

NSW BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 - 9.00am AEST

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Katherine Dodd, Andrew Kosciuszko, Michelle Mandl, Phil Carbins, Nick Renwick, Claire Mahendradatta, Ark Du, Gayle Sloan, Bread Searle, Samuel Swain, Vanessa Seaton, Richard Collins, Shaun Devine, Ron Wainberg.

Apologies: Alarik Wong, Ed Nicholas, Jason Sweeney, Miles Mason, Nicole Greenwood.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 10 March 2026 NSW Branch Committee meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Vanessa Seaton *Seconded:* Shaun Devine

ii. Actions arising

Issue	Action	Status Update
EFW Framework	No emissions levels are publicly available yet on the website and EPA still have the 2021 policy online.	In progress. WMRR is seeking this to be corrected and liaising with the EPA. WMRR is also liaising with Minister to progress this.
RRF and RRO/E implementation update	WMRR will invite the relevant EPA representative to present to the Branch.	This is noted and will be progressed with EPA once the restructure is finalized. This item will be removed from the action list and captured within the “standing items” of the meeting agenda.
Branch Priorities	To be finalised.	This will be revisited in a future meeting following further feedback from EPA on progressing RRF/RRO&E. This item will be removed from the actions list and placed on hold
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.	Closed for branch follow up. To be progressed by the Landfill Working Group.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Environment Ministers Meeting (27 March 2026)

- Discussion continued regarding a proposed intergovernmental agreement (IGA) modelled on the national energy market framework, with legislation potentially led through the South Australian Parliament before adoption by other jurisdictions.
 - IGA could be proposed for product stewardship regulations (similar to batteries work led by NSW and hopefully soon adopted by other jurisdictions)
 - NSW is drafting material relating to solar panels RIS and packaging reform for consideration at the next EMM in August. However, there remains uncertainty about whether the Federal Government will relinquish responsibility for packaging reform.

ii. Packaging

- Noted that an independent review for DCCEEW is currently undertaking targeted consultation on the kerbside grading for recycling (consulted on in April 2025 ahead of election). Proposed categorisation system uses an **A–G rating** (compared with the EU PPWR system of **A–E**.)
 - Uncertainty remains regarding mandatory eco-modulation, mandatory obligations and extent of regulatory requirements.
- Dean Knudsen has departed DCCEEW.

iii. Batteries

- South Australia is committed to progressing battery-related reform in line with NSW, with Western Australia also expressing interest.

iv. Fuel Supply & Recycled Material Markets

- Current concerns relate more to cost impacts than fuel supply shortages.
- Ongoing NSW fuel crisis discussions are occurring through regular weekly meetings ahead of national discussions.
 - Members were encouraged to contact Gayle with any specific fuel-related concerns.
- Proposed Fair Work Commission road transport orders allowing pass-through of fuel costs may assist operators, though concerns remain that clients may struggle to absorb higher costs.
 - Noted that NSW has access to DWM reserves to draw down on.
 - Also noted that nationally, there is approximately \$2 billion in levy funds.
- Extensive discussions are occurring in Victoria and NSW to identify manufacturers producing recycled-content products, particularly plastic pipes. Shortages of HDPE materials for liners are being experienced. Several overseas plastic producers have declared force majeure, affecting supply of pipework and liners. Yet there is reportedly sufficient recycled plastic material already in the market that needs to be moved
 - RPM (PVC pipe manufacturer) has reportedly begun scaling down operations due to insufficient orders.

- Industry participants were encouraged to speak with suppliers about choosing recycled-content products. WMRR is acting as a conduit to connect manufacturers requiring recycled input materials.
 - Noted that NSW's Sustainable Construction Policy (PEP) has not yet been released.

v. NSW Net Zero Roundtable

- CEO attended the NSW Net Zero Roundtable with the Minister the previous week, advocating for increased use of recycled materials. Improved material productivity and Recognition of recycling as a decarbonisation strategy beyond electrification
- Noted that the NSW waste sector plan is currently under development.

vi. Energy from Waste (EfW)

- It was noted that Ministerial discussions with WMRR consistently indicate support for EfW in NSW. WMRR has raised concerns regarding delays in publication of EfW emissions documentation., particularly in light of current NSW and VIC parliamentary inquiries.
 - EfW policy and emissions guidance are still considered insufficiently updated and require further clarification, particularly around emission limits.
- Brad advised he had received correspondence seeking clarification regarding EfW and PEF.
- At a future stage, the SEARs documentation for Parkes is expected to go on public exhibition.

vii. Interstate & Intrastate Waste Transfer

- Proposed regulation of waste transferred from Canberra into NSW. is expected to follow the Queensland model by creating a separate levy zone, likely aligned with metropolitan levy settings.

viii. RROs

- The EPA is currently developing technical terminology for the RROs.

ix. Asbestos

- Consultation on asbestos reforms is expected shortly. Proposed reforms relate to adopting a "reasonable level" standard, with consultation anticipated during May.

x. Licensing

- It was noted that additional [licensing requirements](#) are being introduced by the EPA. Industry concerns remain regarding increasing compliance costs.

xi. Recycling Standards

- Noted ACOR has developed a standard for recycling facilities, including MRFs and organics facilities.. The standard is linked to GECA.

4. NSW Issues

i. NSW Regulatory and policy updates

- The Minister's Infrastructure Advisory Committee has yet to meet.
- No Waste Levy update – noted that the fuel crisis has not helped conversations around increasing levy.
- WMRR still seeking an update on EPA timeframes for RRF Delivery Plan but is aware work is progressing.

ii. Submissions/consultations (NSW/National)

- The NSW EPA is seeking feedback on [Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants](#) in NSW
- Public consultation on the [Exposure Draft of the Guarantee of Origin Methodology Determination Amendment \(Biogas, Biomethane and Iron Ore\)](#) (closing 27 April 2026)

Recent WMRR submissions

- [Climate Change and Natural Hazards SEPP](#) (16 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into microplastics](#) (6 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into productivity in Australia](#) (20 February 2026)
- Management of legacy landfills by public landowners (targeted feedback from LF Working Group)
- [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)

iii. Grants and Funding (for noting)

- Existing biomethane facility owners in NSW and businesses that plan to own or have operational control over a biomethane production plant can apply for grants under the [Renewable Gas Production Program](#), (closing 24 April 2026)
- The [Low Emissions Industry Program](#) grant provides \$40 million to support mining and manufacturing facilities implement projects to reduce their emissions (closing 9 June 2026)

5. Working group updates

i. C&D – (Jason Sweeney) Gayle Sloan

- Asbestos – biggest issue getting the standards finalised.
- C&D standards are being reviewed by NSW EPA (Dan Zanello and Greg Sheehy). Expected to come back for consultation but no major changes expected.

ii. Landfill - Ark Du

- Working Group meeting held last week included very positive feedback on the Lucas Heights site tour and plans to organise more site tours.
- Paul Lightbody provided updates from the Global Waste Symposium in the US, noting strong academic and industry attendance. Gas monitoring technologies and methods and PFAS management continued to be key topics.

- Following the case of Tumut landfill in the Land and Environment Court, the group is seeking clarification from the EPA prior to the new guidelines being released about the requirement for leachate to be no more than 300ml above the liner. Specifically, how this is measured and enforced. More certainty is needed of what is required as compliant or non-compliant from legacy and non-legacy landfills.
- Looking to secure subgroup meeting with NSW EPA to progress revision of Operational Purpose Deductions (away from onerous pre-approval process and towards a pay and claim model) and landfill guidelines, along with clarify the interpretation of the leachate issue.

iii. RRMD – (Nicole Greenwood)

- No update at this meeting.
- Group discussed that there is broad interest in getting an update from Seamless as a broader webinar.

iv. EfW – (Miles Mason) Ron Wainberg

- The parliamentary inquiry continues with the Parkes hearing on today.
- Reassuring to hear from Penny Sharpe that EfW is supported.
 - Noted that we can't revisit metro areas for EfW.
 - Lack of clear documentation from EPA means that planning processes can be difficult.

v. YPs – (Alarik Wong)

- No update at this meeting.

vi. Waste Educators – Claire Mahendradatta

- Upcoming site visit on 29 April to Earth Power – noting only one spot left.

6. Events & Training

i. Conferences for 2026

- [ENVIRO Conference](#) – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)
 - Program is progressing, emphasising a circular focus, rather than end of- pipe options.
 - ENVIRO Awards open.
- **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 21 & 22 October 2026 (Brisbane, details TBC)

ii. Upcoming Online Training (half day):

- Landfill Training Module 1 – [Introduction to landfill disposal](#) (Wednesday 15 April 2026)
- Landfill Training Module 2 – [Leachate generation and management](#) (Wednesday 29 April 2026)
- Landfill Training Module 3 – [Gas Generation and management](#) (Wednesday 13 May 2026)

iii. WMRR AGM

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- [Voting](#) now open for Elected Director position on the WMRR Board.

iv. Foundations of WARR (Face to Face Training) - Victorian pilot coming soon

- This pilot training day in the foundations of the waste and resource recovery sector is aimed at new entrants to the sector, and those looking to gain an overview of policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks that shape the sector.
- Initial pilot session will be held with a small group in Melbourne, tentatively looking at 20 May 2026 with plans to roll out to other states.
- Registrations will be available online soon.

v. SAVE THE DATES:

- **NSW Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast** (Thursday 13 August 2026 TBC)
- **NSW WARR Forum** (Thursday 17 September 2026 TBC)
- **NSW End of Year Drinks** (Thursday 26 November 2026)

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

7. Other business

i. Branch Priorities

- The Committee discussed at the start of the meeting when reviewing the actions arising from the March meeting that this item is on hold.
 - The item was added to the agenda with a discussion held in the February 2026 meeting to evaluate whether the priorities for 2026 had significantly changed since last review.
 - Many regulatory outcomes are still being progressed, such as the Waste Levy and the review of the Resource Recovery Framework.
 - The priorities are mostly still current.
- The Branch Priorities will be discussed again later in the year following the revision of the WMRR Strategic Plan.

8. Next meeting date

Tuesday 19 May 2026

The original meeting date of 12 May has been pushed back to accommodate attendance by committee members at the Coffs Waste Conference.

Actions arising from the meeting

Issue	Action	Status Update
EFW Framework	No emissions levels are publicly available yet on the website and EPA still have the 2021 policy online.	In progress. WMRR is seeking this to be corrected and liaising with the EPA and Minister to progress this.