

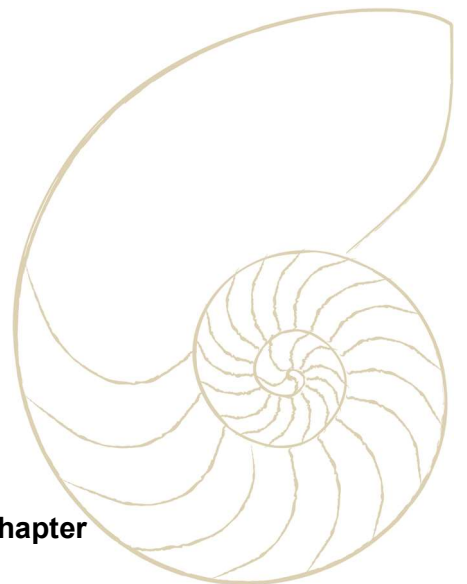


AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference  
*Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides*

# Conference Waste Management Plan Report

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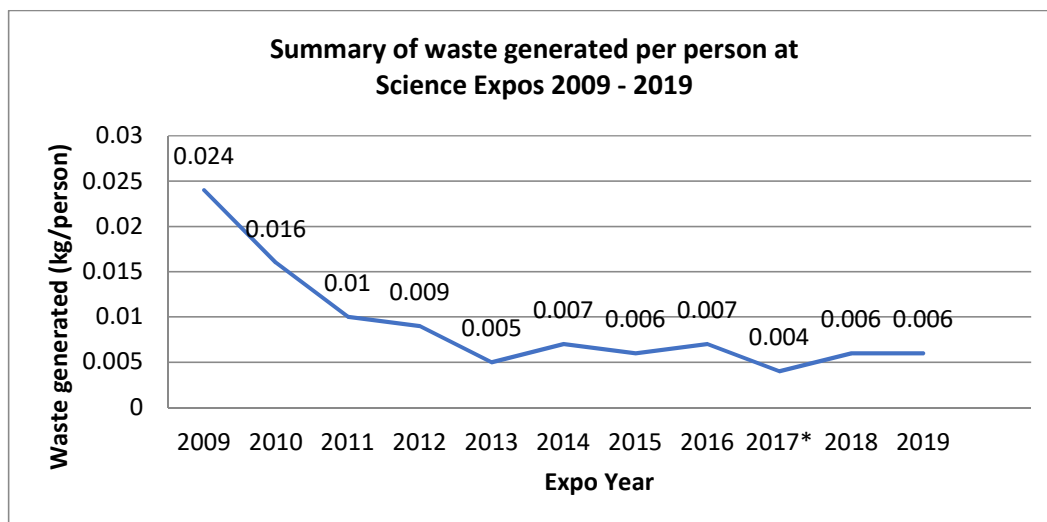
**CWMP Co-ordinator & Conference Organising Committee  
Australian Association of Environmental Educators – WA Chapter**



## Introduction

The WA Chapter of Australian Association of Environmental Educators (AAEEWA) aims to reduce the generation of waste within all our programs, inviting participants to be part of our journey in reducing waste. We aim to model the delivery of Education for Sustainability (EfS) holistically, where waste education is embedded within the delivery, processes, actions and outcomes of all AAEEWA EfS programs. Within our programs, we have demonstrated clear links between being innovative in addressing environmental issues and in methods of engagement. This has been achieved by embedding effective waste management practices throughout all of our work in delivering education, innovation, and modelling effective strategies and behaviours in our shared journey towards a waste free future.

The development of the Conference Waste Management Plan (CWMP) was based on the experience of AAEEWA in hosting a range of events, in particular, the annual Community Science Expo. This event was held during Science Week at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) for 11 years between 2009 - 2019. The evaluation of waste initiatives over this period indicated their success, where the amount of waste generated per person (based on the estimated number of attendees) was calculated at each event demonstrating an overall decline from the first event in 2009 to the final Expo event in 2019.



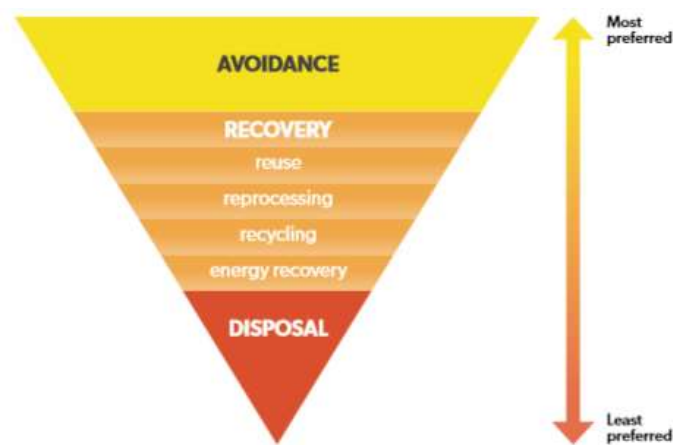
AAEEWA aimed to achieve similar low levels of waste generated per person through the implementation of the CWMP as it hosted the AAEE 2021 Biennial National Conference, *Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides* in Mandurah. To achieve this, AAEEWA collaborated and partnered with a number of organisations (Appendix 1). The conference was held over three days, with off-site tours conducted on Day 2.

## Conference Waste Management Plan Goals

The development of the CWMP was guided by the Waste Hierarchy. AAEEWA aimed to model the delivery of a low-waste conference as it hosted the AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) between September 28 – 30, 2021.

AAEEWA aimed to:

1. Avoid/minimise the generation of waste at the conference
2. Recover organic waste for composting
3. Maximise the recovery of *all* recyclable waste
4. Collect and dispose of general waste that does not fall within the categories above.



(Source: *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*)

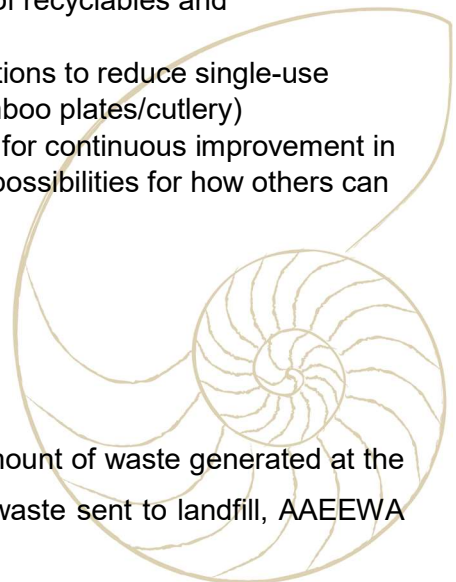
AAEEWA focused on a systems approach when developing the CWMP that aimed to embed the following initiatives:

1. Model the desired behaviours around waste minimisation and recycling
2. Understand the existing waste management practices and requirements of the venue
3. Development of initiatives to educate and encourage waste minimisation for participants and attendees
4. Provision of separation options to maximise recovery of recyclables and compostables
5. The use of reusable alternatives over compostable options to reduce single-use waste (i.e., washable servery rather than wood or bamboo plates/cutlery)
6. Audit bins to evaluate initiatives and provide reflection for continuous improvement in waste education and management, and demonstrate possibilities for how others can achieve goals in waste minimisation.

## Implementation of the CWMP

### CWMP Initiatives

In order to achieve the aims of the CWMP to minimise the amount of waste generated at the conference, recover recyclable waste materials and reduce waste sent to landfill, AAEEWA



liaised with a range of partners throughout the process. This included working with the Venue Services Manager and Bar and Functions Manager at MPAC to understand the existing waste management system; liaising with the Mandurah Community Garden for the disposal of organic waste; and liaising with a local community kitchen to receive untouched food and reduce food wastage. As MPAC did not have a commercial kitchen and reusable servery was not available, alternatives to single-use plates, cutlery and cups needed to be found and the decision was made to hire servery from GO2CUP (Figures 1 & 2).



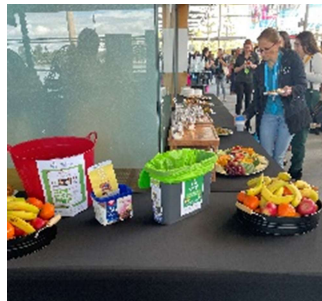
*Figure 1 GO2CUP Water Station*



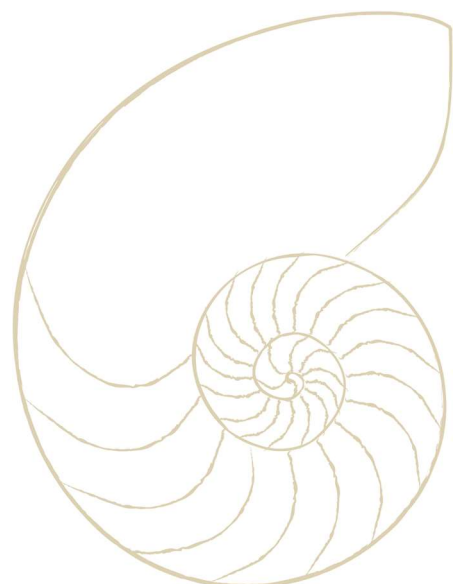
*Figure 2 Tea/coffee station with GO2CUP collection point*

## Catering

To reduce the overall carbon footprint of the conference, AAEEWA aimed to offer only vegetarian and vegan food. The committee liaised with the MPAC Bar and Functions Manager to find an appropriate local caterer and Stage Door Waterfront Restaurant, Mandurah was engaged. In addition, the CWMP aimed to reduce the use of single-use, disposable packaging and platters, preferring reusable platters that could be returned to the caterer (Figure 3). The CWMP also aimed to reduce excess wrapping such as the use of cling wrap and had a policy of no polystyrene.



*Figure 3 Morning tea low-waste catering initiatives*



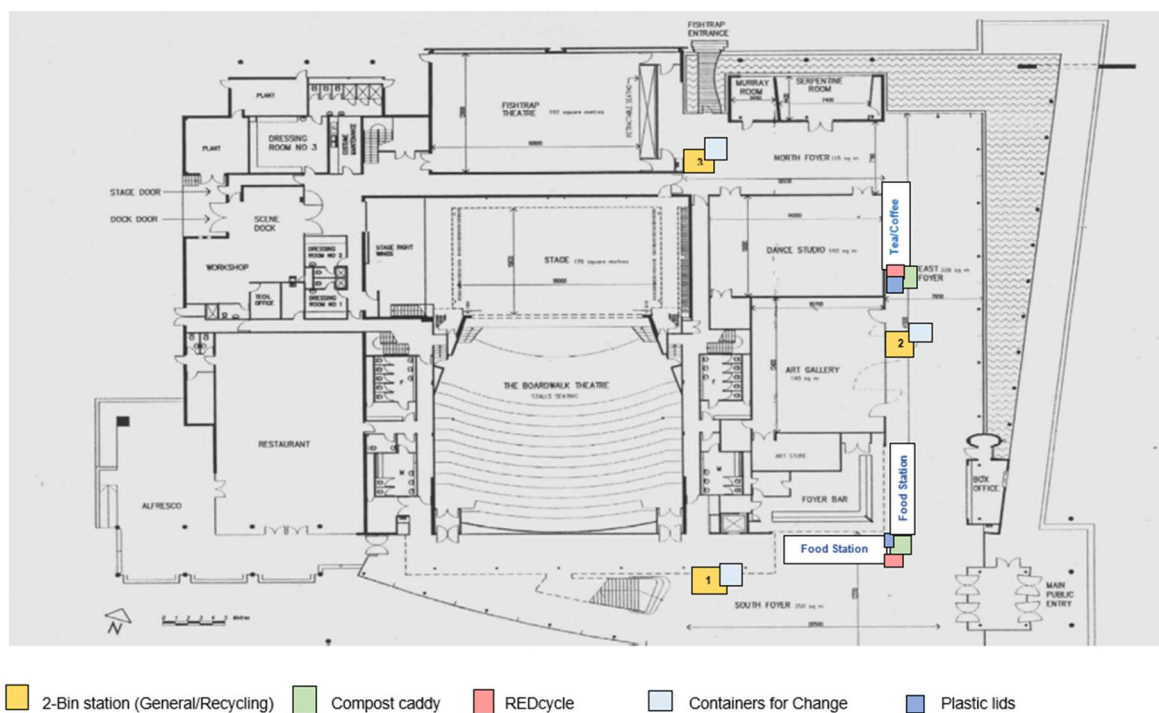
## Waste management initiatives

AAEEWA provided a range of bins with appropriate signage to maximise the recovery of organic and inorganic waste. These included:

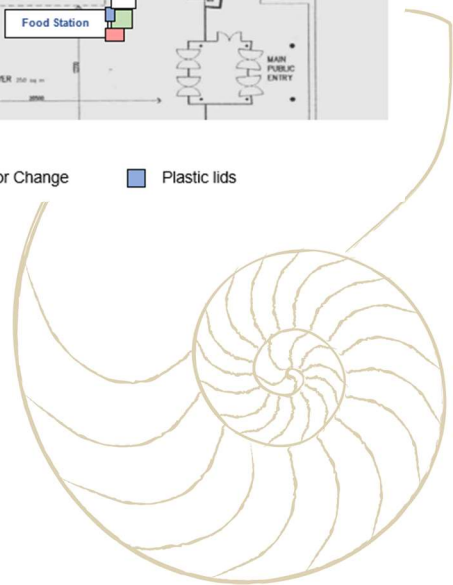
1. Compost caddies for organic waste
2. Containers for Change (C4C)\*
3. Soft plastics (REDcycle)
4. Plastic lids (CLAW Environmental)
5. Yellow bin for recyclables based on MPAC requirements\*
6. General waste bin for waste that did not fall within the categories above.

\*It was anticipated that by recognising the value of eligible containers and recovering them for Containers for Change, the majority of recyclable waste likely to be recovered from the yellow recycling bin would be cardboard that could be disposed of using MPAC waste management processes.

The bins were strategically located within the conference area of MPAC to maximise opportunities and reduce barriers for delegates to separate their waste correctly (Figure 4) and lined with compostable bin liners to enable auditing on Days 1 and 3 (Figure 5).



**Figure 4** Floor plan of MPAC showing conference Bin Stations







**Figure 5** Bins lined with compostable bin liners

Other initiatives that were based on the commitment to reduce the amount of waste generated at the conference included:

- ❖ No conference merchandise was created
- ❖ Boomerang Bags made by committee members from reclaimed remnant material used as conference satchels
- ❖ Lanyards were made from remnant material or redundant lanyards from other events were reused
- ❖ Handmade name tags made from recycled materials and printed on seeded paper (Figure 6).



**Figure 6** Handmade and recycled lanyards, handmade conference name tags and Boomerang Bags

## Recovery and disposal of waste

In accordance initiatives above, the separated recyclable organic and inorganic waste was recovered and diverted from landfill according to the following:

- Untouched food was taken to Halo Team Inc.  
<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/7674952f5d12a38fc841d2b3d2247f91> based on

an existing relationship between the organisation and conference caterers, Stage Door Waterfront Restaurant, Mandurah

- Organic waste was sent to the Mandurah Community Garden (collected by Garden Coordinator, Cheryl Ivey, on Day 1 and delivered to the community garden the day after Day 3 by CWMP co-ordinator)
- C4C items were given to Barbara Sing who received them on behalf of the Dolphin Rescue Group's Estuary Guardians Mandurah
- Soft plastic waste was taken to a local REDcycle drop-off point by the CWMP co-ordinator
- Plastic lids were added to the CWMP coordinator's collection and taken to the Containers for Change Depot, McCoy St, Myaree
- Recyclable waste (mostly cardboard) was disposed of in MPAC's yellow comingle recycling bin
- Obvious contamination was removed and transferred to general waste
- General waste was disposed of in MPAC's general waste bins.

## Waste education and signage

A key aim of the CWMP was to educate and model a low-waste conference to delegates through the implementation of an innovative approach to the management of conference waste. A Waste Charter (Appendix 2) was developed for display at the Registration Desk (Figure 7) to make the initiatives visible to all delegates during the conference. This included the use of signage to guide delegates on how to separate their waste and information about how the waste was managed after recovery (Figure 8 & Appendix 3).

Prior to the conference information about the CWMP low-waste initiatives was provided on the conference website <https://aaeeconference.org.au/waste-management/> and through the delegate portal. Closer to the conference, information was posted on social media (Appendix



**Figure 7** Registration desk showing information about the CWMP and Waste Charter



**Figure 8** Tea/coffee Bin Station 2 displaying signage

4) and emails were sent to delegates to remind them about the initiatives and to bring their reusable water bottles and cups (Appendix 5).

### **Evaluation of initiatives**

Evaluation is key to reflecting on the success and failure of initiatives and is an important part of understanding the impact of AAEEWA programs. To evaluate the CWMP initiatives bin audits were conducted on Day 1 and Day 3 to measure the amount of waste generated and contamination (no audits were conducted on Day 2 as this was an external tour day). Photos of bins and signage also provided evidence for evaluation of the CWMP initiatives.

## **CWMP Outcomes**

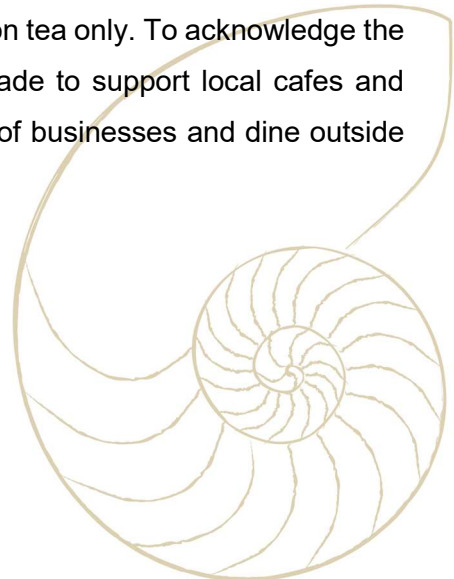
### **Delegate numbers**

Final numbers of delegates, support staff and exhibitors for each day of the conference were confirmed as:

- Day 1: 110
- Day 2: 80
- Day 3: 85.

### **Catering**

The final catering numbers were given the week before the event. On Day 1, catering was provided for 120 people and included morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea. On Day 2, the Tour Day, catering was provided for 105 people, where packed lunches aimed at minimal waste were provided in paper bags packed with fresh fruit, muffins in small paper bags and wraps or rolls packaged in *Bio-wrap* (a concession negotiated with the caterers). On Day 3, catering was provided for 115 people for morning and afternoon tea only. To acknowledge the impacts of COVID on local businesses, the decision was made to support local cafes and restaurants, with delegates invited to choose from a number of businesses and dine outside the conference venue for lunch.






## Waste Audits

### Day 1 – Tuesday 28 September

Table 1 presents the results of the bin audits for Day 1 and summarises the amount of waste recovered. In addition to weighing the waste, photos were taken as evidence of the processes used, levels of contamination and waste recovered.

While the number of people attending on Day 1 was confirmed as 110, it is important to note that as a public venue, MPAC is open to the public and members of the public were free to enter to visit the box office or view the artwork exhibition. This is a consideration as they represent the potential to contribute in a small part to conference waste generation.

**Table 1 Results of Day 1 bin audits**

Date	28/09/2021							
Bin Station	Location	Compost Bin (Kg)	REDcycle Bin (photo)	C4C (No.)	Yellow Bin (Kg)	Red Bin (Kg)	Plastic Lids (No.)	Total Waste Generated
1	Boardwalk & Food Station	3.6 - mostly food waste and serviettes	0	0	1.1 - boxes, mostly ok - some tetra paks (removed before disposal)	0.95	2	
2	Art Gallery (tea & coffee station)	1.9 – teabags, coffee waste, serviettes, food	2 teabags (put in compost), foil teabag wrappers-acceptable 	0	0kg - 100% contamination - added to general waste - possibly due to position of the bins (yellow bin close to tea/coffee table) - will change for Day 3	0.7 - some foil teabag wrappers	1	
3	North Foyer	N/a	N/a	0	0kg - 1 coffee cup	0.65 - non-conference waste (fast food) near rear door to public		
<b>Total</b>		5.5 kg			1.1kg	2.3kg	3	8.9kg

### Day 1 audit results

Total waste generated on Day 1 was 8.9kg, broken down as:

- 62% (5.5kg) compostable organic waste
- 12% (1.1kg) recyclable waste
- 26% (2.3kg) general waste.

Based on the disposal methods described above, 74% of conference waste on Day 1 was diverted from landfill.

Using the methodology for the AAEEWA Science Expos, the total amount of waste generated was then divided by the number of attendees (i.e., 8.9kg/110 attendees) indicating the amount of waste generated was 0.08kg/person. While initial arrangements had been made with Peel Community Kitchen to receive excess food, limitations on the timings for drop-off meant that the caterer arranged for excess food that was untouched to be sent to [Halo Team Inc.](#), a soup kitchen and shelter for homeless and disadvantaged people at 3 Gibson Street, Mandurah instead.

### ***Photographic Evidence: Day 1***

Figures 9 – 14 provide photographic evidence of the audit process, the collection of the compostable waste, and disposal of recyclable and general waste.



**Figure 9** Auditing Day 1 Conference waste



**Figure 10** Bin station 1 - General Waste



**Figure 11** Bin station 1 - Recyclable waste



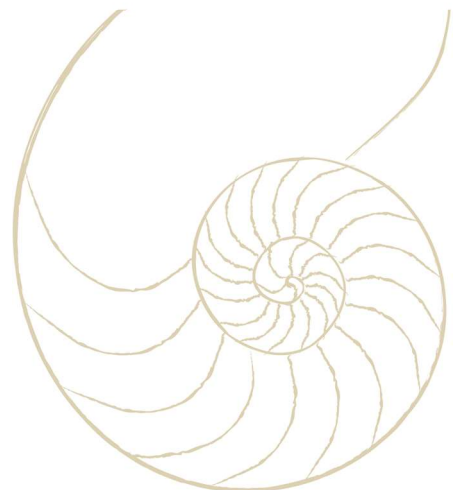
**Figure 12** Bin station 2 - Compostable waste



**Figure 14** MPAC Bin enclosure



**Figure 13** Cheryl from Mandurah Community Garden collecting Day 1 organic waste



### Day 2 – Wednesday 29 September

Three tours were conducted on Day 2 with lunch packs provided to delegates. These were packed in paper bags containing variations of fruit, wraps/rolls, muesli bars, cakes and muffins. Most of the food was unwrapped (fruit) or in a small paper bag (muesli bar/cake/muffin), however wraps and rolls containing salad were wrapped in *Bio-wrap*. The waste for the tours was not recovered due to logistical limitations and the capacity of the CWMP coordinator. At the end of the day, six unclaimed packed lunches were taken to Halo Team Inc. Figure 15 illustrates the typical waste from a Day 2 lunch pack.




Figure 15 Example of Day 2 lunch pack and waste

### Day 3 – Thursday 30 September

Table 2 presents the results of the bin audits for Day 3 and summarises the amount of waste recovered. It was observed that while external tours were held on Day 2, some waste was generated by both delegates and the public visiting MPAC and was included in the results for the Day 3 audit. In addition to weighing the waste, photos were taken as evidence of the processes used and waste recovered. Figures 15 – 18 provide examples of the waste collected on Day 3 while Figure 19 shows the delivery of organic waste to the Mandurah Community Garden after the conference.

**Table 2 Results of Day 3 bin audits**

Date	30/09/2021							
Bin Station	Location	Compost Bin (Kg)	REDcycle Bin (Vol)	C4C (No.)	Yellow Bin (Kg)	Red Bin (Kg)	Plastic Lids (No.)	Total waste generated
1	Boardwalk & Food Station	1.4 - no contamination	0	5 cans	2.15 - paper lunch bags (Day 2) and cardboard boxes - some from the bar	2.3 - generally OK - some organic waste	0	
2	Art Gallery (Tea/Coffee)	2.8 - no contamination, wet tea bags, coffee grounds, cakes	see photo - foil wrappers mainly 	0	0.1 - more than 50% contaminated - added to general waste	0 (items not heavy enough, add 0.1kg from yellow bin)	6 lids	
3	North Foyer	na	na	0	0 - too light	0 - items too light		
<b>Total</b>		4.2kg	0		2.15kg	2.4kg		8.75kg

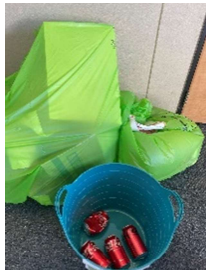
### **Day 3 audit results**

Total waste generated and audited on Day 3 (including any from Day 2) was 8.75kg, which was broken down as:

- 48% (4.2kg) compostable organic waste
- 25% (2.15kg) recyclable waste
- 27% (2.4kg) general waste.

Using the disposal methods above, 73% of conference waste for Day 3 was diverted from landfill. The estimated amount of waste generated 0.1kg/person. As with Day 1, excess food that was untouched was sent to Halo Team Inc. Figures 16 – 20 show waste generated and delivery of organic waste to the Mandurah Community Garden after the conference.

### **Photographic Evidence: Day 3**



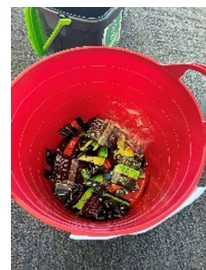
**Figure 16** Bin station #1 showing C4C items



**Figure 17** Bin station #2 organic waste



**Figure 18** Bin station #1 showing general and recyclable waste



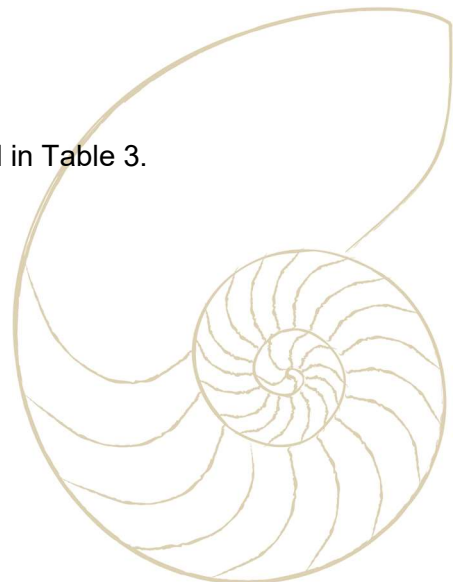
**Figure 19** Bin station #2 REDcycle waste



**Figure 20** Delivering conference organic waste to members of the Mandurah Community Garden


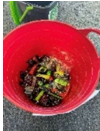
### **Total waste generated Days 1 and 3**

A summary of the results for Days 1 & 3 audits are presented in Table 3.





**Table 3 Summary of conference waste generated Days 1 & 3**

Date	Compost Bin (Kg)	REDcycle Bin (Vol)	C4C (No.)	Yellow Bin (Kg)	Red Bin (Kg)	Plastic Lids (No.)	Total waste generated (Kg)
28/9/21 (Day 1)	5.5		0	1.1	2.3	3	8.9
29/9/21 (Day 2 Tours)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
30/9/21 (Day 3)	4.2		5 cans	2.15	2.4	6	8.75
Total	9.7		5	3.25	4.7	9	17.65

Results from audits on Days 1 & 3 show the total waste generated at the conference was 17.65kg. Of this, 73% was recovered and diverted from landfill with the breakdown of total waste generated as:

- 55% (9.7kg) organic waste, taken to the Mandurah Community Garden
- 18% (3.25kg) recyclable waste disposed of in the MPAC comingle recycling bin
- 27% (4.7kg) general waste, disposed of at MPAC and destined for landfill.

The Waste Authority of Western Australia outlines its waste recovery targets in the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* as 70% by 2025 and 75% by 2030. The recovery rate achieved by the CWMP exceeds the 2025 target and is only 2% less than the 2030 target, supporting the effort required in developing the CWMP.

Overall, the amount of total waste generated on Days 1 & 3 by 195 conference attendees equating to 0.09kg/person. However, when the recovery rate of 73% is applied, the amount of waste generated per person sent to landfill was reduced and equated to only 0.02kg/person (i.e. 0.09kg/person x 27% of general waste). This demonstrates that the initiatives developed within the CWMP were successful.

## CWMP and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

AAEEWA aimed to model to conference delegates the leading practice required to maximise the recovery of recyclable waste (organic and inorganic) and reduce the amount of waste sent

to landfill. The CWMP required careful thought, effort, and detailed planning to develop a comprehensive plan that provided a range of waste recovery options to achieve these goals. In addition to reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill, the CWMP outcome of recovering over 73% of conference waste and diverting it from landfill reduced the potential for greenhouse gas emissions resulting from conference waste. The significance of this achievement can be illustrated by comparing the outcomes of the CWMP with possible waste management scenarios based on two 'business as usual' approaches to event waste management.

### ***Scenario 1: Outcomes for the CWMP***

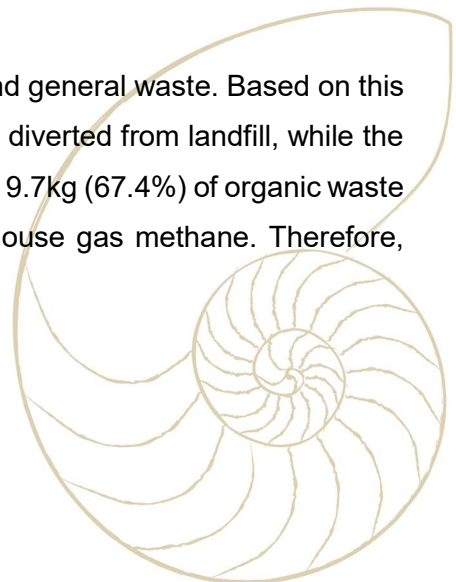
The outcomes of the CWMP indicate that of the total amount of conference waste generated for Days 1 & 3 was 17.65kg. Of this, evidence provided above shows that 12.95kg (**73%**) of this was recovered and diverted from landfill with only 4.7kg (27%) sent to landfill. Importantly, 9.7kg of organic waste was recovered and diverted from landfill, avoiding the potential to generate the potent greenhouse gas methane through anaerobic decomposition. Using the food waste greenhouse gas calculator provided on the ['Watch my Waste' website](#), the amount of carbon dioxide equivalents generated based on 4.7kg of waste sent to landfill was **8.93kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.**

### ***Scenario 2: No waste separation***

This scenario assumes that only a general waste bin was provided, where all waste generated on Days 1 & 3 was not separated and was sent to landfill. Using the calculator and based on the figures above, the total amount of waste generated of 17.65Kg would have been sent to landfill, and none diverted. It is worth noting that a large portion of recyclable waste was cardboard that would breakdown under anaerobic conditions with the potential to add to the generation of methane. Therefore, using the CO<sub>2</sub>-eq calculator, 17.65kg would generate **33.53kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.**

### ***Scenario 3: Waste separation – general and recyclable***

This assumes that waste was separated between recycling and general waste. Based on this scenario, 3.25kg (18%) of the total waste generated would be diverted from landfill, while the remaining 14.4kg (82%) would be sent to landfill. This includes 9.7kg (67.4%) of organic waste and adding to the potential for generating the potent greenhouse gas methane. Therefore, 14.4kg of waste sent to landfill equates to **27.93kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.**



## Evaluation and Reflections of the CWMP

### Evaluation of CWMP initiatives

The overall aim of the CWMP was to present a comprehensive waste management plan that enabled AAEEWA to model the delivery of a low-waste conference as it hosted the AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference *Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides*. The CWMP aimed to minimise the amount of conference waste generated, maximise the recovery of all recyclable (organic and inorganic) waste and correctly dispose of any general waste that was not recyclable.

Based on these and using a systems approach, the CWMP aimed to embed a range of initiatives that:

- Modelled the desired low-waste and waste separation (recycling) behaviours
- Educated delegates and encouraged these behaviours
- Provided a range of waste separation options to maximise recovery of recyclable waste
- Demonstrated opportunities for alternatives to single-use servery
- Audited bins to measure and evaluate the outcomes of these initiatives.

Results from the bin audits and photographic evidence indicated that the implementation of the CWMP initiatives was successful. Through the development of the CWMP initiatives, AAEEWA was able to successfully model a range of behaviours for minimising waste generation and the recovery of recyclable waste.

In the absence of a commercial kitchen and crockery at the venue, the decision was made to hire reusable servery from GO2CUP instead of using other 'eco-friendly' options such as compostable plates or wooden cutlery. This decision reduced the potential for the amount of waste generated per person during the conference. In addition, communications with delegates prior to the conference informed them about the low-waste initiatives and encouraged them to bring their reusable water bottles and cups. Results from the bin audits over the three days showed that 195 delegates generated 17.65kg of waste, equating to just 0.09kg (90g) per person and demonstrates the success of the waste minimisation initiatives.

The bin audits also demonstrated a low level of contamination in the waste separation options provided. These results demonstrate that the initiatives associated with providing the range of disposal options, along with the clear signage, were successful in encouraging delegates to correctly perform the desired waste separation behaviours during the conference. More importantly, the success of these initiatives meant AAEEWA was able to maximise the recovery of organic and inorganic recyclable waste, resulting in 73% of the conference waste generated being diverted from landfill.

## Reflections about the implementation of the CWMP

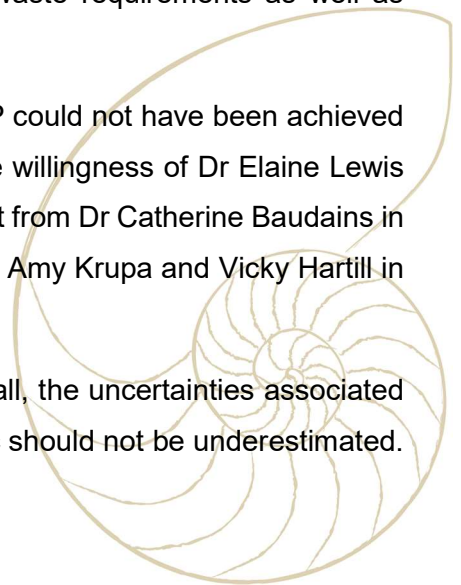
The evaluation of the outcomes above indicate the success of the CWMP and its waste initiatives. However, it is also important to reflect on the role of the CWMP within the broader context of the conference planning process. The development of the CWMP was an integral part of the planning for the AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference *Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides*. It framed many of the broader decisions made by the conference organising committee about how the conference would be presented. These included decisions around catering and servery, the decision to have no conference merchandise and provide handmade *Boomerang Bags*, lanyards and name tags, and the decision to increase the visibility of the waste initiatives to delegates prior to the conference. These initiatives contributed to AAEEWAs success in hosting a low-waste conference.

A key part of the CWMP was the development of new partnerships. These partnerships were very successful and meant that the key aims of the CWMP were able to be achieved. New partners included:

- the conference organising team at Partner&Prosper who were eager to accommodate the CWMP initiatives from the beginning of the conference planning process
- the staff at MPAC who were open to the range of initiatives that included the different bin options proposed and were happy to work with the CWMP coordinator to implement them
- Cheryl Ivey from the Mandurah Community Garden who was more than happy to accept all the conference organic waste and keen to learn more about what we were aiming to achieve
- Daniel Grosso and the GO2CUP team
- the team at The Stage Door Waterfront Restaurant who liaised with MPAC and were able to accommodate most of the CWMP catering waste requirements as well as delivering excess food to Halo Team Inc.

In addition to the new partnerships, the success of the CWMP could not have been achieved without the support of AAEEWA members. These include the willingness of Dr Elaine Lewis to review the development of the CWMP as it evolved, support from Dr Catherine Baudains in addition to her own conference commitments, and the help of Amy Krupa and Vicky Hartill in conducting the waste audits during the conference.

While the implementation of the CWMP was successful overall, the uncertainties associated with planning a physical conference during a global pandemic should not be underestimated.





This was there were a number of areas for improvement for those considering hosting future conferences.

## Potential for change

Initial planning for the AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference began in 2019, as we worked with existing and new partners and our conference organiser, Partner&Prosper. The waste goals outlined at the beginning of this report were key in guiding the conference planning process and informed the many innovative initiatives developed to reduce and recover waste generated during the conference and the diversion of waste from landfill.

Based on their experience, a number of partners provided feedback to the CWMP coordinator about the observed outcomes and impacts of the waste management initiatives. Below are the direct quotes from Partner&Prosper's managing Director, the Mandurah Community Gardens' Garden Coordinator and Whiteman Park's Marketing and Events Officer indicating the observed potential for change within each organisation.

### Jan Bryson Managing Director, Partner&Prosper

*"Waste Management was a major consideration throughout the 2-year planning cycle as well as the on-site impacts. As an events and conference organiser, the industry is well-versed in the use of online meetings to avoid travel, online knowledge and documentation management to avoid print waste, procurement policies to select the best and most conscious in the supply chain, etc, etc."*

***But working with AAEEWA took the on-site waste management to a new level. Whilst Partner&Prosper already incorporate many environmental policies and practices within the way we run our business and plan our client projects, this plan expanded our thinking to how we can deepen the on-site waste management planning with other clients and venues, anywhere.***

*We are currently working on new procedures with our key consultant to create new site plans, to help guide our other clients and venues on how to make this an easy process for them, for attending delegates and for the beneficiaries of the resulting waste products. This will require education of many of the relevant stakeholders, but the value-add to all involved will bare significant benefit with minimal interruption and allows us to create lasting impact beyond each event."*

**Cheryl Ivey**  
**Garden Coordinator, Mandurah Community Gardens**

*“Mandurah Community Gardens was delighted to be sourced and contacted with the enquiry from Katherine to see if we could and would be able to accept organic waste from the AAEE conference. Katherine visited the community garden to check out our compost making process and worm farms.*

*We discussed the size of the bucket needed to collect one days organic waste and I was a bit surprised at how small the container needed to be. Katherine explained the careful planning and decisions made around meal choices so there was no need for disposable or recycled utensils to eat or serve the food. The results were eye opening for the number of attendees over the length of time.*

*The community garden is working towards zero waste, reusing, repurposing, recycling, protecting the environment, using organic gardening principals and being water wise. Once we learn and practice these principles we hope to be a part of the process to educate our community. So to be recognised as a space to take organic waste was really encouraging. For our future events and workshops we have a high benchmark to strive for. Compost is looking great still assessing the compostable bags.”*

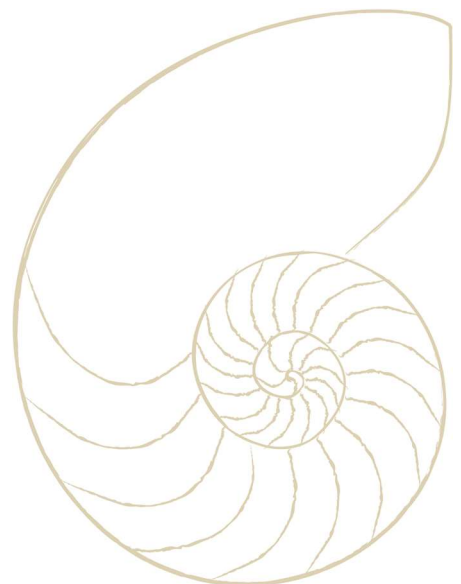
**Recent communication with Cheryl Ivey (February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022):**

*“Your visit also inspired me. I have been stepping up the production of compost and taking a mental note of what is going in our bin for land fill. Some of us have old habits that will be challenged to change but we will continue to encourage others to think outside the easy unhealthy choices and move into a new or is it really an old way of doing things before plastics and disposable were invented. ...it is really wonderful to have our tiny operation on this kind of platform.”*

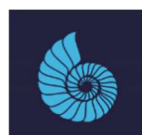
**Sarah Stevenson**  
**Marketing and Events Officer, Whiteman Park**

*“As the Marketing and Events officer at Whiteman Park, creator of our EnviroFEST sustainability event and co-author of the Park’s Sustainability Plan, I already had a reasonable understanding of waste issues and what would, and could, be considered ‘best practise’ for event waste management. However, working with Katherine and the AAEE WA committee when planning the Biennial Conference still expanded my knowledge and sparked ideas for how I could further improve waste management initiatives at our events, despite being somewhat ‘hamstrung’ by whole-of-government mandatory waste contracts, whose*

*contractors are not able to provide the services we require. The waste management plan developed for the conference provided networking and reframed how I thought about many aspects of waste management. The waste management plan highlighted that there are organisations we could work with that I hadn't thought of, such as partnering with a local community garden to take suitable food scraps and showcased how easily 'normal' waste-heavy practises could be rethought of and reworked!"*



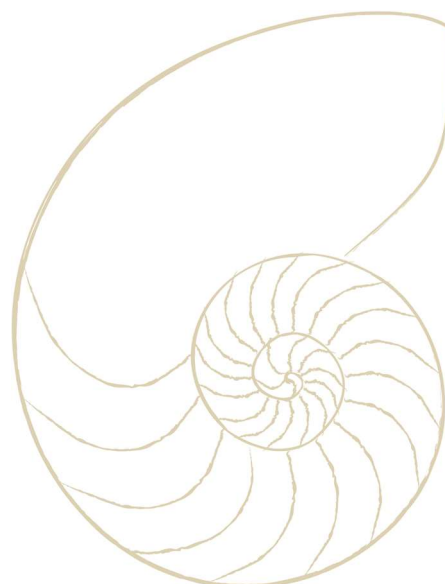
## Appendix 1: Conference Waste Partners



MANDURAH  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTRE




**aaee 2021**  
**Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides**  
Mandurah, Western Australia





## Appendix 2: AAEE 2021 Biennial Conference Waste Charter




# AAEEWA Conference Waste Charter


**AAEEWA waste initiatives aim to:**

1. Minimise the generation of waste at the conference.
  - No Conference merchandise
  - Boomerang Bags made from reclaimed fabrics
  - Use of **GO2CUPS** reusable cups/plates/cutlery
  - Work collaboratively with **ManPAC** and caterers to reduce single-use items where possible
  - Excess untouched food to be donated to the **Peel Community Kitchen**
2. Recover **ALL** recyclable waste (organic and inorganic).
  - Compost caddies to Mandurah Community Gardens
  - Containers for Change
  - REDcycle soft plastics
  - Plastic bottle tops to Claw Environmental, Welshpool
  - Recycle bin
  - General waste
3. Work with the **Peel Community Kitchen** to reduce food wastage.
4. Work with the **Mandurah Community Gardens** to compost Conference organic waste.
5. **Evaluation of initiatives** - bin audits to measure generation and contamination rates.


**AAEEWA Initiatives are guided by the Waste Hierarchy**




Source: Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030




MANDURAH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE




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BUSINESS EVENTS  
PERTH




WHITEMAN PARK



PHCC Working Together  
Perth Housing Corporation



SERCUL  
Sustainable Events Resource Centre



JOHN CURTIN

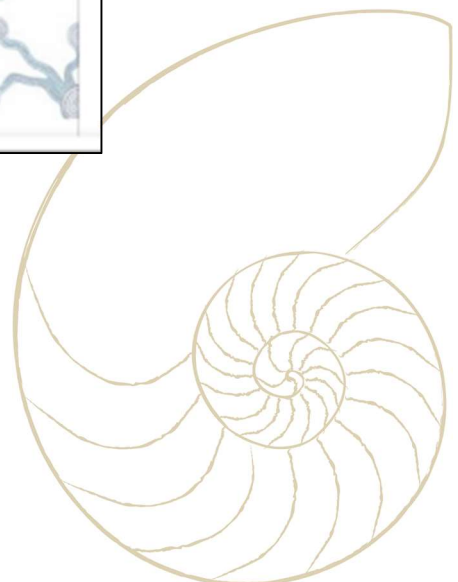


WasteCare

## Appendix 3: Conference Bin Signage



## Appendix 4: A social media post regarding CWMP initiatives





## Appendix 5: Email sent to delegates prior to conference

**Katherine Gaschk**

**From:** Florian Yates <events@partnerandprosper.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 September 2021 8:51 AM  
**Cc:** bonnie.bealrichardson@mandurah.wa.gov.au; 'Jennifer Pearson'; Jan Bryson  
**Subject:** AAEE Conference - Physical Attendance: FINAL INFORMATION

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Delegates,


We can't wait to welcome you down to the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (ManPac) for what is shaping up to be an exciting 3 days at the AAEE Biennial National Conference 

We have created a [delegate portal](#) for you, pertaining to all relevant information to guide you through your experience with us! Familiarise yourself with it, as it will be the hub for important information throughout the conference. Please bookmark this portal for easy access.

A few key pointers to keep in mind (more info within the portal):

- 1. BYO Bottle**  
In the spirit of sustainability, we have a comprehensive waste plan for this conference, please bring a re-usable water bottle and BYO items where you can
- 2. Wet Weather**  
It's going to get a bit rainy. Bring an umbrella and a jacket just in case!
- 3. Contemporary Arts Spaces Mandurah (CASM) Welcome Event**  
CASM is welcoming AAEE delegates to their venue on the Monday to view their ambient art exhibition. The exhibition will run from 4 pm – 6 pm, and we'll have a few drinks and some networking before we get to the main event on Tuesday
- 4. Tuesday Events**  
Join us for a traditional aboriginal smoking ceremony during Morning Tea on Tuesday, in the grounds outside the ManPac. On Tuesday afternoon, we'll have a free community event at the ManPac, with a nest-building workshop and Critters Up Close display just to name a few activities. Bring the family down!
- 5. Tour sign-up**  
For those of you joining us for tours on Wednesday (only if you have a ticket for Wednesday), secure your preference via the TOUR BOOKING button. Capacity is limited and this will ensure you receive your first preference. I will cross-check your names, so please only use the button if you already have a registration for the Wednesday. Bring a water bottle, be on site 30 minutes prior to the start of your tour and make sure you use the bathroom, as toilets will be limited. Arrival and times are in the portal.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Now is the time!

We'll see you at the conference 

Best Regards,  
AAEE Conference Organising Committee

