

EMRC Newsletter

ISSUE 131 – Christmas 2019

In this issue:

- 1. Message from our CEO**
- 2. Councillor Jai Wilson elected EMRC Chairman**
- 3. Hon Ken Wyatt visits Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park**
- 4. EMRC acknowledged at the Western Australia Landcare Awards**
- 5. Commencement of Building Benchmark Efficiency project**
- 6. Congratulations to Earth Carers graduates**
- 7. Battery and CFL Collection Program**
- 8. EMRC's Digital marketing workshop points the way forward for Perth's Eastern Region small businesses**
- 9. EMRC Christmas and New Year closure**
- 10. 2020 Council and Committee meeting dates**

1. Message from our CEO

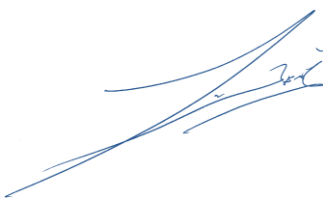


First, I would like to welcome our new Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Councillors. We have an ambitious 2020 ahead of us and we are looking forward to working with you in the New Year.

At this time of year, it's important to look back to recognise and celebrate the achievements and opportunities that together we have created in 2019. Our adoption of a fossil fuel disinvestment policy, our energetic promotion of our FOGO Recovery Strategy, our continued leadership position in waste management and our valuable ongoing contributions to advocacy and environmental protection in Perth's Eastern Region are just some of the achievements of the last 12 months.

As 2020 beckons, we can take immense pride in the progress achieved and the groundwork laid for another successful year. EMRC Councillors and staff have been working tirelessly over the last 12 months and I would like to thank them for all their efforts in 2019.

The EMRC's Chairman, Councillors and staff wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to building further on the services and value we deliver on behalf of our member Councils in 2020.



MARCUS GEISLER
Chief Executive Officer

2. Councillor Jai Wilson elected EMRC Chairman

Town of Bassendean Councillor Jai Wilson is the new Chairman of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council after his election at a Special Council Meeting held on Monday, 4 November. Cr Doug Jeans of the Shire of Mundaring was elected Deputy Chairman at the same meeting.

The elections took place during both Cr Wilson's second two-year term and during Cr Jeans' second two-year term with the EMRC.

Cr Wilson said 'I am honoured to have received the trust and support of my fellow Councillors to take on the role of Chairman of the EMRC. This is an exciting time for our Regional Council as we begin the process of implementing our newly endorsed FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) Recovery Strategy.

'I look forward to working with my fellow EMRC Councillors and our dedicated team of hard-working staff over the next two years to ensure that we deliver quality services for the benefit of our six member Councils and the residents of the Eastern Metropolitan Region.'

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler welcomed and congratulated the five new Councillors and two new Deputy Councillors who have been appointed to the EMRC following the October 2019 Local Government elections.

Mr Geisler said: 'The EMRC is at the forefront of developing and implementing new strategies for the Region's waste avoidance, resource recovery and best practice waste management including our FOGO Recovery Strategy and the introduction of the WA Container Deposit Scheme in mid-2020.

'The EMRC is looking forward to working with all our new Councillors and on behalf of our member Councils to realise our vision for Perth's Eastern Region as a great place to live, work, play and do business.'



EMRC Chairman Jai Wilson



EMRC Deputy Chairman
Doug Jeans

3. Hon Ken Wyatt visits Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park



The Hon Trevor Evans MP (left), EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler (middle) and the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP (right)

On 4 November the EMRC was delighted to welcome the Hon Trevor Evans MP, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, and the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Federal Member for Hasluck, for a tour of the EMRC's Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park.

The EMRC's Executive Leadership Team headed by CEO Marcus Geisler guided them through the facility and provided a useful background briefing on some of the exciting strategies the EMRC will be implementing. The Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park plays a crucial role in processing timber waste for recycling, diverting it from landfill.

Both visitors commended the EMRC's initiatives aimed at improving the sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region.

4. EMRC acknowledged at the 2019 Western Australia Landcare Awards

The EMRC won valuable recognition at the Western Australia Landcare Awards for its Eastern Region Catchment Management Program (ERCMP).

The award acknowledges a partnership of individuals, groups, or organisations that has demonstrated leadership and achievement in landcare related activities. Nominations are open to partnerships that include National Resource Management regional organisations, research organisations, local government, landcare and environmental groups, farmer groups, schools and youth groups.

EMRC staff attended a Gala Dinner for the Western Australia Landcare Awards to accept the ERCMP's Highly Commended accolade in the Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award category.

The ERCMP delivers a range of natural resource management (NRM) projects for the environment and community. The program supports six Catchment groups and over 130 Friends groups as well as a range of other regional-scale projects working to improve the natural environment.

The ERCMP also delivers workshops and experiences open to children from pre-school to high school. The Bush Skills 4 Youth (BS4Y) and Bush Skills for the Hills programs are designed to give participants the skills to manage and appreciate what local bushland has to offer. In 2018 BS4Y delivered 53 workshops to 1,547 children and 431 adults.



The EMRC team celebrate their recognition at the 2019 Western Australian Landcare Awards

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said: 'The EMRC is justly proud of this achievement. It will motivate us to continue to protect, enhance and rejuvenate the natural environments and ecosystems within Perth's Eastern Region.'

5. Commencement of Building Benchmark Efficiency project

The EMRC is embarking on an ambitious and exciting project that will deliver energy audits for 83 Council-owned buildings being energy audited across Perth's Eastern Region. Participating Councils include the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Mundaring and the City of Swan, with the EMRC taking a project management role.

The science behind this project stems from the fact that buildings use massive amounts of energy which not only comes with high short-term economic costs but also significant longer-term environmental impacts. Therefore, improving a building's energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective and quickest ways to reducing carbon emissions with the added benefits of improving the local economy, air quality and public health.

After extensive consultation and close cooperation among Councils, phases 1 and 2 of the project have been awarded to a WALGA preferred Consultant whose work will carry out the Type 1 and Type 2 Energy Audits and provide a report and recommendations on each site. These phases of the project are estimated to take eight months to complete where the outcomes will enable the EMRC to continue to the next phase.

6. Congratulations to Earth Carers Graduates

The EMRC strives to provide residents interested in waste reduction and sustainable living the opportunity to be involved in interactive workshops and tours throughout the year. The Earth Carers course is an intensive program consisting of six sessions over a four-week period. The popularity of Earth Carers has increased over the last few years, with the two annual courses exceeding capacity and the development of an extensive waitlist.

A range of topics are covered, including composting and worm farming, Green Cleaning and correct disposal of hazardous and other waste. On completion of the program, Earth Carers are equipped with knowledge about how to reduce waste at home and encouraged to start projects in their local community. At the EMRC we value our Earth Carers enthusiasm and commitment to waste reduction and nurture this passion by providing special Earth Carers only events and training courses. If you would like to register your interest in attending a future Earth Carers course please call the Waste Education Team on (08) 9424 2222 or email WasteEducation@emrc.org.au



Earth Carers 2019 Graduates

7. Battery and CFL Collection Program

The EMRC dry cell (household) Battery Collection Program began in 2003 after recognising the need to address the issues associated with household batteries being disposed of in landfill, including the long-term impacts on soil and water quality. The EMRC region currently boasts 109 schools and 43 public collection points, with more than 10,000 kilograms of single-use and rechargeable dry cell batteries diverted from landfill in the last 12 months. The materials inside the batteries are reprocessed into other products such as new batteries, street lights and steel frames for houses.

A similar program for compact fluorescent light globes and tubes (CFL's) commenced in the eastern metropolitan region in 2008. Although CFLs result in significant energy savings, small quantities of mercury in the globes meant that a safe disposal system was warranted. At present, there are 28 public collection points, with over 6,000 kg of CFL's collected in the last five years.

EMRC's battery collection and CFL programs are delivering a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to the region. With more schools and public locations being added to the program all the time, the EMRC and its member Councils are ensuring that we and generations to come can enjoy a more sustainable future.

8. EMRC's Digital Marketing Workshop points the way forward for Perth's Eastern Region small businesses

This is a constantly evolving digital world and the EMRC wants the region's smaller businesses to prosper from the opportunities it offers.

The EMRC has hosted many business workshops over recent years helping local business in Perth's Eastern Region. A recent focus has been on the tendering process with a series of How to do Business with Local Government Workshops in 2016, 2018 and early 2019.

The EMRC decided to expand its approach in helping local businesses in Perth Eastern Region with a free Digital Marketing Essentials workshop on 27 November. Examining a range of digital marketing options, including social media, email marketing and blogging, the event was designed help businesses understand the new digital landscape.

The workshop was presented by Senior Advisor Mark Kostner on behalf of the Small Business Development Corporation. An attendee commented, 'He was a really good presenter and he directed his lessons to small businesses very well.' Each attendee also received a copy of the Digital Marketing Essentials workbook at the end of the workshop. With the continuing and growing popularity of these workshop the EMRC is looking forward to hosting more in the future.

9. EMRC Christmas and New Year closure

EMRC's Ascot Place Administration Office will be closed from 5:00pm Tuesday, 24 December 2019 and on each day thereafter until its re-opens on Thursday, 2 January 2020.

The Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park will be closed from 3:00pm Tuesday, 24 December 2019 and on each day thereafter until its re-opens on Thursday, 2 January 2020.

The Red Hill Waste Management Facility will be closed on Christmas Day (Wednesday, 25 December 2019) and New Year's Day (Wednesday, 1 January 2020).

Mathieson Road Transfer Station (Shire of Mundaring) will be closed Boxing Day (Thursday, 26 December 2019).

10. Council and Committee meeting dates

EMRC Council and committee meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

Ordinary Council Meetings commencing at 6:00pm:

Ordinary Council meetings will be held on the second last Thursday of each month except in December.

Thursday	20 February		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	19 March		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	23 April	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 May	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	18 June		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	23 July	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	20 August	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	17 September		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 October	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	3 December		at	EMRC Administration Office

Council Strategy/Briefing Sessions commencing at 6:00pm:

Council Strategy/Briefing Sessions are scheduled for March, May and August.

Thursday	12 March	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	11 June	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 September	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office

Chief Executive Officers' Advisory Committee (CEOAC) meetings commencing at 12:30pm:

CEOAC meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month. The November meeting will be held in the third week of that month.

Tuesday	4 February		at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	3 March *	(informal)	at	TBA
Tuesday	7 April		at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	5 May	(informal)	at	TBA
Tuesday	2 June *		at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	7 July	(informal)	at	TBA
Tuesday	4 August		at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	1 September	(informal)	at	TBA
Tuesday	6 October	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	10 November		at	EMRC Administration Office

* Please note the Mondays prior to the March (informal) and June meetings are Public Holidays.

Waste Advisory Committee (WAC) meetings commencing at 5:00pm:

WAC meetings are generally held two weeks prior to Council meetings.

Thursday	6 February	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 March	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 April	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 May	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 June	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 July	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 August	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	3 September	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 October	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	19 November	(if required)	at	Red Hill Waste Management Facility

Audit Committee (AC) meetings commencing at 6:30pm:

AC meetings are generally held two weeks prior to Council meetings.

Thursday	6 February	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 March		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 April	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 May	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 June		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 July	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 August	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	3 September	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 October	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	19 November	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office