Hon Albert Jacob MLA, Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 63 of the Financial Administration Act 2006, I submit the Waste Authority Annual Report for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, for presentation to Parliament.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Marcus Geisler
Chairman
Waste Authority

Address: Level 4, 168 St Georges Terrace,
PERTH WA 6000
Post: Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square,
WA 6850
Phone: 08 6467 5325
Email: waste.authority@der.wa.gov.au

The report conforms with State Government requirements for accessibility and ease in downloading. It is available in alternative formats and languages on request. The report can be downloaded from the Waste Authority’s website at www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au.

ISSN 1838-3009
Waste Authority Annual Report 2015–16

Published by the Western Australian Government
© Waste Authority WA, Government of Western Australia 2016

This publication may be copied in whole or part, with acknowledgement to the Waste Authority.
Western Australians are avoiding, re-using, re-processing and recycling waste at an increasing rate. The focus of the Waste Authority on encouraging and supporting consistency of practice and messaging, and growing awareness and acceptance of the need to minimise waste and recover resources from the waste stream is delivering results.

The Waste Authority's advice to government supports the alignment of State Government, local government, industry and the community to accept and take responsibility for their own waste. This will ultimately deliver the social, economic and environmental outcomes and ambitious targets set in the State Waste Strategy.

The waste and recycling sector is in various stages of transitioning towards better practice in response to increasing landfill levy costs.

The State’s 2015 Waste Strategy target for 30 per cent diversion of municipal solid waste (MSW) in major regional centres was achieved. The 55 per cent target for commercial and industrial (C&I) waste diversion increased by seven per cent over the previous year and was just three per cent below the target. A diversion rate of 40 per cent was achieved for metropolitan MSW, less than the 2015 target of 50 per cent. Construction and demolition (C&D) waste diversion was 42 per cent, an increase of four per cent on the previous year, although short of the 2015 target of 60 per cent.

As a consequence, in 2015–16 the Waste Authority focused its attention on applying funds from the landfill levy to programs to divert more MSW and C&D waste from landfill to assist in achieving the State’s 2020 diversion targets.

It delivered on two key programs to drive the improvement – the State Government’s $20 million Better Bins program to support local governments to reduce the amount of MSW being landfilled through source separation and the $10 million Recycled Construction Products Program which aims to increase the use of recycled C&D products in civil construction projects.

The Waste Authority also provided funding to support a range of other programs including Waste Wise Schools, community grants and strategic partnerships.

The Waste Authority encourages everyone to choose to do the right thing and adopt smarter waste management practices in the home, in business and in public open spaces. Good waste management starts with avoiding the creation of waste in the first place.

If we all accept responsibility for our own waste and recognise that it is a valuable resource that can be recovered and recycled, together we can reduce the use of raw materials and protect our environment.

Through its programs, the Waste Authority supports the community, local governments, regional councils, businesses and industry to improve the management of waste and recycling in WA. Recycling is good for the environment and has positive economic benefits, including creating more jobs than the landfill industry and supporting a circular economy.

Marcus Geisler
Chairman
Performance highlights

Better Bins

The State Government’s Better Bins program continued to fund local governments to provide their residents with improved kerbside collection systems that help increase recycling rates and divert waste from landfill. The program is not mandatory however, funding preference is given to local governments that adopt three-bin collection systems. In April 2015, the State Government increased the program’s funding to $20 million.

Local governments already participating in the program include the shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Capel and Collie, the cities of Bayswater, Stirling and Rockingham, and the Town of Cambridge. The Town of Cottesloe, where a three-bin collection system already existed, is expected to officially join the program in 2016–17.

Recycled Construction Products

The Minister for Environment announced the $10 million Recycled Construction Products Program (RCPP) in September 2015. The RCPP provides an incentive for local governments, state government entities, regional councils and the private sector to use recycled C&D products in civil construction projects such as roads, car parks and drains.

The program aims to increase the amount of recycled C&D products used in these projects and increase the number of local governments, state government and private sector entities using them. It promotes the use and benefits of using recycled C&D products in a wide number of applications. Over the longer term, its goal is to transition the market to a point where recycled C&D products are accepted and preferred to raw materials.

The RCPP addresses the fact that three million tonnes of C&D waste is generated annually in WA, two million tonnes of which is sent to landfill. It aims to help the State achieve its target to divert 75 per cent of C&D waste from landfill by 2020.

Waste Wise Schools

The Waste Authority continued supporting schools through its Waste Wise Schools program. During 2015–16, the program offered two curriculum based learning workshops on the problems with single use plastic bottles to teachers. A case study was filmed at two high schools which adopted *Message in a Plastic Bottle* as a cross curriculum program for their Year 7 to 10 cohorts. Research to identify effective behavioural change interventions to reduce food waste in WA schools was also commenced.
Since 2010–11, there has been a steady increase in the total reported amount of waste recycled within Western Australia. In 2010–11, 1.9 million tonnes of waste was recycled, in comparison to 2.6 million tonnes in 2014–15. In 2014–15, 16,000 tonnes more waste was diverted from landfill than was diverted in 2013–14.

The diversion rates for both C&D and C&I waste increased. This was due to a fall in the quantity of waste landfilled, which corresponded with increases in the landfill levy in January 2015. The C&D and C&I waste streams are largely managed by industry. There was a minor decrease in the diversion rate for metropolitan MSW. Overall, diversion rates in this sector have been steady because municipal waste processing capacity in the metropolitan region has remained roughly unchanged. The MSW stream is largely managed by local government.

The MSW diversion rate for major regional centres met the Waste Strategy 2015 target of 30 per cent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery rate</th>
<th>Metro MSW</th>
<th>Major regional centre</th>
<th>C&amp;I</th>
<th>C&amp;D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>30%²</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy targets 2015</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Landfill diversion and recovery rate are expressions of the same measure.
2. Excludes one major regional centre due to data verification issues.
Summary of Western Australia’s current performance against the Waste Strategy targets

- **Landfill**
  - 2015 Actual: 52%
  - 2015 Target: 50%
  - 2020 Target: 75%
  - Gap: 45kt

- **MSW**
  - 2015 Actual: 33%
  - 2015 Target: 60%
  - 2020 Target: 65%
  - Gap: 276kt

- **C&D**
  - 2015 Actual: 33%
  - 2015 Target: 50%
  - 2020 Target: 75%
  - Gap: 558kt

- **Commercial and Industrial (C&I)**
  - 2015 Actual: 25%
  - 2015 Target: 50%
  - 2020 Target: 75%
  - Gap: 190kt

- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)**
  - 2015 Actual: 26%
  - 2015 Target: 60%
  - 2020 Target: 65%
  - Gap: 1613kt

**Recycled**
- 2015: 1,266kt
- 2015 Target: 825kt
- 2020 Target: 530kt

**Landfill Generation**
- 2015: 6,235kt
- 2015 Target: 3,040kt
- 2020 Target: 1,774kt

*Totals subject to rounding.*
*2015 = 2014/15.
*2020 = 2019/20.*

**kt** = kilotonnes (1,000 tonnes)
Operational structure

The Waste Authority is established under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WARR Act).

The Waste Authority is an agent of the State and is accountable to the Minister for Environment. It is responsible for preparing a draft waste strategy and annual draft business plans for the Minister's consideration and for the administration of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account) under the WARR Act.

The Waste Authority implements and monitors programs in the approved annual business plan and works closely with the community, government and industry. It supports a collaborative approach to encourage open dialogue with local governments, regional councils, peak bodies, the waste management sector and the general public.

The Waste Authority also provides advice as requested by the Minister including policies to reduce the amount of waste delivered to landfill.

The Waste Authority's aim is to derive economic and environmental benefits from improved resource recovery practices. It also works to ensure the community understands the benefits of avoiding waste generation and of resource recovery.

The Waste Authority's operations are funded by the landfill levy. Administrative support and management of funded programs is provided by Department of Environment Regulation (DER) through a service level agreement.

Enabling legislation

The WARR Act establishes the Waste Authority, provides for waste avoidance and resource recovery and waste services by local government and makes provision for a levy on waste disposed to landfill. The WARR Levy Act imposes a levy on certain waste.

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) undertook a statutory review into the operation and effectiveness of the WARR Act on behalf of the Minister for Environment. While no legislative amendments were proposed, the State Government will continue to implement mechanisms to support better alignment of waste management planning, waste services and waste contracts across local and State Government and industry.

Responsible Minister

The Waste Authority reports to the Minister for Environment, Hon Albert Jacob MLA, the Minister for the purposes of the WARR Act.
Organisational structure

In August 2014, on the recommendation of the Minister for Environment, the Governor of Western Australia appointed the members of the Waste Authority for five year terms.

Members

Marcus Geisler has corporate experience in the waste and recycling industry in Australia and overseas, particularly in the recycling of construction and demolition waste. He was central to the development of the industry in The Netherlands. Marcus has held senior management positions with Coates Hire, Thiess Services and SITA Australia. Marcus has been a Waste Authority member since 2008 and was Deputy Chairman in 2011–12. As Chairman, he has developed a strong and broad engagement platform to bring together State and local governments, industry and the community to enable implementation of the State’s Waste Strategy, and to cater for Western Australia’s waste infrastructure and management for the next 30 years and beyond.

Jenny Bloom is a director of a change management and strategic planning consultancy, and owner and operator of small to medium sized enterprises. With previous experience as an elected local government councillor, Jenny brings a regional perspective to the Waste Authority. She has a strong interest in the management of waste in regional Western Australia, including within the resources industry, and the delivery of municipal services to remote communities.
Victoria Bond is a chartered waste manager with 12 years’ experience in the public and private sectors as a waste management expert. She has extensive international experience, having worked for global consultancies in the United Kingdom, Australia and the Middle East. She brings technical and commercial expertise to the Waste Authority, along with knowledge of international best practice. She has an interest in waste education and behaviour change through effective communication to achieve positive results with regard to waste avoidance, increased recycling and decreased contamination.

Neil Foley is a town planning consultant having previously worked as a planner for the Department of Planning and local government. He also teaches at the University of Western Australia. Neil has promoted the integration of planning for waste infrastructure in the State Planning Framework.

Glen McLeod is an environmental and town planning lawyer with over 39 years of experience. He has held senior positions in major Australian, English and American law firms. In July 2012 he established his independent niche firm, Glen McLeod Legal where he practices in the areas of environmental and town planning law. He is a member of the WA Environmental Protection Authority and the Waste Authority, the Chair of the International Bar association’s Environmental, Health and Safety Committee and a member of the WA Law Society’s Environment Town Planning and Local Government Committee. He is an Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University where he teaches units in environmental and town planning law. He is a member of the Advisory Group to the Murdoch Dean of Law and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was recently the recipient of the 2016 WA Law Society’s Lawyer of the Year Award. Glen is the General Editor of the national loose leaf publication Planning Law in Australia and an editor of the Local Government Law Journal.
Contributions to State Government Goals

Under an outcome based management framework, the Waste Authority contributes to three of the State Government’s strategic goals.

**Table 2 – Mapping Government Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Government strategic goal</th>
<th>Waste strategy strategic objectives</th>
<th>Waste Authority role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social and environmental responsibility</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.</td>
<td>1. Initiate and maintain long term planning for waste and recycling processing, and enable access to suitably located land with buffers sufficient to cater for the State’s waste management needs.&lt;br&gt;2. Enhance regulatory services to ensure consistent performance is achieved at landfills, transfer stations and processing facilities.&lt;br&gt;3. Develop best practice guidelines, measures and reporting frameworks and promote their adoption.&lt;br&gt;4. Use existing economic instruments to support the financial liability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover.&lt;br&gt;5. Communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption, and acknowledge the success of individuals and organisations that act in accordance with the aims and principles in the Strategy and assist in its implementation.</td>
<td>Apply WARR Account funds to the development and delivery of a range of programs and initiatives to promote waste avoidance, reuse and recycling to support:&lt;br&gt; • attitude and behaviour change; and&lt;br&gt; • create the demand environment in which infrastructure investments are more likely to be made. Funds are applied:&lt;br&gt; • through open and competitive processes&lt;br&gt; • assessed against financial and technical capability and risk; and&lt;br&gt; • measured against the objects of the WARR Act and delivery of the Waste Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial and economic responsibility</strong>&lt;br&gt;Responsibly managing the State’s finances through the efficient and effective delivery of services, encouraging economic activity and reducing regulatory burdens on the private sector.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stronger focus on the regions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Greater focus on service delivery, infrastructure, investment and economic development to improve the overall quality of life in remote and regional areas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial operation

The WARR Account is allocated not less than 25 per cent of the landfill levy revenue forecast in the State Budget. The Minister determines the amount to be credited to the WARR Account annually.

The forecast landfill levy amount in 2015–16 was $104 million and the Minister approved the allocation of $26 million to the WARR Account. The levy was paid to the operating account of DER.

In addition to the landfill levy, the WARR Account received a calculated interest on its balance and other program refunds. The WARR Account had an opening balance of $20.6 million.

WARR Account expenditure must be consistent with the annual business plan or as approved by the Minister. The WARR Account revenue and expenditure is summarised in the Statement of Cash Flows in Table 7.

Snapshot

In 2015–16, the WARR Account was credited with $26 million from landfill levy receipts and $0.9 million of account interest and other miscellaneous revenue.

The 2015–16 WARR Account expenditure was $17 million (58 per cent of the operational budget).

Taking into account the $20.6 million opening balance, the closing balance of the WARR Account as at 30 June 2016 was $30 million.

The WARR Account’s 2015–16 financial activity result is disclosed in DER’s Annual Report under the Restricted Cash Accounts of the Financial Statements. The Auditor General provided an independent audit opinion on DER’s financial statements and key performance indicators that included the WARR Account.

Governance

Processes are in place within DER to monitor and audit the financial performance of the WARR Account as required by section 81 of the WARR Act and in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 (FMA). The management of the WARR Account is regarded as a DER service for the purposes of sections 52 and 53 of the FMA.
Authority performance

Report on operations

The Waste Authority’s activities are aligned to the Western Australian Waste Strategy’s five strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1

Initiate and maintain long-term planning for waste and recycling processing and enable access to suitably located land with buffers sufficient to cater for the State’s waste management needs.

Planning

The Waste Authority continued to liaise with the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning on waste infrastructure planning.

The Waste Authority provides input to key planning documents to ensure that waste infrastructure is considered in future planning.

Strategic objective 2

Enhance regulatory services to ensure consistent performance is achieved at landfills, transfer stations and processing facilities.

Compliance and enforcement

Levy funds have been applied to establish a landfill levy compliance and enforcement program within DER. The objective of the program is to ensure compliance with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008. This is achieved through targeted premises inspections and, when necessary, enforcement action.

In 2015–16 the compliance team undertook 117 landfill levy return audits, 200 landfill levy compliance inspections and 113 compliance monitoring inspections of other associated waste-related industries and unregulated premises, for a total of 430 premises inspections and audits.

Illegal dumping

Dealing with the incidence of illegally dumped waste is a financial and time consuming impost for local and state government authorities and charitable recyclers. To address this issue, WARR Account funds were used to establish the illegal dumping program within DER. The program came to full strength in February 2016 and includes a dedicated enforcement capacity of five officers.

During 2015–16 DER’s illegal dumping program partnered with charitable recyclers and local and State Government land managers to tackle illegal dumping of waste. The program has delivered education, surveillance and enforcement initiatives specifically adapted to suit the nature of dumped material and receiving environment. These initiatives will have a positive impact on the prevalence of illegal dumping, the associated levy avoidance and divert more waste to appropriate management.
Better Bins

The State Government’s $20 million Better Bins program continued to support local governments to implement better practice kerbside collection systems to achieve higher resource recovery.

It encouraged transition to a three bin system in which general waste is collected in a red lid bin; co-mingled recycling in a yellow lid bin; and green/organic waste is collected in a lime-green lid bin.

The three bin system is designed to help householders separate waste and increase recycling to help WA achieve its landfill diversion target for municipal solid waste.

Better Bins encourages greater uniformity of waste and recycling systems across local governments, making it easier for people to recycle.

The program provides local governments with up to $30 for each household that receives a best practice kerbside collection service. Recycling rates in local governments that have a well performing three bin system are commonly around 50 per cent and as high as 60 to 65 per cent where food waste is collected.

Eight local governments, including the cities of Bayswater, Rockingham and Stirling; towns of Cambridge and Cottesloe; and the shires of Capel, Collie and Donnybrook-Balingup, have received funding commitments worth $4.6 million through the program to date.

In 2015–16 expenditure on the Better Bins program was $2.35 million.

$1.65 million has been committed to the City of Stirling

From the beginning of 2015–16, householders in the City of Stirling have been able to recycle using a three bin system. With 85,000 households, this is the largest kerbside collection contract in Western Australia. Better Bins funding of $1.65 million has been committed to the City of Stirling.

Shire of Collie—boosted recovery rates

In April 2016, the Shire of Collie rolled out a third bin. Early reports indicate that the addition of green waste collections has significantly boosted recovery rates and reduced waste to landfill.

$1.61 million to support City of Rockingham

In June 2016, the City of Rockingham signed a Better Bins agreement to roll out three bin collections to over 50,000 households. The Waste Authority has committed $1.61 million to support this major project.
Regional Funding Program

The Waste Authority established the Regional Funding Program (RFP) for local governments in 2011. The RFP:

- encouraged local governments to work together to provide regional waste management solutions
- facilitated improved local government waste management infrastructure and services throughout the state, with measurable progress towards meeting Waste Strategy targets
- promoted continuous improvement in waste avoidance, resource recovery and disposal for solid waste managed by local governments, in line with Waste Strategy targets.

When the program concluded in June 2016, 22 waste diversion projects had been completed across the State and seven regional groups had reviewed their Strategic Waste Management Plans.

Expenditure in 2015–16 was $1,159,998. Total program expenditure between 2011 and 2016 was $3,728,181.

Avon group of councils—over 20 per cent of waste is now diverted

The Avon group of councils (the shires of Northam and Toodyay) had planned and costed the implementation of kerbside recycling in Northam and Toodyay townships over a number of years. The capital cost of purchasing the 7,000 bins required was preventing the introduction of the service. Using a $383,202 RFP grant, the group purchased bins and implemented the kerbside service in both townships. Prior to this project, minimal waste was diverted from landfill in the shires. Over 20 per cent of waste is now diverted.

City of Karratha achieved 30 per cent of MSW diversion rate

The City of Karratha had comprehensive planning in place for the development of a $3.2 million transfer station at the Seven Mile Waste Management Facility. A $300,000 RFP grant allowed the implementation of improved data management, storage and processing of recyclable materials. The City of Karratha achieved diversion of approximately 30 per cent of MSW in 2014–15 and increased MSW diversion to 38 per cent in 2015–16.
Household hazardous waste

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides local governments and regional councils with funding to assist with the collection, storage and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW).

HHW are products used in and around the home that are flammable, toxic, explosive or corrosive. If not disposed of correctly, HHW can pose a threat to human health or the environment.

The program funds eight metropolitan and five regional permanent facilities where householders can drop off unwanted household chemicals free of charge.

Expenditure on the Household Hazardous Waste program in 2015–2016 was $2.36 million.

740 tonnes of HHW are safely recycled

In 2015–16, 740 tonnes of HHW were recovered and safely recycled or disposed of, including approximately:

- 473 tonnes of paint (at a cost of $775,000, which is 54 per cent of the total cost of material disposal)
- 66 tonnes of batteries
- 80 tonnes of propane gas bottles

95 tonnes of highly hazardous materials are recycled

The program collected and recycled or disposed of approximately 95 tonnes of highly hazardous materials, including acids, pesticides and flammable liquids.

$87,650 of infrastructure upgrades

Over $87,650 of infrastructure upgrades were supported across 12 sites.

Staff training, including spill response and fire safety training, was delivered at all facilities.

Three temporary collection days generated 51 tonnes of HHW

Three temporary collection days were run at sites in the cities of Swan, Joondalup and Melville, generating 51 tonnes of HHW.
Western Australian Transitional eWaste Program Phase 2

Electronic waste, or eWaste, including televisions and computers, is one of the fastest growing waste streams in Australia. These products contain valuable materials that can be re-used, as well as substances that can be harmful to the environment if they end up in landfill.

In 2014, operational issues with the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS) affected the continuity of eWaste services in Western Australia. In August 2015, the Western Australian Transitional eWaste Program Phase 2 (WATEP 2) was initiated to address these issues.

WATEP 2 supported existing local government eWaste recycling at permanent collection sites that were not funded through the NTCRS arrangements after the withdrawal of NTCRS funding.

Four local governments applied for funding during the year, including the cities of Busselton and Cockburn, the Shire of Manjimup and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.

The program supported the recycling of approximately 66,000 kilograms of eWaste.

In 2015–16 expenditure on WATEP 2 was approximately $15,000.

Charitable Recyclers Rebate

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations (CROs) routinely dispose of materials left at their facilities (at donation bins or shop fronts) that have been illegally dumped or cannot be recycled or reused. The cost to CROs of disposing of illegally dumped waste has escalated as a result of an increasing number of items dumped illegally and, for CROs in the metropolitan area, recent landfill levy increases.

The Charitable Recyclers Rebate (CRR) program, announced by the Minister for Environment, has been established to provide a rebate for the cost of the landfill levy incurred by CROs in the metropolitan area when disposing of unusable material left at their premises.

The program, which was launched in June 2016, supports the continued efforts of CROs to divert waste from landfill and recognises that, for some items, disposal may be the only option because reuse, recycling or recovery may not be available or feasible.

The CRR will provide $300,000 annually to eligible CROs to meet the cost of the landfill levy.

The Waste Authority has also funded the website www.giv.org.au to help the public determine which items can be recycled by charitable recycling organisations.

Waste paint, batteries and tyres

Product stewardship schemes can contribute to the aims of the Waste Strategy by diverting wastes from landfill. National product stewardship schemes for end-of-life tyres and paint became operational during 2015–2016 and a scheme for batteries is being developed.
Authority performance (continued)

Strategic objective 4

Use existing economic instruments to support the financial viability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover it as a resource.

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Scheme supports community groups to reduce waste generation, recover resources and reduce the impact of waste on the environment. Funding was allocated to projects that addressed the strategic waste focus areas detailed in the Waste Strategy.

There were two funding rounds in 2015–16:

- Six projects were awarded a total of $77,000 in November 2015. Projects included supporting Aboriginal families in Gosnells to compost garden and food waste, and helping a rural community in Hyden to collect aluminium cans from the town, farms and business sites.

- Seventeen grants worth $128,000 were approved in the second round announced in May 2016. Projects included an online domestic waste reduction program, increasing plastic recycling stations, community waste management workshops, and recycling green waste at regional community gardens.

Recycled Construction Products Program

The Recycled Construction Products Program (RCPP) was launched by the Minister for Environment on 10 March 2016. The RCPP provides an incentive to metropolitan local governments, regional councils, state government and private sector entities to use recycled C&D products in civil construction projects.

The RCPP aims to transition the construction products market so that recycled products are accepted and preferred to raw materials.

The RCPP, which has an allocation of $10 million, will be open until June 2020.

Demolition of buildings near Great Eastern Highway for recycling into road base for the upgrade.
Authority performance (continued)

Strategic objective 4 (continued)

Strategic partnerships

In 2015–16 $1,262,414 was spent on strategic partnerships.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council

The Waste Authority provided $820,000 in funding to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) for implementation of the State Litter Prevention Strategy 2015–20. The strategic partnership covers six areas of work: research and data; education, awareness and training; enforcement; incentives; collaboration and partnerships; and administration.

Key achievements in 2015–16 included:

- two National Litter Index audits undertaken at 151 sites around the state
- education and training events such as clean-ups and displays, the Clean Schools program and workshops in partnership with Western Australian Local Government Association were delivered
- through the Litter Report Scheme 3,159 litter reports were received with a 90 per cent conversion rate to infringements and payment. The number of litter reporters increased to 11,349, with 1,319 Western Australians registering to become litter reporters
- at 30 June 2016, there were 654 groups registered in the Adopt-a-Spot program, involving more than 15,000 volunteers. As a result of their efforts, thousands of bags of rubbish have been removed from the environment in the past year
- Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities had 56 registrations in 2015–16 involving 10,075 volunteers in the program which drove holistic engagement to sustain the environmental, economic and social structure of these communities
- a five year Memorandum of Understanding with Main Roads WA to facilitate the two agencies working more closely together to reduce litter on highways was commenced and agreements were entered into with the Road Safety Commission and the Australian Packaging Covenant for special projects on litter.

Further detail about KABC’s work can be found in its annual report.

Master Builders Association WA

This strategic partnership aims to drive behaviour change in the construction industry to increase waste avoidance and resource recovery of C&D waste. Five projects were completed during the year including: construction industry research to identify the waste generated from building projects; delivering updated Smart Waste industry training course to builders, building supervisors, construction managers and workers responsible for ordering materials and managing waste; construction site visits across the Perth and Peel regions to promote and implement the MBA’s Smart Waste initiative; production of nine segments for the Home in WA television show to highlight ways to reduce the volume of C&D waste generated on building sites; and presentation of four awards for Excellence in Recycling as part of the MBA’s Regional Excellence Awards.

In 2015–16, expenditure on the Master Builders Association WA (MBA) strategic partnership was $281,722.
Green Stamp is operated by the Motor Traders Association Western Australia, the Printing Industry Association of Australia (PIAA) and the Cleaning Council of Western Australia to assist small to medium businesses in implementing industry environmental best practices. In 2015–16, a number of printing industry members achieved over 90 per cent diversion of their waste from landfill.

In 2015–16, through the Green Stamp strategic partnership, the Motor Trade Association of WA received $85,748 and the Printing Industries Association of Australia received $33,967.

Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)

WALGA received $22,982 in 2015–16 to undertake four projects to improve waste diversion and recycling by local governments, including: continuation of its “bin tagging” behaviour change campaign, which commenced in 2014–15, to reduce contamination and increase recovery from the kerbside system; developing guidelines to provide a step by step approach for local governments and regional councils interested in setting up a reuse shop to accept and sell reusable items at a waste collection site (covering feasibility, planning, operation and evaluation); developing a better practice guideline focusing on the legal and practical issues associated with the use of optical surveillance devices to combat littering and illegal dumping; and developing a draft screening tool to assist local governments to assess the suitability of new rural landfill sites.

The Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA), which represents key stakeholders in the waste management industry sector, received $17,995 to conduct two facilitated workshops focusing on strategic issues in the waste management industry.

The first workshop promoted the use of recycled C&D material in the Perth metropolitan region by providing information on the Waste Authority’s Recycled Construction Products Program, the quality assurance process, the benefits of using the recycled C&D products, examples of how the material has been used and the results of long term testing.

The second focused on the vergeside collection of waste undertaken by or on behalf of local governments, including the low recovery rates of recyclable materials, community expectations and behaviour, illegal dumping and litter, visual amenity, high volumes of waste, long collection periods, cost and occupational health and safety.
Waste Wise Schools (WWS) carried out professional learning workshops, school visits and project and partnership development across the metropolitan and regional areas to reduce the volume of waste schools send to landfill and to encourage waste reduction behaviours in schools.

Highlights included:

- The expansion of regional support and establishment of a high school support project.
- Commencement of research to identify effective behaviour change interventions to reduce food waste in WA schools.
- Development of a WWS curriculum for primary and high schools, implementation of the Year 7 to 10 Message in a Plastic Bottle cross curriculum program in several schools and development of a draft Better Bins Primary curriculum document.
- Continuation of partnerships and collaborations with local and regional governments and non-government organisations.
- Delivery of waste management skills and professional development workshops for school representatives, student excursions, educational waste audits and lessons about composting and worm farming.
- Implementation of the Little Green Steps Early Childhood partnership to deliver waste education workshops to early years learning services in collaboration with the metropolitan regional councils and the Wellington Waste Group.

- Renewal of WWS accreditation for 166 schools and accreditation of 26 schools for the first time. Work began on a school accreditation map for the WWS website.
- Grants worth $160,000 were provided to schools for projects such as recycling systems for paper and plastics, composting and worm farming and reuse collection infrastructure. A new student grant to enable student groups to run small projects to encourage their peers to reduce and recycle waste was trialled and a new Infrastructure grant for Early Years Learning Services was in development.
- Several events were held in the Kimberley with the support of a Kimberley based Department of Parks and Wildlife Bush Ranger Officer. This included a tour of the Toxfree waste management facility, worm farming and wicking bed demonstrations, as well as a high school Message in a Plastic Bottle curriculum workshop.

Communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption and acknowledge the success of individuals and organisations that act in accordance with the aims and principles in the Strategy and assist in its implementation.
Authority performance (continued)

2015 Infinity Awards

The Infinity Awards promote behaviour change and acknowledge the success of individuals. The 2015 Awards were held at the Perth Zoo and 116 award recipients and representatives from all categories attended. Eighty-two not-for-profit organisations and 34 businesses were nominated for an Infinity Award. Boranup Galleries designed natural wood winners’ trophies constructed from off-cut jarrah waste wood.

Garage Sale Trail

The Waste Authority supported local governments to participate in Garage Sale Trail by offering a 50 per cent subsidy for the cost of participation. In 2015 local government subsidies worth $119,000 were allocated. Garage Sale Trail estimated that its 2015 media reach was over 4.6 million, with a social media reach of one million. In response to Garage Sale Trail's post-event survey, 74 per cent of sellers reported that, as a result of taking part in the event, they now think differently about waste. In WA, 100 per cent of Garage Sale Trail participants made pledges not to illegally dump materials.

Engagement

The Waste Authority Chairman and board members engaged with stakeholders through:

- hosting a breakfast at the 2015 Waste and Recycle Conference
- presenting building excellence awards for recycling through the strategic partnership with the Master Builders Association
- hosting an exhibition booth at the 2015 Local Government Convention
- presenting the State Tidy Towns Award for Waste Management and Litter Prevention at an event in Toodyay in March.

Waste and Recycle Conference 2015

The Waste and Recycle Conference was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle from 9 to 11 September 2015. The Waste Authority was a platinum sponsor of the conference.

The Chairman presented on the Waste Authority’s activities and priorities and participated in a panel on the topic: Is the price right – to change behaviour?

The Waste Authority had a booth at the conference at which it displayed its new communications guidelines, the Better Bins program guidelines and information on recycling C&D waste to make products that can be used in civil engineering projects.

The Waste Authority also held a ‘Breakfast with the Waste Authority’ and attended networking events.

Program highlights

2015 Infinity Awards

The Infinity Awards promote behaviour change and acknowledge the success of individuals. The 2015 Awards were held at the Perth Zoo and 116 award recipients and representatives from all categories attended. Eighty-two not-for-profit organisations and 34 businesses were nominated for an Infinity Award. Boranup Galleries designed natural wood winners’ trophies constructed from off-cut jarrah waste wood.

Garage Sale Trail

The Waste Authority supported local governments to participate in Garage Sale Trail by offering a 50 per cent subsidy for the cost of participation. In 2015 local government subsidies worth $119,000 were allocated. Garage Sale Trail estimated that its 2015 media reach was over 4.6 million, with a social media reach of one million. In response to Garage Sale Trail’s post-event survey, 74 per cent of sellers reported that, as a result of taking part in the event, they now think differently about waste. In WA, 100 per cent of Garage Sale Trail participants made pledges not to illegally dump materials.

Sponsorships

During 2015–16, the Waste Authority provided $56,959 in funding for sponsorships to:

- Australian Packing Covenant, an initiative of Australian governments and industry to reduce the environmental impacts of packaging ($35,250)
- 2015 Waste and Recycle Conference ($20,900)
- Compost in May to support community groups and local governments to promote composting and the use of organics during May ($11,122)
- Mindarie Regional Council for a shared site at the Perth Royal Show ($9,900)
- Switched on Thinking – South East Regional Energy Group to extend the Young Re-inventor of the Year Award to a state-wide audience ($9,037)
- Greenskills for the promotion of composting at the ‘Sustainable Living Expo’ in Albany ($6,000).
Shared responsibilities with other agencies

Department of Environment Regulation

Under s.16 (1) of the WARR Act the Minister must ensure the Waste Authority is provided with the services and facilities reasonably necessary to perform its functions. DER provides administrative and program management support and delivers funded programs. A service level agreement between the parties governs the funding of functions carried out for either party in its respective role under the WARR legislation.

Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority

Current and emerging issues/strategic focus in 2016–17

Better bins

Provide guidance and funding to local governments to support source separation through better practice kerbside collection systems.

Recycled construction products

Develop product testing and auditing schemes to support the producers of recycled construction products with the cost of product sampling and testing to encourage the supply of suitable C&D product for use as part of the RCPP.

Illegal dumping

Develop a community engagement and education campaign to reduce illegal dumping.

Right Bin toolkit

Provide a Right Bin communications toolkit to support consistent messaging by local governments participating in the Better Bins program.

Local government waste plans

Assist local government in the review, development and implementation of waste plans to align them more closely with implementation of the Waste Strategy and State planning initiatives.

Review of the waste strategy

Work to support the statutory review of the Waste Strategy will commence.
Disclosures and legal compliance

Ministerial directives

The Waste Authority did not receive any ministerial directives in 2015–16.

Pricing policies

The Waste Authority is a statutory body that has responsibility for administering the WARR Account and delivering the annual business plan as approved by the Minister. The Authority does not apply fees or charges for goods or services.

Landfill levy collection

In 2015–16, $68.9 million in landfill levy was collected. There were 33 landfill premises monitored in relation to the landfill levy, the majority of those sites are located in the metropolitan area. The disposal of metropolitan waste to non-metropolitan landfill facilities increased slightly from 17 per cent of total tonnes in 2014–15 to 18 per cent in 2015–16.

Remuneration

The remuneration of the Waste Authority members is determined by the Governor on recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner in accordance with the Public Sector Management Act 1994. Annual remuneration is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3—Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period of appointment</th>
<th>Annual remuneration</th>
<th>Gross remuneration*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Marcus Geisler</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$41,055</td>
<td>$51,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Victoria Bond</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,425</td>
<td>$25,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Neil Foley</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,425</td>
<td>$25,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Glen McLeod</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,425</td>
<td>$22,468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes benefits such as superannuation or GST

Directors and officers liability insurance

Waste Authority members are insured under DER’s insurance arrangements. Details on DER’s public liability, professional indemnity and employment practices insurance are included in its 2015–16 Annual Report.

The Waste Authority held 11 meetings during 2015–16. There were no ‘resolutions without meeting’ recorded pursuant to Schedule 1, Division 2, clause 11 of the WARR Act.

Table 4—Members’ meeting attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Meetings attended*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Geisler</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bloom</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bond</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Foley</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen McLeod</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disclosures and legal compliance (continued)

Employment and industrial relations
Waste Authority Services staff are employed by DER and are subject to DER’s industrial agreements, staffing policies, recruitment practices and professional development opportunities.

Table 5—Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff status</th>
<th>Waste Authority Services</th>
<th>Waste Authority</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full time permanent</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time permanent</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time contract</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time contract</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondment full time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advertising
Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 requires the inclusion of a statement detailing all advertising expenditure incurred by the Waste Authority.

Table 6—Advertising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants Scheme</td>
<td>Adcorp</td>
<td>11,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants Scheme</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>1,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants Scheme</td>
<td>I&amp;G Pty Ltd Media and Production</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinity Awards</td>
<td>Carat Australia Media Services</td>
<td>1,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public sector principles

Government and public sector relationship
A communication agreement between the Waste Authority and Minister for Environment was signed on 14 May 2013.
Disclosures and legal compliance (continued)

Governance disclosures

The Waste Authority’s corporate governance arrangements continued to ensure transparency in decision making and operation, as well as accountability to stakeholders. Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest were made by the Waste Authority members regarding four matters during the year. Members either abstained from voting or withdrew from involvement in accordance with the Waste Authority’s conflict of interest policy.

Ethics and integrity

The Waste Authority reviewed its conflict of interest policy during the year to align the document with updated Public Sector Commission guidelines. The Code of Conduct was peer reviewed by officers of the Public Sector Commission and approved by the Waste Authority in February 2016.

Procurement practices follow State Government guidelines and procurement policy.

Organisational structure

Section 16(1) of the WARR Act provides that the Minister for Environment shall ensure that the Waste Authority is provided with the services and facilities that are reasonably necessary to enable it to perform its functions. Section 16(2) provides that the Minister may, by arrangement with the Department, allow the Waste Authority to make use of the services of any officer in the Department.

Waste Authority Services staff are employed by DER under provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 pursuant to section 16(1) of the WARR Act. Officers are subject to DER’s human resources policy, information technology and administrative processes and other policy matters regulated by the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer’s Instructions.

Work continued during the year on the development of a service level agreement (SLA) for the provision of services between the DER and the Waste Authority. The SLA sets out the parties’ mutual understanding of their respective statutory and other legal functions and obligations through a statement of expectations and performance deliverables for provision of services.

Communication

The Waste Authority’s Code of Conduct comprehensively outlines how the Authority ensures that official information remains confidential, describes the process for public interest disclosure and provides guidance on freedom of information.

The Waste Authority ensures that records of decisions and all other documentation are securely retained. Minutes of Authority meetings are circulated to members with meeting agenda papers. The Authority continued to support its move to paperless meetings, with members accessing their meeting papers securely through OneDrive and the website.

In addition to maintaining the Waste Authority and the Waste Wise Schools websites, the Waste Authority communicates through media releases, a newsletter and other publications prepared by DER Communications.

The Minister for Environment approved the 2016 Waste Authority annual communications plan in April 2016. The plan outlines the measures to be taken to increase awareness of the importance of effective waste management in Western Australia. The communication plan includes actions such as media statements and speaking engagements.

Recordkeeping plan

The Waste Authority’s complies with the State Records Act 2000 through adherence to the DER recordkeeping plan. The Waste Authority follows the procedures required under the Act.
Waste Authority publications

During 2015–16, the Waste Authority published:

- Business Plan 2015–16
- Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2014–15
- Recycled Construction Products Program Guidelines
- Charitable Recyclers Rebate Guidelines
- eNewsletters were published in July 2015 and June 2016
- on the Waste Wise Schools website:
  - four editions of the Waste Wise Schools eNewsletter
  - updated fact sheet
  - Accessing recycling services for government schools
  - Composting at school
### Table 7—Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from landfill levy</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landfill levy</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash received from landfill operators</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UTILISED AS FOLLOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from operating activities</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste and recycling infrastructure planning</td>
<td>1,217</td>
<td>48,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy inspection, compliance, enforcement and illegal dumping</td>
<td>2,158,710</td>
<td>71,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled product specifications</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>172,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better bins kerbside collection</td>
<td>2,490,510</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practice funding principles review</td>
<td>17,835</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better practice charitable recycling organisation rebate</td>
<td>9,430</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practice outcomes and systems identification</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practice implementation incentive scheme</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>156,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic instruments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household hazardous waste program (funded programs)</td>
<td>2,362,304</td>
<td>2,620,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic partnerships</td>
<td>1,262,414</td>
<td>1,389,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional funding program (funded programs)</td>
<td>1,159,998</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community grant scheme (grant programs (SWIS/CGS))</td>
<td>182,422</td>
<td>267,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australian transitional eWaste program phase 2</td>
<td>14,916</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled construction products program</td>
<td>3,232</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Utilised as follows

### Cash flows from operating activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement (communication and promotion)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications framework implementation</td>
<td>280,037</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State waste communication strategy implementation and evaluation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>156,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Wise Schools</td>
<td>917,864</td>
<td>741,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinity Awards (awards and sponsorships)</td>
<td>52,295</td>
<td>158,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate communications and website</td>
<td>12,488</td>
<td>24,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and measurement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual recycling activity report (total recycling activity in WA)</td>
<td>77,065</td>
<td>46,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual local government waste and recycling census</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government waste and recycling data collection and reporting</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy and policy development and review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National waste policy and initiatives (APC/NPC)</td>
<td>21,920</td>
<td>50,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste strategy review and evaluation</td>
<td>3,820</td>
<td>68,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and administration support (administrative and program service provision and support)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DER indirect costs</td>
<td>3,201,002</td>
<td>3,117,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Authority Services</td>
<td>2,880,482</td>
<td>2,450,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</td>
<td>17,111,521</td>
<td>11,561,318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash flows from financing activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>840,168</td>
<td>956,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receipts</td>
<td>42,190</td>
<td>86,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</td>
<td>882,358</td>
<td>1,042,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>9,770,837</td>
<td>4,481,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period</td>
<td>20,627,128</td>
<td>16,145,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</td>
<td>30,397,965</td>
<td>20,627,128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>