



Waste Management Association of Australia

## ANNUAL REPORT

January - December  
2009



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the April 2009 AGM, the new WMAA Board has held 6 face to face board meetings and convened 3 special meetings by teleconference. We have implemented significant reforms to the Board structure and duties of board members. A board training seminar, facilitated by an independent advisor, was held in July to clarify board members' responsibilities. Subsequent to this the Board Code of Ethics was developed and adopted by the Board. And Board committees were re-defined. There are now three Board sub-committees (Risk and Compliance, Remuneration and Human Resources and Nominations.) each of which has adopted its own charter and chair.

During the year, nominations were called to fill the ninth Board position and the newly appointed member will join the Board following the AGM together with the incoming member nominated by the State Branch Presidents.

### STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Strategic Advisory Council met twice in 2009 – 2010, in August and February.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS REVIEW

The Future Directions Review which commenced in 2008 continued during the year. The August meeting of SAC included a facilitated strategic planning session to develop the way forward. This formed the basis of a member survey which was conducted in March-April 2010. Because of the diverse range of interests and priorities within the Association progress has not been as fast as originally expected, however it is being made and we expect to finalise the review following collation of the survey results during 2010 – 2011.

### ADVOCACY

Clarification of WMAA's role in advocating to Government is very much part of the future directions review. Nevertheless during the year the Association played an active role in making representations to both the Federal and various State Governments on a range of issues. Of particular note are the following:

- WMAA submission to DEWHA on the National Waste Policy
- The WA Branch prepared a submission to the State Government's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in Western Australia

- The WA Branch members formulated a submission to the Waste Authority's Draft Waste Strategy for Western Australia
- Members of the National Landfill Division worked co-operatively with the NGERs division of the Federal Department of Climate Change (DCC) during the year. As a result of this collaboration revisions to the landfill emission modelling techniques were introduced into the 2009 NGERs Determination and the corresponding technical guidelines. This work has resulted in the establishment of excellent communication links with the NGERs division of the DCC.
- The Biohazardous Waste Industry Division engaged with regulators including DEWHA and National Waste Policy review with a primary aim of supporting the standardization of regulations for managing biohazardous waste throughout Australia.
- In parallel BWI has been dealing at a state and federal level with relevant EPA's and health authorities to ensure a consistent message is being advanced with all relevant regulatory authorities.
- The SA Branch presented a report on the WMAA member perspective project on the Solid Waste Levy
- The SA Branch participated in Zero Waste SA's consultation process on the Recycling Industry Infrastructure Review
- The SA Branch presented to Zero Waste SA the results of the Member Survey on the Global Financial Crisis
- The SA Branch participated in EPA's consultation processes on the new "Sustainability Licence", Waste to Resources Environmental Protection Policy (EPP), draft guidelines for Biosolids
- Industry representations (source separated composters and AWT businesses) regarding standards for the application of organics derived from municipal solid waste in NSW.

In particular, the unity which was achieved between the competing WMAA stakeholders in NSW (Source separated composters and AWT businesses) bears testimony to the Association's maturity and demonstrates what is possible.

### RECORDING TECHNICAL SEMINARS

In November 2009 our first attempt at broadcasting a technical seminar over the internet was made, with mixed success. The technical problems encountered are difficult to rectify without incurring a very high cost. We have since recorded a seminar and made it available to members as a DVD recording, however there is still a high cost if the recording is to have a professional appearance. This method does not allow for a live presentation or interaction with the audience but is a more cost effective means on delivering information to remotely located members. We will continue to explore options to deliver this service to members in an optimal format to balance quality and cost.

It has been an instructive year with many new initiatives. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank

the other members of the Board for their efforts and support, as well as the CEO and staff. Our achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and the support of our valued members without whom there would be no WMAA.



Ron Wainberg



## CEO'S REPORT

### 2009 IN REVIEW

2009 was a historic year for the waste industry with the nation's Environment Ministers agreeing, in November, to a new National Waste Policy designed to set the agenda for waste and resource recovery over the next 10 years. The agreement took place in Perth at the biannual meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, with consensus also reached on a landmark product stewardship legislative framework, which will initially be applied to televisions and computers.

The National Waste Policy (NWP) was developed in record time, based on evidence obtained from a nine-month public consultation process.

WMAA had input into that process with a submission developed from input from members across all State Branches, National Divisions and special interest groups. The Ministers also highlighted that improved waste information will lead to better planning and evidence based decision making, and agreed to release a National Waste Overview and publish a National Waste Report by the end of 2010.

In 2009, WMAA finalised its feasibility study report, identifying issues and options for managing an Australian waste database for DEWHA.

In addition WMAA was able to provide accurate data and information to DEWHA for planning from the biennial National Landfill Survey.

The Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) has continued to grow and mature during 2009 with additional staff resources enabling us to set up improved systems and to provide further complementary support for, and input to, Branch, Division and Working Group activities and projects.

### BRANCHES

The six State Branches have been very active this year undertaking numerous seminars, workshops and other activities.

### WORKING GROUPS

There are now 43 active state-based Working Groups operating across the country, up from 39 in 2008.

### DIVISIONS

Seven National Divisions (Carbon, Compost Australia, Energy from Waste, Biohazard Waste [Clinical Waste], Landfill, Education and Construction and Demolition) continue to be extremely active. (see separate National Division reports).

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The WMAA partnership with Griffith University in Qld to promote member uptake of postgraduate studies in Waste Management is still active.

The WMAA *Safe Working near Exposed Live Parts Electrical Safety Training Package* for waste industry drivers continues to be popular.

MOU's with a range of RTOs now exist to promote more industry training and at the same time provide additional revenue to WMAA.

### WMAA CONFERENCES

2009 saw WMAA run several very successful Conferences:

- **Managing Waste in a Changing Climate (4 - 6 March, Launceston)** – The Tasmanian Department of Economic Development and Tourism contracted WMAA National Office to produce this Conference, Exhibition and Technical Tours. The event attracted almost 200 attendees.
- **WasteQ 2009...Can you afford not to? (3 - 5 June, Brisbane)** attracted 110 delegates and 20 exhibitors
- **National Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference - Operating in a Carbon Constrained Environment (26 - 28 August, Hobart)** attracted 240 delegates and 26 exhibitors. The event included the presentation of the 2009 National Landfill and Transfer Stations Excellence Awards.
- **Waste Diversion - Organic Solutions for the CPRS (25 - 26 November, Sydney)** attracted 110 delegates.
- The **WA Waste and Recycle Conference**, which is not run by WMAA, but in which WMAA has a 1/3 interest, attracted approximately 400 delegates

### INSIDE WASTE

The Inside Waste Magazine, incorporating *Inside WMAA*, went into circulation in May 2004 and has quickly grown to an audited circulation figure of 4,238 and remains one of the highest valued benefits of membership.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WMAA hosted a delegation from the Dept. of Solid Waste Malaysia including the CEO of the Waste Management Association of Malaysia in late 2009. The visitors were particularly interested in the Australia's system of competency standards for industry training and visited a number of member sites around the country.

### INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION (ISWA)

WMAA has continued to maintain strong links with ISWA. The President and CEO attended the ISWA World Congress in Lisbon in 2009.

WMAA submitted a proposal to host the ISWA Congress again in 2014 however we were unsuccessful and the conference was awarded to Brazil, in part because the conference had not been held there before. The CEO and the President attended the annual Regional Development Network (RDN) meeting to develop alliances and share information and technology with the other ISWA member countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These include Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Korea, India, China and Taiwan.

### WMAA GRANTS/PARTNERSHIPS

A partnership arrangement with the WA Waste Authority was entered into in 2009. Funds from the Authority (\$100,000) have been used for five specific projects relating to waste management in WA.

A partnership arrangement with Zero Waste SA was entered into in 2009 for \$42,000 for delivery of a range of projects and activities mainly in SA.

A partnership with DECCW NSW provided funding of \$100,000 for several compost projects including Compost in Viticulture and, Vegetable Demonstration Projects.

The Building our Capacity – National Professional Development Initiative for Sustainability Educators received funding of \$35,000 from DEWHA.

### Other 2009 Projects

- National Recycled Organics Processors Survey
- NSW C&D Survey
- NSW Metal Recyclers Survey
- National Landfill Survey

### WMAA FUNDED PROJECTS

Several WMAA funded projects were carried out last year in particular:

- Review of the WA Branch Guidelines for Managing Workplace Health and Safety within the Waste Management and Recycling Industries in WA, the revised Guideline is available on the WMAA and WorkCover WA Websites
- The Young Professionals 101 Things You Need to Know Booklet was developed in WA.
- Young Professionals Conference Scholarship
- Workshop on the SA Waste Levy
- Landfill Emissions Testing
- BWI Public relations
- QLD EPA Strategy

### MAJOR PROJECTS

#### ADVANCING THE RECYCLED ORGANICS INDUSTRY

Compost Australia, has implemented the *Advancing the Recycled Organics Industry Program* – please see the Compost Australia report for a detailed update.

#### A-ACAP—Australian Alternate Covers Assessment Program

The WMAA's Australian Alternative Covers Assessment Program (A-ACAP) is a \$4 million research program funded by the Australian Research Council, 6 universities and 40 Australian waste industry sponsors. It is comparing the cost-effectiveness of landfill "phytocaps" and compacted clay covers in 5 Australian states and will determine if phytocaps can meet EPA performance criteria more cost effectively than conventional caps in Australian conditions. If the project produces a positive result it is likely to change the nature of landfill capping in Australia, with significant economic and environmental benefits. This project was due to be completed in 2010 but will now run over to 2011 due to some unavoidable delays.

#### AWTDORF—Contamination Guidelines for Organics Derived from AWT Processes

The AWT DORF (AWT Derived Organic Rich Fractions) Working Group was established as a joint working group between Compost NSW and the NSW AWT Working Group to act as a consultation forum with the NSW DECCW to review and make recommendations for the environmentally appropriate land application of MBT organics in Australia.

The study had three stages. All 3 stages have now been completed.

- Stage 1. Benchmark current status in Australia and overseas and identify possible contaminants of concern.
- Stage 2. Scientific evaluation of the potential chemical contaminants.
- Stage 3. Consider aesthetic acceptability of physical contamination in various markets and applications.

The outcomes from this work formed the basis for negotiations with NSW DECCW on the 3F exemptions.



Val Southam



## TREASURER'S REPORT

During the year ended 31 December 2009, the Waste Management Association of Australia generated an operating deficit of \$147,267 (Profit \$13,069 – 2008). Gross revenue generated by WMAA in 2009 was \$2,000,820 (\$1.77m – 2008).

The Enviro Convention, an event occurring every second year was not held in 2009. This is reflected in the financial statements through decreased revenue from conferences of \$180,000 compared to 2008.

Compost Australia membership fees and funding contributed \$472,000 to revenue in 2009

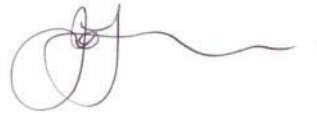
There was an increase in membership revenue of 28% (\$124k) from 2008 due mostly to Compost Business Memberships.

Expenditure for 2009 was \$2.148m (\$1.763m – 2008). Compost Australia & Branch/Division Projects accounted for \$466k and \$94k of this expenditure respectively.

As at 31 December 2009 the net assets of WMAA were \$829,080 (\$976,347 – 2008), with

\$1,350,257 held in cash at bank and on deposit. The cash balance includes an amount of \$200,000 that is committed to the A-ACAP project.

WMAA wishes to thank the branches and members for assisting in the smooth running of the association through the adherence to the corporate policies and administrative policies during the year. It is through these policies that the organisation is able to continue to provide good financial management on behalf of its members. It is hoped that these procedures are well accepted by the members.



Jan Fitzgerald



## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Biohazard Waste Industry

The Biohazard Waste Industry (BWI) division has had an active year with its primary focus being:

- A review of the BWI Industry Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical and Related Waste.
- Engagement with regulators including DEWHA and National Waste Policy review with a primary aim of supporting the standardization of regulations for managing biohazardous waste throughout Australia.

#### **BWI INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE 6<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

BWI has undertaken a comprehensive review of its industry code of practice that was initially developed in over 10 years ago and is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> edition. The revised Code is expected to be formally launched in July of this year.

The Code is a Voluntary Code, and is intended to provide a consistent best practice guideline for members and other users throughout Australia and New Zealand. While the majority of BWI members are transporters, treatment providers and equipment suppliers to the medical waste industry, the Code is intended as a wider reference material for all users including waste generators. The BWI has approximately 40 'Associate Healthcare Group Members' who are all generators (primarily hospitals), and utilise the Code in their day to day operations. It is noted that the Western Australia and Victorian environmental protection agencies have adopted the Code as their operating guidelines and South Australia is considering a similar use of the Code.

A primary focus of the current review has been a revision of the definition of Clinical and Related waste in the current environment, noting changes in the types and areas in which biohazardous waste is now being generated, and the changing environmental and health concerns associated with this. The new Code definition is intended to reflect contemporary issues in regards to potential hazards associated with this waste stream to all stakeholders.

This definition was provided to the Department for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), as part of BWI's submission to the National Waste Policy in an effort to better reflect areas of risk not currently addressed by some regulatory definitions.

#### **REGULATORY ENGAGEMENT**

As noted above BWI has been actively involved in the National Waste Policy review and made several submissions to the review process.

The primary focus of these submissions has been to highlight the need to standardize definitions and regulations for the handling of biohazardous waste on a national basis to remove the current discrepancies in state regulations and the adverse impacts these have on the industry.

In parallel BWI has been dealing at a state and federal level with relevant EPA's and health authorities to ensure a consistent message is being advanced with all relevant regulatory authorities.

*Lincoln Falconer  
Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Carbon Committee

2009 was a quieter year for the Carbon Committee.

The main development of interest was the release of the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction legislation in March 2009, which was subsequently amended in May 2009 to delay the start date to 1 July 2011 and make some further concessions to the trade-exposed emissions intensive industries as a result of the Global Financial Crisis.

Negotiations between the Government and the Coalition led to a further set of amendments being made in November 2009.

One of the major decisions was the exclusion of the agricultural sector from liability under the CPRS, but allowing the agricultural sector to participate in a Domestic Offsets Scheme. Importantly, this Domestic Offsets Scheme also proposes eligibility for certain aspects of the waste sector, namely:

- Legacy waste emissions
- Emissions from closed landfills.

Work has also continued on ironing out the issues with the Methodologies in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Determination.

The current uncertainty around when, or if, the CPRS legislation will get passed is creating difficulties for all sectors caught by the Scheme, particularly around investment decisions. The CPRS legislation is due to go back before the Senate in May, but is likely to be voted down again. It then remains to be seen whether the Government will use this as a trigger for a double dissolution, or wait for the normal election cycle.

Matters for the Committee's work program this year will include:

- Continued input into finetuning the NGERS methods
- Input into the operation of the Domestic Offset Scheme, and participation by the waste sector in this Scheme
- Input into the "prescribed distance" rule for the lower threshold for landfills under CPRS
- Participating in the debate concerning the role of soil carbon

*Elisa de Wit*  
*Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Compost Australia

#### MEMBERSHIP

Compost Australia and the state working groups have a single individual membership fee that covers both the National Division and Working Group membership. Effectively all members of Compost Australia are members of their state working group and vice versa. This approach simplifies voting and representation across the working groups and division.

Compost Australia has business membership and premium business membership categories to underwrite a multi-state Industry Development program - *Advancing the Recycled Organics Industry*. Business members receive varying membership benefits depending of the size of their membership fee.

In 2009 Compost Australia agreed to promote its business members as 'Compost for Soils Producers' and developed a fact sheet explaining what it means to be a business member. For the 2010 renewal business members have been asked to make a commitment to eight key principles by signing a declaration that can be displayed at their offices.

Membership of the compost groups within WMAA is described in the table below.

Membership Type	Jan 2009	Nov 2009
Individual	189	155*
Small Business	14	18
Standard Business	10	10
Bronze Business	5	8
Silver Business	2	2
Gold Business	2	2

*\*Many individuals are now members as part of their business*

#### REPRESENTATION

The Compost Australia Committee is drawn from 3-4 representatives from five state working groups. These representatives are nominated from the committee of each working group (they are usually the Office Bearers). One national Annual Members Meeting (AMM) for all groups will be held on 1 May 2010. No AMM was held in 2009 in order to line up with the WMAA AMM cycle.

#### ADVANCING THE RECYCLED ORGANICS INDUSTRY (AROI)

Early in 2008 Compost Australia published 3 year Action Plans for the Recycled Organics Industry in the areas of communications, market development and coordination of R&D. These documents were based on extensive consultation with the industry over a number of years and build upon the Compost Supply Chain Roadmap. The AROI Action Plans are closely linked to the membership benefits designed for the Compost Australia Business Members.

During 2009 Market and Industry Development Officers (MIDO) were employed or contracted in four of the five mainland states. Only the NSW MIDO was employed directly by WMAA, however agreements have been secured with the Western Australian and Victorian governments to fund direct (full-time) employment of the MIDO in those states from 2010. Relationships were developed with a small group of Queensland processors, DERM (QLD) and Brisbane City Council which may lead to employment of a Queensland MIDO in 2010.

During 2009 a National Project Manager worked 3 days per week to expand the program, better coordinate the MIDO activities and run projects best delivered at a national level. In October 2009 the South Australia companies involved in Compost for Soils formally agreed to join Compost Australia from 1 July 2010 and nationalize Compost for Soils. All intellectual property associated with the Compost for Soils will transfer to Compost Australia (WMAA) from the date.

#### MARKET AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (MIDO)

The NSW MIDO, Darren Fahey, was recruited in December 2008 and commenced work in January 2009. His employment has been renewed in 2010. Darren prepared a comprehensive presentation on his activities during 2009 (which is available separately). Highlights include establishing two major demonstration trials; numerous articles in 'end-user' publications; presentations to potential users of compost and the development of strong networks with members.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (WA) contracted Encycle Consulting to provide the services of a MIDO (2 days per week) for Compost WA. Compost WA have signed a 3-year strategic partnership agreement with the WA Waste Authority to fund the WA MIDO position from the middle of 2010 onwards.

David Rako and Ken Hirst continued to share the role of Victorian MIDO throughout 2009 under a contract with Sustainability Victoria (SV). From 2010 Compost Australia will enter a strategic partnership with SV and take over delivery of the MIDO role.

### **STANDARDS**

CA has actively pursued the review of AS4454 (Compost, Soil Conditioners and Mulches). During 2009 the industry consultation process was completed resulting in a draft Standard suitable for public consultation. Garry Kimble is acting as project manager on this project and Tony Emery has chaired the working group undertaking the industry led review. Tony Emery (Chair), Garry Kimble and Angus Johnston are on the CS-037 committee that will make the final decision on changes to AS4454.

Compost Australia (and WMAA) is also represented by Dr Harrie Hofstede on the Australian Standards committee reviewing the standard for degradable plastics (CS-017).

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

In 2009 Compost Australia again worked closely with the Centre for Organic Resource Enterprises (CORE) to promote International Composting Awareness Week (ICAW) around Australia.

The third annual (2009) Compost Ball and Leadership Awards were organized in partnership with Central NSW Regional Organisation of Councils. The event was held in Orange (at a vineyard) with

approximately 130 in attendance. The event generated considerable interest and media in an area where there is significant potential demand for recycled organic products. Approximately \$30,000 was raised through sponsorship and ticket sales – the event made a small profit of \$2,000.

In November 2009 Compost Australia delivered a conference 'Waste Diversion: Organic Solutions for the CPRS'. Approximately 100 attended the event in Maroubra NSW, however all business members were also sent a professionally produced DVD of the event as part of the event (as a membership benefit). This DVD has also been provided to key stakeholders to promote the benefits of compost and composting. The event raised over \$10,000 for Compost Australia.

Compost Australia continued its relationship with the Recycled Organics Unit (ROU) UNSW, who undertakes the National Processor Survey annually to gather key information on the amount of material being recycled nationally. This project is currently funded entirely from contributions made by state government agencies. In 2010 private sponsorship is being sought to expand and promote the aggregated results of the survey.

The ROU delivered two training days in WA and one in NSW focusing on the basics of process control and quality management systems in composting. The courses are provided as part of the benefits to Compost Australia business members. In all cases the event venues were provided at no cost. The MIDO assisted with event organisation but the course was delivered by Angus Campbell (who has Certificate IV in workplace training).

*Peter Wadewitz*  
*Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Construction & Demolition

#### 1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

- Bob Andrews (ARRB) SA - Chair
- Kerry Whitehead (Sustainable Resource Centre, Fairfield C.C.) NSW
- Chris Cox (Delta Recycling) Vic
- Mike Haywood (Resourceco) SA
- Adrian Lester (C&D Recycling) WA
- Patrick Navin (Qld)  
*left the group without notice*

#### 2. MEETINGS

One formal meeting was held in Melbourne (February 2009) with the main items for discussion being:

- (a) Develop a strategic direction of the C&D Division
- (b) Address the issue of new asbestos contaminant legislation
- (c) Develop the WMAA website to provide access to information on C&D products and set industry standards.

#### 3. STRATEGIC DIRECTION

**GOAL 1 - Towards “seamless acceptance” of fit for purpose engineering materials for use in road pavements and engineered fills by**

- Improving market awareness of the technical capabilities of using recycled materials in road pavements.
- Provide guidance in the application of recycled materials to specific conditions
- Detailing environmental benefits associated with their use including reductions in greenhouse emissions
- Provide performance assurance in the use of recycled materials in road pavements

**GOAL 2 - To improve the operational performance of the industry through**

- Development of a “code of best practice for waste processing in the construction and demolition industries”
- Develop a third party accreditation system for the operational performance of the industry
- ISO Quality accreditation of industry products
- Provide guidelines for asbestos and contaminant control

**GOAL 3 Provide an information reference and retrieval facility of national and international developments**

- Create an adjunct C&D Division website to the WMAA website to include a library reference to national and international conference papers reports etc
- Develop technical notes on use of recycled materials
- Provide access to product specifications and standards
- Specific work practices associated with recycled pavement materials including OH&S issues

#### 4. FINANCIAL

With only one meeting for the year and very little activity being made at the national level, a self funding arrangement WAS put to the WMAA Strategic Advisory Committee at its February meeting in 2010. The model seeks to request a fee from members to support an initial Division budget of \$50k to manage its operations and allow further grant submissions to be prepared for funding necessary research.

*Bob Andrews  
Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Energy from Waste

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In early 2009 the survey of WMAA Energy from Waste Division members (carried out in December 2008) was analysed and the findings circulated to all members. The survey indicated members' meeting preferences for seminars and site visits, and highlighted the role of the division in sharing information on topics relevant to energy from waste. These findings informed the direction of the 2009 meeting program.

Activities during 2009 were focused mainly on meetings in Victoria and NSW, and included site visits (such as the Blue Circle Southern Cement kiln in Geelong, Vic) and breakfast seminars (such as the Sustainability Victoria breakfast presentation on bioenergy).

In NSW, the EfW working group established the Thermal Organics Processing (TOP) group. A presentation on Energy from Waste was also made to the NSW Young Professionals Group.

On behalf of the EfW Division, WMAA renewed our annual membership to Bioenergy Australia; the Secretary of the Division attended one of their meetings in Canberra, and the invitation has been extended to other Division members. In Victoria, ongoing links were also forged with the Victorian Bioenergy Network run by Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Primary Industries.

Relevant energy from waste information and publications were shared and/or circulated to members via the Division's page on the WMAA website, links to Bioenergy Australia publications and direct email. Members were also given the opportunity to participate in international projects carried by Bioenergy Australia as part of the International Energy Authority bioenergy tasks, and received newsletters arising from these projects.

The creation of additional EfW state working groups was explored in Western Australia (to be channelled through the existing Alternative Waste Technology working group), Queensland and South Australia (members in both states expressed interest but no action to date).

In late 2009, planning commenced for a national seminar to be held in Melbourne in April 2010 in order to capitalise on the visit of international experts from the US.

*Christine Wardle*  
*Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Landfill

The National Landfill Division (NLD) had a successful year with action relating to National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERS) methodology development and a well attended conference in Hobart in August.

#### NGERS

Members of the NLD worked co-operatively with the NGERS division of the federal Department of Climate Change (DCC) during the year. As a result of this collaboration revisions to the landfill emission modelling techniques were introduced into the 2009 NGERS Determination and the corresponding technical guidelines.

This work was then followed by the commissioning of a 'Method 2' pilot study by Golders at the Woy Woy landfill on the NSW Central Coast.

As a result of this work excellent communication links have been established with the NGERS division of the DCC.

#### CONFERENCE

The NLD's biennial landfill and transfer station conference was held in Hobart in August. Notwithstanding concerns with the weather, the conference attendance exceeded expectations and a great event was held. The focus of the conference was on adjusting to new 'carbon' constraints and overseas and local speakers contributed to a successful transfer of knowledge on the new era that is embracing the waste sector.

The conference also included the presentation of the National Landfill and Transfer Station Excellence Awards.

#### SEMINARS

In addition to state working group seminars the NLD organised three seminars with international landfill expert Jean Bogner. Jean presented on her latest research relating to a new techniques for estimating landfill gas emissions.

#### GUIDELINES

Following extensive research the NLD released guidelines for the operation of 'bio-reactor' landfills mid-year. These guidelines were edited by Alan Boase of Impact Blue and provided a comprehensive review of the most recent understandings relating to 'bio-reactor' operational requirements.

#### A-ACAP

The NLD has monitored the work being undertaken by the A-ACAP team and looks forward to the release of new 'phytocap' guidelines early in 2011.

#### THANKS

The NLD division has an active executive committee and I wish to thank each member for their support during the year. Additionally I would like to extend special thanks to Joe Duncan for taking on the role of committee chair for the Hobart conference, to Sam Bateman for the time he has spent on the NGERS issues and Adam Johnston for bringing the bio-reactor guidelines to conclusion.

*Max Spedding  
Chair*

## WMAA NATIONAL DIVISIONS

### Waste Educators

The National Waste Educators Division (NWED) of the Waste Management Association of Australia was formed in March 2004, following a workshop of State Divisional representatives. NWED convenes every six weeks via teleconference and face-to-face annually. The Division's last face-to-face meeting took place in Sydney on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 where significant items included a review of the Terms of Reference and Strategic Plan, an overview of the National Approach to the Professional Development of Environmental Educators, finalising a submission into the National Waste Policy, ensuring an education presence in National conferences and election of Office Bearers. Since the meeting the Division has maintained a renewed vigour and commitment to achieving lasting behaviour change through education.

#### WHO ARE WE?

Chair	David D'Arcy-Burke Rivers Regional Council, WA
Secretary	Daniela Santucci Bankstown City Council, NSW
Treasurer	Shaun Cousins Southern Waste Strategy Auth, Tas
Committee	Pat Armstrong Pat Armstrong Consulting, Vic Vanessa Whelan ACT No Waste, ACT Anita Christian Moreton Bay Regional Council, Qld Simone Cunningham KESAB Environmental Solutions, SA

#### VISION

Waste education effectively contributes to real behaviour change toward sustainable production, consumption and resource recovery.

#### MISSION

To influence policy and decision making at all levels and to involve and enable educators in preferred practice waste education.

#### GOALS

##### 1. Advance waste education as a profession

- *Waste education will be comprehensively integrated into all aspects of the waste management / resource recovery sector. Its "ethos" will apply to all waste management / resource recovery activity.*
- *Waste education initiatives will be conceived and implemented within the frameworks and principles of sustainable development and education for sustainability.*

- *Waste educators will foster partnerships in environmental / sustainability education in Australia. Australian waste education will be recognised as world leading.*

##### 2. Promote recognition of excellence in the practice of waste education

- *Waste educators will be recognised and valued by the waste management / resource recovery sector, and have improved professional opportunities and career paths.*

##### 3. Support and empower waste educators

- *Waste educators will have a greater understanding about how to achieve effective behavioural change toward sustainable production /consumption and resource recovery and the skills to apply to their programs and projects*
- *There will be development of, support for and adoption of preferred practices in waste education.*

##### 4. Influence public policy

- *The benefits of waste education will be fully realised and captured. Stakeholders involved in sustainable production, consumption and resource recovery will consider social / behavioural factors and build change strategies into their decision-making and operations.*
- *Waste educators will contribute to and influence National, State/ territory and local waste policies.*

#### THE NATIONAL PROJECT

In 2008 four associations including the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA), Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) and the Australian Water Association (AWA) were successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

The purpose of the grant was to identify, recognise, and facilitate the delivery of endorsed short course professional development modules for those who design, deliver and/or evaluate sustainability/environmental education. A Project Management Group (PMG) was convened to support and guide the project with members consisting Pat Armstrong (WMAA) and Grahame Collier (AAEE) working as Joint Project Leaders, Angela Colliver

(MESA), Trish Dames (AWA), Phil Smith (AAEE) and Colin Hocking (VAEE).

The lead agency for the project is the Waste Management Association of Australia. In the first stage of the project a review of educators in environmental areas was conducted to:

1. identify the professional development short courses currently available to educators in environmental areas and the providers of these courses
2. shed light on the needs of educators in environmental areas for professional development especially within areas where short courses that are currently not available.

A questionnaire was drafted by the PMG and developed into an online survey which was conducted online over a period of approximately three weeks from August 9 – 28 2009. A total of 352 respondents accessed the online survey.

On the basis of this work, a small number of providers of modules have been selected for high level recognition in 2010. Once arrangements have been made with these providers, 1-2 day workshops on their modules will be advertised to educators over the next few months and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) will be soon engaged to help roll out and promote the modules.

The summary of survey results: 'Review of Educators in Environmental Areas Professional Development Short Courses 2009' and an overview of the work to date on the project: 'A National Approach to the Professional Development of Sustainability Educators – Work in Progress Strategic Plan' is available on the WMAA website.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact Pat Armstrong at [pat.arm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pat.arm@bigpond.net.au).

*David D'Arcy Burke*  
*Chair*