each of the events offered different attractions, from a street parade, stage show and fireworks in Northam, to the Toodyay International Food Festival, vintage markets in Swan, a sausage sizzle in Bassendean, river viewing areas in Belmont and finish line celebrations in Bayswater.

With generous support from Lotterywest, the campaign included print, radio, online and social media promotion and succeeded in its aim of attracting hundreds of families to the various attractions.

EMRC Director Regional Services Wendy Harris said: "We are proud to be able to deliver another extensive, successful campaign on behalf of participating councils. Each year we hold a post-event debrief with the aim of fine-tuning the campaign, and each year we strive to provide something eye-catching and memorable.

"The EMRC is grateful to Lotterywest for its continued valuable support of our marketing campaign and we look forward to planning another successful Avon Descent awareness campaign in 2020."

5. Popular Earth Carers course encourages living with less waste

The EMRC's latest sellout Earth Carers course was due to commence on 15 October, consisting of six workshops over four weeks and including a visit to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. Earth Carers courses are free to attend and offers attendees knowledge, ideas and learn practical ways of reducing waste at home and in the community. Participants completing the five core sessions will join our Earth Carers network which brings together like-minded people, gives you opportunities for further learning and sharing your knowledge at community events.



The latest Earth Carers course commenced on 15 October

6. National Recycling Week

To celebrate National Recycling Week the EMRC's waste education team will be hosting two events. One at Total Green Recycling (e-waste) and the other one is anticipated to be at Cleanaway's South Guildford Materials Recovery Facility.

In November 1996, Planet Ark founded National Recycling Week to bring a national focus to the environmental benefits of recycling. The campaign continues to educate and inspire positive behavioural change, giving people the tools to minimise waste and manage material resources responsibly at home, work and school.

National Recycling Week commences on 11 November 2019. Places for the two events are limited and early booking is advised. More information can be found at www.rgang.org.au.

7. EMRC turns up the HEAT

Energy plays a vital role in our everyday lives. We use it for many purposes including keeping warm in winter, cool in summer, providing light in our homes, refrigeration and powering our smartphones and devices. However, this reliance on energy comes at a price-increased contribution to global carbon emissions.

Not only does energy consumption have an environmental cost, it also costs us money. Australian Households use one-third of Australia's energy output. Approximately 40% of that consumption comes from heating and cooling your home.



Updated HEAT cover

Monitoring your energy output can be a helpful tool in lowering cost, both financially and environmentally. Luckily, the EMRC have modernised the Home Energy Action Toolkit (HEAT). HEAT is an easy-to-use basic energy audit kit, available to borrow from your local library (Bassendean, Mundaring and Belmont). Each HEAT contains all the necessary tools to monitor and record your power usage. Helpful tips on saving water and lower energy output are also included.

Start saving now!

8. Community connects with Wooroloo Brook

The Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day provided the perfect opportunity for local community members to connect with the Wooroloo Brook catchment at the EMRC's landcare stall.

Hosted on 26 May 2019, the focus of the stall was to raise community awareness of landcare issues within the Wooroloo Brook catchment. Visitors to the stall were drawn to a large map of the catchment and spent time identifying which of the 16 sub-catchments they lived in. They also had the opportunity to vote on five environmental issues and identify which of these issues were of concern within the Wooroloo Brook catchment. Loss of biodiversity was identified as the issue of greatest community concern, closely followed by weed invasion.

Community members also contributed additional concerns to a community mind map which captured other catchment issues such as declining soil health, the impacts of feral animals and climate change.

The Small Farm Field Day served as an important opportunity to engage in conversations with local residents who offer the valuable insights into the health of the Wooroloo Brook catchment. There was much interest in supporting the formation of a Wooroloo Brook Landcare Group to work collaboratively on local environmental projects.

If you are interested in finding out more about the formation of a Wooroloo Brook Landcare Group, please contact Karen Warner via Karen.Warner@emrc.org.au or 9424 2242.



Information about the Wooroloo Brook catchment on display



Community members vote on the landcare issue of greatest concern to them



This community mindmap captures residents' landcare issues and solutions

9. How Water Sensitive cities deliver healthier outcomes

Identifying pathways between public health and the quality of the urban environment was one of the major issues considered during a one-day conference organised with EMRC participation. The 'How Water Sensitive Cities Deliver Health Outcomes' event featured various presentations including estimated economic benefits and the biophysical aspects of Urban Heat Island (UHI) mitigation.

EMRC participation in these events is a deliverable outcome included in the EMRC's Water Quality Conservation Program. Digests of information gathered at these conferences, webinars, workshops and seminars is edited and distributed among scientific publications. This distribution of emerging information is considered vital for helping councils justify water sensitive blue/green infrastructure investments by promoting the health benefits to the community.

'How Water Sensitive Cities Deliver Health Outcomes' was hosted by Water Corporation, in partnership with New Water Ways (NWW) and the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRC-WSC).

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 5 December EMRC Administration Office

AUDIT COMMITTEE (AC) MEETING

Commencing at 6:30pm

Thursday 21 November (if required) EMRC Administration Office

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEOAC) MEETING

Commencing at 12:30pm

Tuesday 19 November EMRC Administration Office

WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) MEETING

Commencing at 5:00pm

Thursday 21 November (if required) EMRC Administration Office