

Municipal Waste Advisory Council Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015

MWAC Vision - United Towards a Zero Waste Future

Role and purpose of MWAC

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) is a standing committee of the Western Australian Local Government Association with delegated authority on municipal waste issues. MWAC's membership includes metropolitan and non-metropolitan Regional Councils which focus on waste management. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate. MWAC seeks to represent the entire Local Government waste management area, including both the metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

MWAC focuses its activities in four main areas; these areas are the basis of this Strategic Plan:

- **Advocacy:** influencing government decision making to ensure the needs of Local Government and the community are represented and met.
- **Delivery of grant funded programs:** administering grant funded Programs that are consistent with Local Government priorities.
- **Member engagement and services:** engage and assist Local Government to maintain MWAC's relevance as a member based organisation.
- **Information exchange:** ensuring the sector and MWAC is well informed about waste management.

In making decisions, MWAC will have regard to the Waste Hierarchy. As defined in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007:

- i. Avoidance of unnecessary resource consumption;
- ii. Resource recovery (including reuse, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery);
- iii. Disposal

WALGA has adopted a number of Policy Statements, developed through MWAC. These Policy Statements are used as reference points for advocacy and to present a researched and reasoned Local Government position on key issues. Policy Statements have been developed on Data and Information Management, Waste Education, Consultation and Communication, Container Deposit Systems, Extended Producer Responsibility, Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding, Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land, Household Hazardous Waste and, Waste Management Legislation.

Review & Reporting Process

To ensure the ongoing relevance of the MWAC Strategic Plan, this Plan will be reviewed annually. A Business Plan, providing the detail of MWAC's operations, will be developed annually. Every 6 months, in June and December, a Report detailing the progress of MWAC in relation to the Key Performance Indicators will be provided to the Council.

1 ADVOCACY

MWAC undertakes advocacy activities to influence government decision making to ensure the needs of Local Government and the community are represented and met. To achieve this, active engagement with State and Federal Government is essential. Engagement with stakeholders in the waste industry and other aligned sectors is also necessary to identify opportunities for a collective approach.

Strategies

- 1.1 Advocacy campaigns on specific issues of relevance.
- 1.2 Making comment on relevant policy, programs legislation and regulation.
- 1.3 Building and maintaining strong relationships with State and Federal Government (at a political and Departmental level).
- 1.4 Building and maintaining strong relationships with a range of stakeholders in the waste management industry.

Key Performance Indicators

- 1: Key recommendations and advocacy activities are incorporated and influence Government policy, programs, legislation and regulation.
- 2: At least, quarterly meetings with State and Federal Government and other stakeholder in the waste industry and other aligned sectors.
- 3: Respond to all relevant State/Federal waste specific policy, programs, legislation and regulation.

2 PROGRAM DELIVERY

MWAC is well situated to deliver Programs (on behalf of State or Federal Government) given strong links with the Local Government sector. MWAC can influence the shape/direction of Programs and is in a position to more actively advocate to retain successful Programs than Government.

Strategies

- 2.1 Continue to provide the Household Hazardous Waste Program
- 2.2 Seek opportunities for additional Program delivery, in line with priorities identified.

Key Performance Indicators

- 4: Continued provision of the HHW Program, including quarterly reporting to MWAC on tonnages collected through the Program.
- 5: Other funding programs identified and pursued.

3 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES

To ensure that MWAC remains a relevant membership based body, engagement with Local Government is a priority. Through a collective approach, MWAC is able to use the bargaining power of the entire Local Government sector in negotiating favourable outcomes.

Strategies

- 3.1 Facilitate Local Government engagement on key issues relating to Government policy, legislation or regulation.
- 3.2 Facilitate Local Government engagement in Product Stewardship Schemes.
- 3.3 Use Local Governments collective bargaining power in negotiating the best outcomes for the sector.

Key Performance Indicators

- 6: Use of Local Government collective bargaining power in relation to purchasing/negotiation.
- 7: Success of engagement activities in relation to Product Stewardship Schemes
- 8: Annual engagement with MWAC Stakeholders to ascertain views on MWAC's performance and achievements.

4 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

MWAC is a central repository of information, which is shared with Local Government in a manner to assist in decision making and undertaking activities. MWAC has capacity to undertake research and to ensure Local Governments positions on issues are well reasoned and articulated.

Strategies

- 4.1 Ensure Local Government is informed of State and Federal Government policy, legislation and regulation, including potential impacts.
- 4.2 Ensure Local Government is informed of potential funding opportunities.
- 4.3 Undertake research into key issues identified by MWAC, with a view to developing discussion papers, positions papers or Policy Statements.
- 4.4 Ensure MWAC is well informed regarding developments, threats, challenges and opportunities in relation to waste management.

Key Performance Indicators

- 9: Report on information provided to Local Government and the range of formats to MWAC.
- 10: New industry developments and issues brought to MWAC's attention, at each meeting.
- 11: Report to MWAC on Submissions, Policies and Papers produced.