2016-17 Annual Progress Report
Bunbury Wellington Waste Education

watch your waste

Your Waste Not Wasted

2016-17 Summary

The 2016-17 year saw a number of changes within the Waste Education program. Long standing Waste Education Coordinator, Margaret Macindoe left her role to relocate interstate with family in late 2016. Our Waste Education Officer, Emma Thomas also commenced maternity leave in January 2017. Both positions were successfully recruited and the new Waste Education Coordinator, Emma Clay and Waste Education Officer (maternity leave cover), Kate Shaw both commenced in January 2017.

The Waste Education Office also changed in May 2017. The Waste Education staff relocated with the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council Administration team to the Stanley Road Waste Management Facility. The change in location has proven to be beneficial when organising tours and engaging with facility users. The site also gives additional storage options and further opportunities to collect material for the successful Loose Parts Play program.

Emma Clay and Kate Shaw, new Waste Education staff at the Stanley Road Waste management Facility

2016-17 also saw a review of the Waste Education and Community Engagement Strategy. The existing strategy had a strong focus on the third bin implementation. With four of the six member Councils having implemented the third bin, extensive consultation was undertaken to determine future Waste Education priorities that aligned with the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being:

1. ***Engaging the community on waste and recycling related issues***
2. ***Raising awareness about waste minimisation and resource recovery***
3. ***Facilitating the correct use of household recycling bins***
4. ***Encouraging the correct disposal of Household Hazardous Waste***

In order to achieve the objectives, the Waste Education team developed a number of strategies and actions and set some challenging targets within the updated Strategy. Details of the Waste Education program's achievements in 2016-17 are outlined in this Annual Progress Report.

Over
1400 CHILDREN
engaged with
LOOSE PARTS PLAY

13 waste education
PRESENTATIONS

94 Social Media **POSTS** reaching **489 PEOPLE** per post

NEWSLETTER articles sent to **70 EDUCATION FACILITIES**

12 educational **TOURS** with **184 PARTICIPANTS**

18 LOADS of **COMPOST** delivered to **SCHOOLS**

WASTE AUDIT data analysed for **4,080kg** of **SCHOOL** waste

371 residents **SURVEYED** about their waste and recycling **KNOWLEDGE**

30,500 waste **CALENDARS** for households

Waste Education STALLS reaching over **14,000 EVENT GOERS**

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1. Engaging the community on waste and recycling related issues

A key component of Waste Education is face to face interaction with community residents. The Waste Education Team have undertaken a number of activities and programs across the region to ensure residents of each member Council achieves interactive, educational experiences relating to waste and recycling issues.

A Loose Parts Play creation made at the Grand Families Day in Bunbury

Loose Parts Play

Loose Parts Play is an ongoing Waste Education program that targets Early Learning and Primary School aged children. Discarded items are collected from the Stanley Road Waste Management Facility, are cleaned, stored and transported to schools, groups and organisations to play with. This process reinforces the "reduce" and "reuse" behaviors of the Waste Hierarchy with participants viewing every day "rubbish" in a new fun and exciting way.

In early 2017 the Waste Education team re-vamped the Loose Parts Play advertising material and re-circulated it to schools and Early Learning Facilities in the region. This has resulted in an increased engagement which is seeing Loose Parts Play bookings at least once per week.

The below table shows the participants per Council for 2016-17.

	Organisation	Type	No of children
City of Bunbury	South West Aboriginal Medical Service – Hudson Road Centre	Early Learning	20
	Little Gems Prep School	Early Learning	50
	Little Angels Early Learning	Early Learning	72
	Grandfamilies Day	Event	60+
	Bunbury Show	Event	100+
	John Calvin School	Schools	50
	Maidens Park OSH	OSH	20
	Carey Park OSH	OSH	40
	Bunbury Primary School	Schools	60
	Bubs and Grubs Playgroup	Early Learning	20
	Carey Park Child and Parent Centre	Early Learning	40

	Organisation	Type	No of children
Shire of Capel	Tuart Forest OSH	OSH	28
	Capel Primary School	Schools	340
	Bunbury Cathedral Grammar	Schools	36
Shire of Dardanup	Goodstart (Child Care)	Early Learning	40
	Eaton Recreation Centre School Holiday Program	OSH	50
Shire of Donnybrook -Balingup	Treehouse Childcare	Early Learning	20
	Donnybrook PS Kindergarten	Schools	30
	World's Biggest Playgroup	Event	50
Shire of Collie	Collie Child and Parent Centre	Early learning	20
	Harmony Day	Event	60
	Collie Early Learning	Early Learning	20
Shire of Harvey	South West Aboriginal Medical Service – Brunswick	Early Learning	15
	Brunswick PS	Schools	20
	St Anne's PS	Schools	150

The Loose Parts Play program has been so popular in 2017, that the Waste Education Team has nominated the initiative for an Infinity Award. Winners are to be announced at the WA Waste and Recycling conference in September.

An 'Army Tank' made by Loose Parts Players at Tuart Forest OSH (Shire of Capel)

Loose Parts Play
Grand Families Day, Bunbury, 2017

Waste Audits

A post Waste Audit discussion at Cooinda Primary School, Bunbury

The Waste Education team has assisted a number of schools to undertake Waste Audits to better understand the type of waste generated at schools and improve waste management practices. Waste audits have proven to be an engaging educational experience for the students involved. Waste Audits are also a prerequisite for schools wishing to access Waste Wise funding through the Waste Authority.

School	Number of students at the School	Student waste generated per annum
Our Lady of Lourdes Shire of Dardanup	223	979kg
Cooinda Primary School City of Bunbury	388	1,779kg
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (Primary School Waste Only) Shire of Capel	245	1322kg

Waste Audit
Balingup Small Farm Field Day 2017

The Waste Education team also assists with the annual Organics Waste Audit conducted by an independent auditor and BHRC. Waste Audit Results for 2016 and previous years is shown below:

Organics Contamination Rate – Audit Results			
Council	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**
Bunbury	3.15%	2%	2%
Capel	0.89%	4%	3%
Donnybrook-Balingup	0.05%	2%	N/A
Collie	2.39%	N/A	N/A

Waste Education Presentations

The Waste Education team has continued to offer Waste Education presentation to any groups located within the six Council areas. Presentations usually focus on the hierarchy of reducing, reusing and recycling waste, the types of kerbside bins operating within the relevant Council, what happens to the waste once it leaves the kerb and the impacts of landfilling long term.

In 2016-17, the following groups and organisations received a Waste Education presentation along with an opportunity to have all their waste and recycling questions answered:

- Little Green Steps (Early Childhood Workshop Bunbury)
- Carey park Child and Parent Centre (x2)
- TAFE Horticulture and Conservation class (x2)
- Allanson Primary School assembly
- Shire of Collie Council Meeting
- Newton Moore Education Support Unit
- Lions Club Collie
- Wilson Park Primary School assembly
- Amaroo Primary School assembly
- Withers Progress Association
- BHRC Council Meeting

Engagement projects

The Waste Education team has sought additional funding to support further educational programs throughout the region. A successful project implemented throughout 2016-17 was the Compost in Schools. The Waste Education team was awarded a Waste Authority grant to celebrate compost in May by giving away free loads of compost to schools within the region. These deliveries along with promotion of 'closing the loop' of organic waste was undertaken from May onwards in 2016. The following schools received their compost in the 16-17 year:

City of Bunbury • Maidens Park Primary School • Newton Moore Senior High School • Djidi Djidi Primary School • St Joseph's Primary School • John Calvin Primary School **Shire of Dardanup** • Hope Christian College • Eaton Primary School **Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup** • Donnybrook District High School	**Shire of Harvey** • St Anne's Primary School • Australind Primary School • Australind Senior High School • Bunbury Catholic College Mercy Campus **Shire of Capel** • Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School **Shire of Collie** • Amaroo Primary School • Wilson Park Primary School • Fairview Primary School

In June 2017 the Waste Education team was successful in a Keep Australia Beautiful grant for a Litter Prevention Mascot costume and 5,000 compostable, reusable bags to give away at events. The mascot animal chosen is a Pelican, as litter on both land and in the waterways will affect a Pelican's habitat. The roll out of this project will happen in the 2017-18 period.

Customer knowledge survey and Waste Education Strategy

In January and February 2017, the Waste Education team developed and implemented a regional customer knowledge survey to find out where gaps in Waste Education existed and to drive the direction and tasks of the Waste Education and Community Engagement Strategy.

371 responses were received via the online survey and some of the results included:

- 96% of respondents felt it was important to recycle
- Over one fifth of people place excess recycling in their red topped waste bins when their recycling bins are full.
- Almost 40% of respondents said their recycling bins were over full every fortnight
- Only one third of residents were completely confident about what belongs in their recycling bins
- 66% of respondents weren't confident that their kerbside recycling was actually being recycled
- Almost two thirds of people would prefer their recycling to be processed in the South West
- Less than one quarter of respondents fully understood all the items that could be recycled at their local Landfill or Transfer Station.
- Over 80% Landfill users said they would benefit from a map of their facility outlining what they could recycle and where to leave it.
- Of those residents with an Organics bin, just 40% were aware of what happens to their organic waste once it leaves their kerbside.
- One fifth of respondents with an organics bin were placing non-compostable plastic bags in their bins
- Over 90% of people want to see more retailers adopt compostable shopping bags
- Over half of the respondents weren't sure how to deal with their Household Hazardous Waste
- 84% of people felt more should be done to educate the public about Waste and Recycling issues
- The top five preferred methods of communication for Waste related education were:

    1. Social Media
    2. School visits
    3. Flyers in the mail
    4. Newspaper and radio
    5. Stalls at events and shopping centres

2. Raising awareness about waste minimisation and resource recovery

The Waste Education team has strived to ensure the Waste Education messages are regular, contemporary and interesting. With the recent success of ABC's War on Waste and extensive growth of the Plastic Free July campaign, Waste Education is has come into the public spotlight and received extensive media in 2016-17. The Waste Education team has embraced the opportunity to boost the knowledge of its member Council residents and bring awareness about our local waste minimisation and resource recovery initiatives.

Did you know?

In early 2017 the Waste Education team introduced the development of a monthly "Did you know?" graphical article which is designed to be short and catchy with just a few key facts. Each month, the article is distributed to all Schools and Child Care facilities across the region for inclusion in their Newsletters. The articles are also uploaded to the Waste Education webpage as a free resource for the public and this link is shared with each member Council.

"Did you know?" topics have included plastic water bottles, batteries, Plastic Free July, Animals and Waste and Plastic Bags. The response to the articles has been positive, resulting in teachers and parents making contact with the Waste Education program seeking further information and resources.

"Did you know?" about Plastic Bags distributed across the region in April 2017

Partnerships

In 2016-17, the Waste Education team has developed ongoing alliances and partnerships/relationships with the below stakeholders and campaigns. The purpose of these partnerships is to share accurate information and resources across the state of WA, ensuring Waste Education messaging is consistent and ideas and knowledge is maximised.

- Playgroup Australia
- WA Country Health
- Water Corporation
- Plastic Free July
- Stirling Street Arts Centre
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River
- Waste Educators Working Group (Perth)
- Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Schools
- Waste Wise Schools

Compost in May Tour at the Dardanup Compost Facility, 10th May 2017

Tours

Tours are an engaging way of raising awareness of the impact of waste and resource recovery practices. The Waste Education team receives requests for tours from varying types of groups and organisations such as school groups, members of the public and other local government organisations looking to see how we do things well in the South West. The popularity of tours continues to grow and we have recently developed an online tour booking form on the Waste Education webpage:

http://bhrc.wa.gov.au/education/waste-education-tours/

BHRC celebrated Compost in May by assisting the Waste Education program fund a public tour of the compost facility in May. This proved to be so popular; a second tour was filled the same day in the afternoon.

In addition to hosting tours at the BHRC sites, Waste Education staff has undertaken tours at alternate Waste Management Facilities to gain knowledge in the breadth of Waste Management practices across the region and effectively educate the general public in the waste management options available to them. Below is a summary of tours undertaken in 2016-17:

Tour Location	Group	Numbers
BHRC Compost Facility	General Public – Compost in May	40
BHRC Waste Management Facility (Landfill)	Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (Pre-primary)	36
BHRC Waste Management Facility (Landfill)	Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (Years 7 - 9)	15
BHRC Waste Management Facility (Viewing of Shredder on trial)	BHRC Councillors and member Council staff	16
Both BHRC Waste Management Facility and Compost Facility	SWIT TAFE Hospitality class	19
BHRC Waste Management Facility (Landfill)	Newton Moore Special Education Unit	25
BHRC Waste Management Facility (Landfill)	Eaton Recreation Centre School Holiday Program	22
BHRC Compost Facility	JSW Training – Horticulture Students	5
BHRC Compost Facility	City of Melville	4
Busselton Transfer Station and Landfill Facility	Waste Education Coordinator and BHRC CEO	2
SUEZ Materials Recovery Facility	Waste Education team	2
Millar Road Landfill facility, Rockingham	Waste Education team	2

Publicity and Social Media

The Waste Education team has continued to use all forms of available media to educate the public about Waste minimization and resource recovery. Such 2016-17 examples include:

Media Releases

- Plastic Free July
- Organics facility audit results
- Collie's diversion success following 3rd bin introduction
- Organic certification for BHRC Compost

Newspaper Articles

- Organic Certification of BHRC compost achieved articles in Bunbury Mail, Bunbury Herald and South Western Times

Radio Interviews

- ABC Radio interview about our Regional Waste Education program
- ABC Radio interview about the need to rinse your recycling

Facebook post – June 2017

Social Media posts

- 94 Social Media posts averaging a reach of 489 people per post

Website stories

- An additional 5 stories or changes to the Waste Education webpage to assist the general public to close the recycling loop

Submissions and consultation

The Waste Education has continued to look for opportunities to improve waste education practices and promote Waste Education through providing advice, submissions and expressions of interest when called for within the industry. In 2016-17, such opportunities included:

- WALGA Plastic bag ban feedback – a submission was made on behalf of the Waste Education program supporting a State wide ban
- Waste Authority Infinity Awards – nomination for the Loose Parts Play program
- WALGA Waste 101 Learning module – reviewed and provided feedback about the proposed training module content

"Did you know?" article

Newspaper article – Bunbury Mail, March 2017

Waste Education website story

3. Facilitating the correct use of household recycling bins

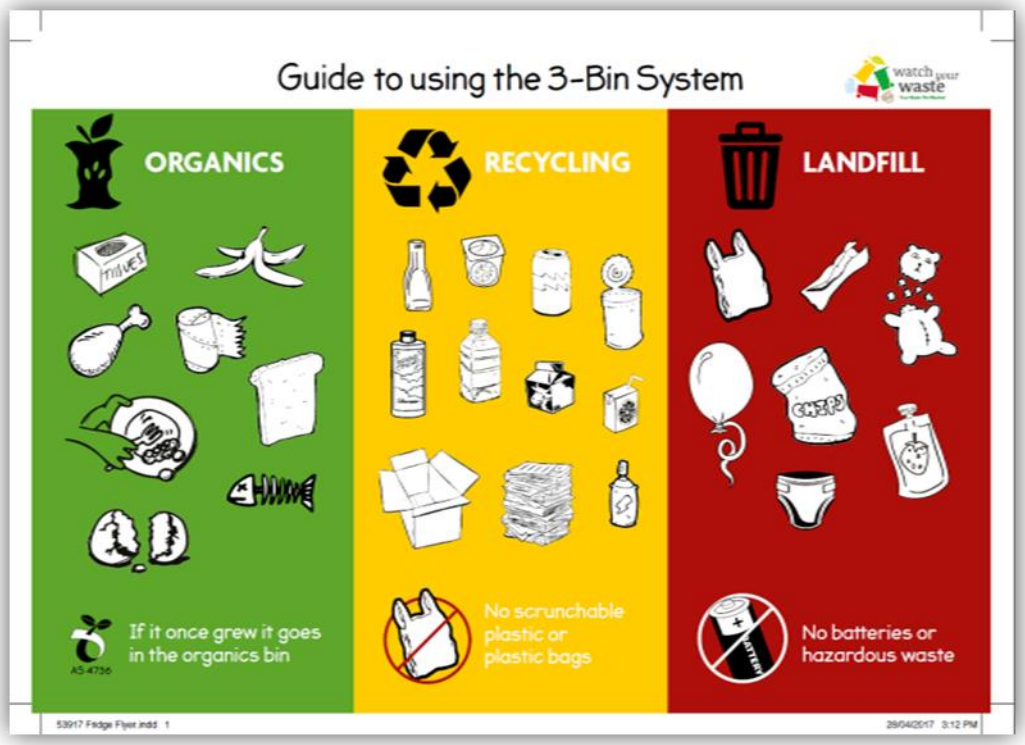
The Waste Education team has continued to facilitate the correct use of household recycling bins in order to minimise waste, increase recycling rates and decrease contamination rates.

Annual Council Waste Material Mail Outs

In 2016-17 the Waste Education team assisted five of the member Councils to obtain value for money to combine the procurement of the design and printing services for the annual Waste Material Mail Out. These items included:

- 2016-17 Waste Calendars
- Indoor Bin Stickers
- Waste Information booklets
- Magnetic Fridge Flyers
- Annual Tip Passes

Each Council procured only the items relevant to their own Council's requirements; however savings were made by procuring as a group with the Waste Education Coordinator facilitating the procurement process.



Magnetic Fridge Flyer

Waste Education and Upcycling stall at WA Day, Bunbury.
Note: the child on the left is WA Premier Mark McGowan's daughter, Amelia who made several bottle top 'pets'.

Events

In 2016-17, the Waste Education team has been involved in events in different ways:

Event Waste Management: The Waste Education team has strived to minimise the waste generated at events within the region by assisting organisers to improve their waste management practices. The Waste Education team developed an Events Waste Management presentation which was circulated to event organisers, encouraging them to implement recycling practices and reduce harmful waste at their event. It was also presented to City of Bunbury event organisers at the request of Bunbury's Events team. This will be further developed into a comprehensive Events Waste Management guideline for the South West in the 2017-18 period. The Waste Education team has also provided support and assistance to Events by providing bin toppers, waste education, auditing stall holders packaging and auditing waste. We have also assisted events to seek relevant funding to improve waste management practices over multiple years.

Event Stall Holder: Holding stalls at events in our region has been an excellent opportunity to engage with residents and provide information and answer questions related to waste and recycling. An upcycling craft activity is often held in conjunction with a stall if the event is directed at children and families. The Waste Education team has developed a number of themed stalls that are rotated through events, addressing a number of key waste issues. These stalls include:

- "What are you taking away?" – a stall which educates about the different forms of food packaging and if/where the packaging types can be recycled
- "Animals and our waste" – a stall which educates about the impact that different waste types has on our animals when it enters their environment
- "Which bin is the right bin?" – A stall for areas that have adopted the Organics bin. This stall educates residents on which particular items can be placed in each bin and provides an opportunity for residents to ask about items that they may be confused about

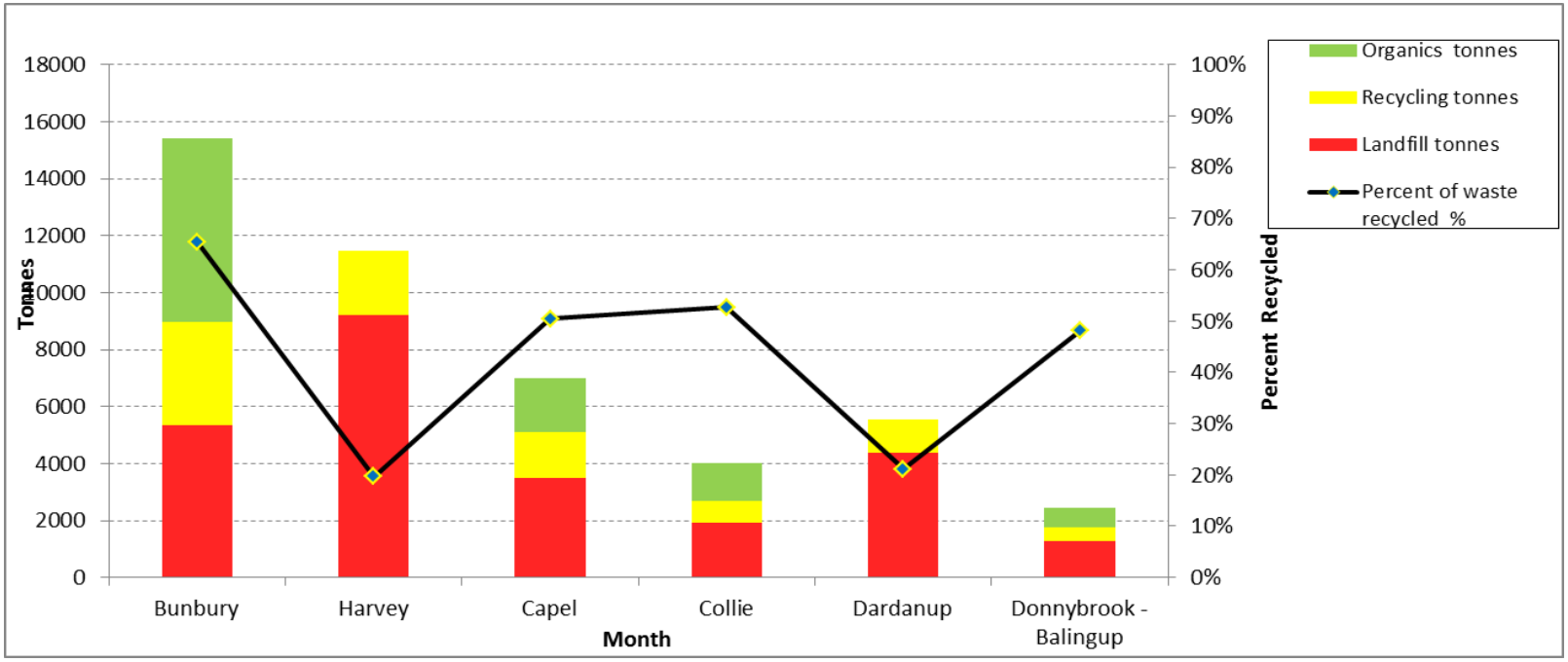
Event	Participation	Estimated Attendees
Balingup Small Farm Field Day	Waste management assistance Grant funding assistance (Waste Authority) Static Stall – What are you taking away? Waste Audit and report	Over 10,000
WA Day Festival Bunbury	Waste management assistance Provision of bin toppers Manned stall – Animals and our Waste Upcycling activities – bottle top pets and plastic bag jellyfish	Approx. 3,000
Harmony Day Collie	Manned stall – Which bin is the right bin? Stall held alongside Loose parts Play 3 bin display	Up to 1,000
Pathways to Literacy Conference – ECU Bunbury	Manned Stall – Loose Parts Play demonstration to teachers Provision of information about waste education services for schools and Early Education facilities across the region	Approx. 300

Maintaining Council Kerbside collection data

Where requested, the Waste Education team collects and monitor the Kerside Collection data to try and identify any spikes or trends that may indicate that intensive education strategies are required. Council data for the 2016-17 period is shown on the next page.

Annual Summary - Kerbside Bin Collection Statistics 2016/2017

		Bunbury	Harvey	Capel	Collie	Dardanup	Donnybrook - Balingup	Total over 12 months
Landfill	**tonnes**	5345	9218	3480	1900	4373.10	1260	**25576.47**
Recycling	**tonnes**	3604	2258	1612	793	1172.06	487	**9926.14**
Organics	**tonnes**	6459	0	1921	1318		679	**10376.58**
Percent of waste recycled	**%**	65%	20%	50%	53%	21%	48%	
Greenhouse gas reduction from composting organic waste instead of landfilling[4]	**tonnes CO_2 equivalent**	9049.38	0.00	2691.32	1846.31	0.00	950.58	**14537.59**



DATA NOTES:

Landfill

Calculated with data from collection contractor / staff

Recycling

Calculated with data from collection contractor / staff

Organics

Calculated with data from collection contractor / staff

Greenhouse gas reduction from composting organic waste instead of landfilling

1.401 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per tonne of organic waste

Data does not account for Recycling & Organics Bins contamination rates

Data does not include any hardwaste or greenwaste verge collections

Data may include some commercial waste collected in weekly/fortnightly kerbside bins

4. Encouraging the appropriate disposal of household hazardous waste

The Waste Education team has continued to highlight the importance of the correct disposal of Household Hazardous Waste by undertaking the following educational activities:

- Including Household Hazardous Waste as a topic in the monthly "Did you know?" circulations (batteries)
- Undertaken an audit of each of the Council's Transfer Station and Landfill sites, identifying which items are accepted at each site in order to correctly inform the public
- Updating the Planet Ark recycling pages to ensure it has the correct information for each Council's accepted Household Hazardous Waste
- Promoted the option for the member Councils to transport their collected Household Hazardous Waste to Stanley Road at no charge
- Liaised with the member Councils and the Department of Mines and Petroleum regarding the transportation of Household Hazardous Waste and the requirements of Council's for compliance.

Administration

The Waste Education has continued to undertake its administrative duties as required under the BWRWG's MOU. These tasks include:

- Organising the quarterly Bunbury Wellington Regional Waste Group (BWRWG) meetings.
- Collating and maintaining kerbside waste and recycling data
- Circulating waste related grant funding opportunities to member Councils and providing Letters of Support where applicable (In 2016-17 we provided a Letter of Support to St Brigid's School in Collie and they were successful in obtaining a Landcare Grant)
- Applying for Waste Education funding applications (in 2016-17 we have applied for a Recycled Sculpture Art Competition, A South West Second Hand Treasure Trail and supporting materials for our South West Waste Mascot)
- Addressing community waste queries via telephone, email, website forms and social media
- Training: Waste Audit training with Waste Wise Schools and Instagram Workshop with Gloss Marketing
- Completing HR requirements including negotiating new EBA and recruitment of new staff

Individual Council Support and other duties

The Waste Education team has provided certain Councils with individualized support as needed. Examples are:

City of Bunbury	Events Waste Management presentation to event organisers
Shire of Collie	Assistance with Better Bins funding milestone reporting
Shire of Capel	Assistance with Better Bins funding expenditure and reporting Reporting and completion of bin tagging program
Shire of Dardanup	Planning and preparation for a Waste Audit following a customer complaint
Shire of Harvey	Preparation of draft organics consultation plan for consideration
Bunbury Harvey Regional Council	Assisted with 2 x grant applications for mobile waste shredder

A number of other smaller, daily tasks are associated with the Waste Educator's roles. For further detail about the tasks the program undertakes, please refer to the Quarterly Update Reports circulated to the Bunbury Wellington Regional Waste Group representatives or contact the Waste Education Coordinator.