



## NEWSFLASH

### CHEMCENTRE/TOXFREE EVENT: SUSTAINABLE WASTE FUTURES

Over 60 participants attended the Sustainable Waste Futures event at the ChemCentre in Perth on Friday, 29th of April 2016. The event was organised by the ChemCentre, a statutory authority of the Western Australian Government, and Tox Free Solutions Ltd, a publicly listed company.

The event was an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, including Government regulators, policy makers and industry, and to discuss how to better deal with past, present and future waste problems, particularly in the area of industrial, hazardous or prescribed wastes.

The following presenters updated the forum on Government policy and regulations, good waste management practices and innovations:

- Marcus Geisler, Chairman of the Waste Authority, WA
- Dr Karl Baltpurvins, General Manager Technical and Environmental Services, Toxfree
- Mark Tazewell, Manager Waste Management, Fortescue Metals Group
- Erin James, Team Leader Dangerous Goods, Department of Mines and Petroleum
- Matthew Martella, Managing Director, Anergy
- Silvia Black, Manager Project Development, ChemCentre and
- Felicia Lee, Senior Research Scientist, Global Refining Centre of Excellence, Alcoa.

The Q & A panel discussion included a lively debate highlighting the potential for conflict between the need for Government regulations to protect human life and the environment, and the need of innovators to be able to try out something new and untested. Both Energy from Waste policies of Western Australia and New South Wales do not allow for untested technologies to be used in the "Energy from Waste" sector leading to a stifling of innovation. The juxtaposition between the need for protection and the drive and need to develop new, and to improve existing, technologies fascinated the audience.

Dr Karl Baltpurvins presented a large variety of technical solutions for a variety of otherwise intractable waste problems. Dr Silvia Black and Felicia Lee showed the unique ability of the LEAF test method to tackle homogenous legacy waste issues.

A common theme in the debate and the feedback from the audience was the fact that without reliable and broad data, sustainable waste management solutions are difficult to develop.

Feedback from participants highlighted the conference was an excellent forum to engage with industry, regulators and policymakers in a direct discussion, highlighted the ability to network and were thankful to be able to attend an interesting and informative event

in Western Australia. Several participants mentioned that the event was very well organised and asked when the next one would be.

The event was concluded by Frank Klostermann, General Manager Innovation, Toxfree, announcing the inaugural Toxfree Innovation Prize, valued at \$5,000 cash. Frank invited participants from industry and the science community to submit their ideas for innovations in the area of managing hazardous, prescribed or industrial waste.