



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 11 June 2026

11.00 am – 12.00 pm AEST

via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Micheal Attard, Veronica Schilling, Holly Mackey, Justin Jones, Jeff Holmes, Tegan Lovell, Steve Jordan, Kylie Roberts-Frost, Gayle Sloan, Nick Gifford and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Fiona Harding, Paul Jackson, Mollie Hill, Nick Simmons.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

Minutes of 7 May 2026 TAS Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded:* Jeff Holmes

ii. Actions arising:

- WRR Board Update – WRR to provide an update of the WRR Board Restructure - provided in item 4 (*closed*).

3. National advocacy (CEO)

National EPA

- Federal EPA commences July 1; CEO appointment made but not yet announced.

DCCEEW

- James Tregutha departing June 20; staffing changes may improve federal-level collaboration.

National Environment Ministers Meeting

- Intergovernmental agreement delayed; NSW drafting for September Environment Ministers meeting.
- PV regulation still being drafted; NSW Minister Penny Sharpe committed to proceeding alone if national adoption fails.
- Packaging reform roundtable highlighted disconnect between recyclers' supply and manufacturers' price expectations.

Battery Stewardship

- NSW on track for October mandatory scheme start; 4-hour procurement session held with proponents.
- South Australia is progressing a Cabinet paper to advance the scheme.
- TAS NRE is also looking to adopt and implement the model from NSW. Tasmania receiving modelling and impact assessment from NSW for potential legislation adoption; various support levels available depending on commitment level.
- NRE briefing new Environment Minister Guy Barnett on battery scheme; uncertainty about receptiveness to new legislation – noted as the fifth Tasmanian minister in four (4) years).

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. Review of the TAS WARR Forum

- Strong turnout with excellent representation across sectors.
- Outgoing Environment Minister delivered cohesive speech.
- Land spreading discussion productive revealed significant disconnect between EPA/ industry understanding and industry interpretation:
 - EPA and regulators viewed land spreading as beneficial agricultural reuse of processed materials; industry associates term with fish waste disposal.
 - Fish waste land spreading regulated only by councils (Level 1), not EPA; creates unequal treatment compared to composting facilities requiring Level 2 EMCA assessment and EPA licensing.
 - Similar issues exist with dairy waste and clean fill.
 - Noted that NRE are commencing policy work with newly available resourcing to address regulatory gaps.
 - Concerns raised about councils lacking resources for proper assessment and cumulative impacts typically exceed local government boundaries and expertise. For example, there is antibiotic contamination risk from salmon mortalities applied to land causing potential future title contamination for local farmers.
 - Paradox noted in that antibiotic feed bags are regulated to C-cell by EPA, but fish containing antibiotics not regulated at all for land application.
- Event Feedback
 - Most indicated preference for information presentations over discussions
 - Full day length noted as concern by some attendees in terms of travel. The group discussed that the previous year included a sponsored networking event on the evening prior (making it reasonable to stay locally). The event didn't occur this year, WMRR and WRR will look to resurrect for next year.

ii. Recycal Tasmania & Budget Estimates

- Nick highlighted this issue concerning Recycal who land-spread metal shredder flock inappropriately. The material contained contaminants from transformers and other sources. The issue was flagged in a “Dorothy Dixer” question in budget estimates regarding EPA management of Recycal Tasmania operations.
- Long-standing prosecution issues mean that the material now directed to C-cell under license restrictions.
- Nick commented that the estimates question framed company as “an important business needing support” rather than addressing environmental compliance.

iii. Regulatory and policy updates

- Single Use Plastics Cabinet submission pulled last minute due to requests for cost information already contained in attached RIS. Alternatives documented as cheaper than plastic for most items. Resubmission has been prioritised by WRR to avoid further timeline slippage and maintain project team engagement.
- Draft Waste Resource Recovery Strategy Consultation closes July 10.
 - Members encouraged to submit individual submissions for commercial interests whilst WMRR submission will align with strategic plan priorities (markets, level playing fields)
 - Glass not prioritized despite 12,000 tonnes stockpiled.
 - Mattresses will be requested by ABSC as priority material.
 - Recovery targets set at 63% (below 80% national aspiration). These have been based on policy analysis of existing data, national trends, and other jurisdictions.

- Board adjusted initial targets for realism given limited hard data; step-change approach toward 80% aspiration.
- Accompanying technical document is available explaining target methodology.
- Levy Reinvestment: Holly explained that levy increase in 2026-2027 will generate approximately \$10 million additional revenue; total reaching ~\$20 million, projected \$30 million at full implementation (subject to waste-to-landfill reductions).
- Waste Innovation and Resource Recovery Fund (WRF) detailed design in progress.
 - Oversight committee to include Office of Coordinator-General and Tasmanian Development Board.
 - Approach shifts from targeted rounds to expressions of interest for innovative projects.
 - New reinvestment design coordinator role established to evolve grant-making approach.
- Team conducting due diligence on election commitments including BioHub.
- High Priority Infrastructure Grant Round 3 had a compressed assessment timeline; announcement June 19 as part of 100-day (or 300-day) commitments.
- Selection report and recommendations for the WRR Board Membership is with Minister's Office - this requires Cabinet approval for existing reappointments and new appointments.
- WRR FY26-27 operational plan and budget submitted to Minister's office by May 31 legislative deadline; awaiting ministerial review and approval.
- New Minister Guy Barnett supportive of industry. Briefing work underway on infrastructure investment rationale and program evolution.
- Plastic Stewardship Australia (Helen and Barry) presenting to WRR Board in June on soft plastics state of play.
 - Noted that the presentation is for Board information rather than proposal consideration.
 - Branch members discussed that Council officers reported feeling pressured into arrangements; with some mainland jurisdictions not proceeding (Eg: NSW EPA meeting with PSA yielded no commitments)
- Tasmania mattress stocks and material flow analysis by ASBC is near completion.
 - ASBC has held meetings with Dutch Embassy and Austrade regarding Dutch investment in Australian resource recovery. Prospectus prepared for Netherlands targeting Aus Business Week (July-August) with opportunities for joint ventures aligned with Tasmania's investment prospectus.
 - Noted that specific retailer investment guidelines require 3% profit reinvestment in waste-producing markets.

iv. Regional updates

- Southern Waste:
 - ACCC application lodged for Advanced Organics Facility at Copping after month of discussions; 6-month process expected, public late this week or early next week.
 - Draft permits received for Lutana Resource Recovery Facility and Copping Interim Compost Facility; awaiting council planning committee approvals within next month.
 - Organics strategy meeting held with TasWaste South
 - Waste infrastructure report for south under review - exploring bulk waste movement, transfer station investments, and council partnerships.
- Northern Tasmania:
 - Voluntary FOGO kerbside collection rates improvement project planned using ERF funding;
- Cradle Coast:
 - Finalising Bag Muster and Blister Pack Recycling regional rollout.
 - Developing communications materials to improve public awareness of services.
 - Fine-tuning organics processing facility with discussions with NRE and Southern Waste on carcass disposal.

v. Submissions/consultation (for reference)

Open for consultation:

- *Inquiry into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (No Time to Waste) Bill 2026* (15 June 2026)
- *Enhancing Australia's first right to repair laws* (3 July 2026) – i.e.: expand the right to repair to agricultural machinery and improve how the existing Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme (MVIS) operates.

Recently submitted:

- [Carbon Credits and Other Legislation Amendment \(Integrity and Transparency\) Bill Consultation](#) (25 May 2026)
- [Guideline for safe management of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries](#) (15 May 2026)
- [Guarantee of Origin Scheme Amendment \(biogas, biomethane and iron ore\)](#) (27 April 2026)
- [Asbestos Framework Review](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Inquiry into the Australian tyre industry](#) (23 January 2026) – WMRR giving evidence at the Sydney hearing on 15 July 2026.

5. WMRR Events

i. Upcoming TAS Events

- Following discussion of the Forum, the branch discussed planning the Christmas networking event in Northern Tasmania (Launceston area) with site tours. Event date to be finalised post-June.
- Forward planning for the Branch to have two annual events in addition to the End of Year Event:
 - WARR Forum with networking dinner.
 - Workshop/demo day for hospitality and tourism sectors interested in technology - this may be linked to the End of Year drinks.

ii. [WMRR AGM](#)

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide). Registrations close 4 pm on Monday 15 June 2026.

iii. [ENVIRO Conference](#) – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)

iv. [Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference](#) - 21-23 October 2026 (Brisbane)

- Abstracts open until Friday 17 July 2026.

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

6. Other business

Meeting closed 11.52 am

7. Next meeting date

Thursday 9 July 2026.

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
End of Year	Determine the date for the End of Year Event in Launceston and discuss proposed itinerary	ALL	Discuss at next meeting.

WMRR Strategic Plan –2023-2026 TAS Initiatives

Tasmania		Comments
1	Ensure that WMRR is the first port of call for the state government as it finalises policy and regulatory initiatives, including the state waste minimisation and resource recovery strategy, in order to build a robust strategic framework to leverage plans, including the education and communications to drive and support the growth of the Tasmanian WARR sector.	Ongoing- strong positive relationships developed with government, and WARR Board as evidenced by their commitment and participation in the TAS Forums and separate meetings. Comprehensive submission provided on the draft state WARR strategy. <i>Advocacy around the need for education round WARR and carbon included in Climate Change Act review submission in September 2025.</i>
2	Advocate for the development of diversion and recovery facilities, as well as the expansion of organics diversion and processing across Tasmania.	Included in the comprehensive submission provided on the draft state WARR strategy. <i>WMRR looking to meet with Minister Ogilvie to put organics strategy and Infrastructure Plan at top of government agenda.</i>
3	Tasmanian wide education and communications plan developed and delivered.	WMRR is promoting Fight Food Waste CRC's toolkit to assist. <i>WMRR is open creating an Educators' Working Group noting the establishment of ReThink Waste and appointment of regional coordinators may not overlap with WMRR outside branch updates.</i> <i>Advocacy around the need for education round WARR and carbon included in Climate Change Act review submission in September 2025.</i>
National initiative	Expansion of organics diversion and processing nationally.	.