

NSW BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 10 March 2026

8.00 - 9.00am

Via Zoom

President: Richard Collins
Vice President: Shaun Devine

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Vanessa Seaton, Gayle Sloan, Shaun Devine, Alex Morris, Ron Wainberg, Andrew Kosciuszko, Miles Mason, Jennifer Hughes, Phil Carbins, Ark Du, Brad Searle, Sam Swain, Jason Sweeney, Katherine Dodd and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Blake Almond, Richard Collins, Michelle Mandl, Garth Lamb, Mike Ritchie, Justin Murphy, Nicole Greenwood, Alarik Wong.

The meeting was chaired by Vice-President, Shaun Devine.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the 10 February 2026 NSW Branch Committee meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Phil Carbins *Seconded:* Ron Wainberg

ii. Actions arising

- EPA RRF and RRO/E implementation update” WMRR will invite the relevant EPA representative to present to the Branch once the restructure is finalised – *On hold until restructure finalized, likely to be after April 2026.*
- Branch Priorities: Mark / Richard /Gayle to meet offline to consider messaging generator obligations (The concept of “fully informed self-interest” was raised in terms of generating producer buy in) – *Actioned and closed. Discussion held offline*
- Branch priorities These were outlined in the February 2026 meeting and will be finessed following discussion after the WMRR strategy refresh at the March 2026 Board meeting – *Noted. The president and vice-president have commenced refining the Branch priorities.*

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Federal Government

- a. Meeting of the Senior Officers Group was held last week ahead of the EMM (27 March 2026).
 - Expectation is that batteries and solar PV will be discussed.
 - Feedback was that the states were frustrated that packaging was not on the agenda with no concrete action earmarked The next stage is progressing the design on kerbside recyclability (for which public consultation closed 15 months ago)
- b. WMRR CEO will be meeting DCCEEW in Canberra to try and progress packaging and RaWR Act.

ii. PFAS in organics

- ICHEMS met with WMRR CEO to confirm the waste levels for PFAS are appropriate, rather than the trace level thresholds, when considering land applied organics..

- IChEMS confirmed they will be looking at national levels for PFAS once the work is completed on microplastics. No clarity over timeframe at this stage.

4. Issues

i. Regulatory and policy updates

- [Batteries Regulations](#) released and expected to be operational October 2026, with Deloitte working on the procurement process
- Solar RIS is being progressed.
- Parkes Energy Recovery Project
 - EfW inquiry hearings in April at Parkes (13-14 April), Tomago (14-15 May) and Sydney (4 May).
 - EPA have issued a draft letter to Parkes Proponents, Tribe, which is expected to be in the SEARS which likely be released at the end of the month.
- NSW EfW Framework
 - No emissions levels are publicly available yet on the website and EPA still have the 2021 policy online. WMRR is seeking this to be corrected and liaising with the EPA.
 - Still no clarity around Group 6 emissions – the framework talks about the BREF, but also says they can set whatever limits they like.
 - Framework controls page has tiers – 1,2,3 and changes are coming so that thermal treatment for biochar and AD, SAF is excluded from the framework. However, there is no clarity as to when these changes going to happen.
 - Investors and developers need to see outcomes and where the framework has been amended to be able to act with certainty.
 - Quarterly meetings with DPHI (Chris Ritchie) and WMRR are scheduled for 2026.
 - Emissions levels in SEARS and PFAS levels are priority with Chris keen to stay informed across all waste infrastructure approvals.
 - The establishment of the Development Coordination Authority (DCA) should help expediate approvals.

ii. Standing Items:

- Infrastructure update
 - Infra Committee has been set up – first meeting to come.
- Waste Levy update
 - WMRR has asked Minister to present before 30 June at a Breakfast with view to get levy insights. WMRR CEO will be meeting with EPA CEO to progress.
- Waste leakage – especially to Canberra, was raised by Brad Searle.
 - There is a proposal to follow Queensland to treat cross state as a new levy zone which is being reviewed by the Crown Solicitors Office. Noted that this can only address material leaving NSW, going to ACT and coming into NSW (but waste moving out there is nothing that can be done). Indication is that it is workable, but not certain as to when this would be delivered.
- Update on EPA timeframes for RRF Delivery Plan
 - WMRR has a program from EPA which suggests progress imminently.
 - EnRiskS undertaking a review of contaminants and conclusions.

iii. Submissions/consultations (NSW/National)

In progress:

- [Climate Change and Natural Hazards in State Environmental Planning Policy](#) (16 March 2026)

- Coroner inquiry into fires, and inquests into deaths, relating to Lithium-ion batteries (invitation for evidence by end of March)
- Management of legacy landfills by public landowners (targeted feedback from LF Working Group)
- [Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling](#) (23 March 2026)

Recent [WMRR submissions](#)

- [A New Approach to Strategic Planning](#) (27 February 2026)
- [Establishing the Development Coordination Authority \(DCA\)](#) (25 February 2026)
- [Proposed PFAS Monitoring Chemical Control Order](#) (9 February 2026)
- [FOGO Planning Controls](#) (19 December 2025)
- [Inquiry into microplastics](#) (6 March 2026)
- Inquiry into productivity in Australia (20 February 2026) – reopened.
- [Inquiry into the current state of the Australian tyre industry \(23 January 2026\)](#) – public hearings have commenced

iv. Grants and Funding

- [Circular Markets Grants](#) (compost buy back for local councils) – closing 23 March 2026.
Noted short turnaround for councils.

5. Working group updates

i. C&D - Jason Sweeney

- Still awaiting EPA responses to OSCE report
- WCRA/WMRR review of the standards for recycling facilities is that they are generally working well. There is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the scope of previous feedback, followed by site visits to understand the application of the C&D standards across different sites. The standards are working so no major updates are expected.

ii. Landfill - Ark Du

- Landfill site visit to Cleanaway Lucas Heights had over 22 attendees. Good discussion held in the morning tea break between the two (2) tour groups.
- Still awaiting the release of the final guidelines
 - Discussion of the recent L&E Court case which discussed leachate levels exceeding 300ml dip at lowest point of the sump. Group concerns around this being impractical standard if strictly applied, particularly after rain events. The group is looking to raise this and get clarity from the EPA on this ahead of the released guidelines, given the court matter may be relied on as precedent.–
 - The court matter used the WMRR webinar from the EPA ahead of the Landfill guidelines consultation closing. The webinar was never intended to be used for court proceedings or referenced in court judgements. The Branch discussed how to address this in the future with greater emphasis on the terms of engagement.
- Gas emissions also raised, noting surface monitoring trends are evolving to suggest traditional methods are no longer sufficient – particularly in US with aeroplane and drone technologies.
- The group has provided feedback on the guidelines for management of legacy landfills by public landowners. Noted that it hard is hard to retrofit legacy landfills (before 1999) into compliance with current minimum standards.

iii. RRMD – (Nicole Greenwood)

- No update at this meeting

iv. EfW – Miles Mason

- The discussion of the EFW Framework was covered in the Regulatory issues.

- Noted that the parliamentary inquiry into Waste to Energy facilities in Victoria is closing in early April, with WMRR making a submission similar to that made to the NSW inquiry late last year.
 - The group noted that Queensland is progressing with the ARRC EOI currently open and a supportive council, and it appears that Queensland does not have the strength of the anti-incineration groups in other states.
- v. **YPs – (Alarik Wong)**
- No update at this meeting.
- vi. **Waste Educators – (Claire Mahendradatta)**
- Looking to arrange another site visit in coming months to Earthpower.

6. Events & Training

- i. **Bite Size Learning**
- *How to successfully engage the community in developing and delivering projects* with Rachael Stapleton-Jansen. Monday 16 March 2026, online, 1-2pm (AEDT)
 - Second session coming soon with Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence.
 - The Branch suggested that Mythbusting for our sector is a key theme.
- ii. **NSW WARR 101 (Face to Face Training)** – Date and venue TBC
The training module is currently in development.
The training pilot likely to be undertaken in Victoria and then rolled out across the other states,.
Might be moving to VICTORIA
- iii. **Ministers Breakfast before 30 June 2026** (in planning)
- iv. **WMRR AGM**
- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)
 - Board Nominations open – closing 25 March
- v. **NSW Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast** (Thursday 13 August 2026 TBC)
- vi. **NSW Forum** (Thursday 17 September 2026 TBC)
- vii. **NSW End of Year Drinks** (Thursday 26 November 2026)
- viii. **Conferences for 2026**
- [ENVIRO Conference](#) – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)
Abstracts close 20 March. YP Scholarships close 27 March. ENVIRO Awards opening soon.
 - **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 14 & 15 October 2026 (QLD TBC)

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

7. Other business

- i. **Branch Priorities – standing item**
Following discussion in the February 2026 meeting, the branch priorities have been held over for this meeting and will be finessed and discussed at a future meeting.

8. Next meeting date

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Actions arising from meeting:

Issue	Action	Status
EFW Framework	No emissions levels are publicly available yet on the website and EPA still have the 2021 policy online. WMRR is seeking this to be corrected and liaising with the EPA.	In progress.
RRF and RRO/E implementation update	WMRR will invite the relevant EPA representative to present to the Branch	On hold. Noted and will be progressed with EPA once the restructure has been finalised.
Branch Priorities	To be further finessed .	Noted.
Clarification for NSW Landfill Guidelines regarding 300ml leachate in sump	WMRR landfill working group to progress the matter with a letter to EPA to seek clarification, noting that the 300ml in sump may be impractical especially for wet landfills or after rain events.	Noted. This will be progressed by the Landfill Working Group