

TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

11.00am – 12.00pm AEST

Thursday 12 February 2026

via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Justine Forster Nick Simmons, Gayle Sloan, Steven Jordan, Michael Attard, Morag Anderson, and Lisa Lepore

Apologies: Kylie Roberts Frost and Veronica Schilling

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of 12 November 2025 TAS Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded:* Nick Simmons

ii. Actions Arising:

- Product recall on coloured sand products containing asbestos - contact regulators to clarify levy exemption pathways (*actioned and closed*)
- WMRR to finalise dates and times for 2026 Branch meetings (*actioned and closed*)

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. LFG Method Update

- The Landfill Gas (LFG) ACCU Method has been released, with a focus on incentivising gas capture at regional (non-metro) landfills rather than levy-area facilities. The intent is to encourage smaller landfills to participate.
- Many Tasmanian landfills would likely qualify as “regional” under the method.
- It was noted that a 30ktpa landfill could potentially generate approximately \$1.7 million in ACCUs under the scheme (subject to eligibility and performance).
- Further clarity is required on the definition of “regional landfill” under the ACCU LFG Method.

ii. Federal Updates

- The EPBC amendments have now passed, with federal focus shifting to the Recycling and Waste Reduction (RaWR) Act and packaging reform, however:
 - The Productivity Commission report into unlocking the circular economy does not recommend overarching national regulation, which is disappointing.
 - The upcoming EMM meeting in March is not currently expected to include packaging reform on the agenda.
- In Senate Estimates, Peter Whish-Wilson queried battery stewardship; the Commonwealth does not appear to be actively progressing battery reform at this stage.
 - NSW is preparing to gazette battery regulations and commence procurement for a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), aiming for operations to begin before the March 2027 NSW election.
 - South Australia is expected to progress battery reform following its next election.
 - Victoria has an election in November, which may delay movement on battery regulation.

iii. **Waste and Resource Recovery Board**

- Holly Mackey has been appointed permanently as WRR CEO.

iv. **Solar Panel Stewardship**

- Solar panel grant funding is progressing through procurement. The grant is intended to collect data, which may delay regulatory development.
- Some generators within the Smart Energy Council have expressed reluctance to operate under a regulatory model, preferring a government-underwritten scheme.
- Noted that following the previous EMM, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is being prepared in NSW. There is potential for NSW to proceed independently if national alignment does not occur.

v. **WMRR State of the Nation of WARR Report**

- The inaugural WMRR State of the Industry Report is expected to be released in April. The report will examine carbon impacts, material flows and productivity.

4. **TAS Issues for discussion**

i. **Regulatory and policy updates**

- *The Phasing Out Single-use Plastics in Tasmania [Consultation Report](#) released.*
 - No feedback was provided on the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).
Action: WMRR to liaise with Holly regarding next steps (Gayle and Michael).
- **Levy**
 - Stage 3 of the waste levy increases will take effect this year, reaching \$60 plus CPI and GST.
 - It was noted that the levy settings are beginning to drive investment and diversion outcomes.

ii. **Funding Opportunities**

- The High Priority Infrastructure Grants program has recently closed. It was noted that grant deeds for Round 2 have not yet been issued.
- The WRR Board Sponsorship Program for FY 2026 remains open (up to \$10,000 available).

iii. **Regional Updates**

- Holly Mackey met with regional groups last week and is seeking increased collaboration across regions.

iv. **Branch Priorities for 2026**

- Ahead of the first WMRR Board meeting on 6 March, the committee is looking to identify priority issues for Tasmania in 2026.
- Attendees agreed that single-use plastics (SUP), organics and batteries remain priority policy areas requiring further attention.
- WMRR will consult with Holly Mackey and report back to the branch regarding proposed priorities.

v. **Submissions/consultation**

- No feedback or updates on the Climate Change Act review (September 2025)
Open national submissions:
 - Select Committee on productivity in Australia (20 February 2026)
 - RFI Solar Panel Recycling pilot (3 March 2026)
 - Inquiry into microplastics (6 March 2026)
 - Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling (23 March 2026)

5. WMRR Events

i. **Webinar:**

[Is there a role for AI in WARR data and operations in Australia?](#), 1pm, Tuesday 24 March 2026

ii. **Bite Size Learning**

- Our new training offering – lunchtime learning will commence Monday 16 March 2026.
- Session 1: Community Engagement with Rachael Stapleton-Jansen.

iii. **WARR 101 (Face to Face Training)** – Tuesday 31 March 2026 (Sydney, venue TBC)

Day-long session designed in response to request from members to deliver training covering regulation, policy, and circularity.

iv. **WMRR AGM**

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)

v. **TAS Forum** Wednesday 27 May 2026, ART Hotel Hobart.

The group discussed potential thought starters for the upcoming program, with a proposed overarching theme of Tasmanian innovation and remanufacturing. Potential Case Studies / Speakers discussed were:

- Polyfoam / EPS Recycling – There has been development of local capacity to collect and remanufacture expanded polystyrene (EPS) into insulation vents. Significant private investment has been made to establish this capability.
- Surgical Instrument Recovery – Recovery and processing of high-grade surgical steel, which is repurposed into aluminium products due to the quality of the material.
- TAS Gas' Westbury Biogas Plant – Providing an overview of the biogas facility and its role in renewable energy generation.
- Bean Brothers (Foam Glass) – Exploration of foam glass production using iron ore mining by-products, with potential applications in insulation panels.
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) Diversion – There is interest in models similar to the Shoalhaven approach, focusing on increased diversion and local processing.
- Carbon and Market Mechanisms –
 - i. Presentation proposed on the ACCU Landfill Gas (LFG) Method and its applicability to Tasmanian landfills (Nick Simmons).
 - ii. Discussion regarding the Source Separated Organic Waste (SSOW) method, which is expiring and may transition to a revised Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) method.
 - iii. Broader discussion on how carbon policy influences investment and operational decisions, noting that carbon benefits may not always be fully recompensed.
- Consider including a concise ("punchy") State and Federal policy update in the program.
- Potential session on the WMRR State of the Nation Report.
- Panel opportunity to cover stewardship developments including Container Deposit Schemes (CDS) and mattresses.
- Opportunity to provide updates on local infrastructure and investment through regional groups.
 - i. Noted that the proposed in-vessel composting facility in Hobart (Barwicks) has not progressed.
 - ii. Discussion on levy implications as Tasmania reaches Levy Level 3 this year.
- Tasmanian Strategy Update
 - i. Questions raised regarding the location and status of the current strategy.
 - ii. Consideration of whether a dedicated session for regional priorities is required.

- Landfill session looking at the Auditor-General's Landfill Report. The session may also look at certifications required for landfill auditors. Possibility to request an update from the EPA. (Suggested speaker: Catherine Murdoch).

Action to reach out to the newly appointed Head of EPA (TBC).

vi. **TAS End of Year Drinks** (Thursday 10 December Launceston location TBC)

- Good feedback received on the 2025 event and having site tour and drinks format, so will likely repeat a similar format.
- Noted the 2025 event had strong social media coverage.

vii. **Conferences for 2026**

- **ENVIRO Conference** – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 14 & 15 October 2026 (Brisbane/Noosa TBC)

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

6. Next meeting date

Thursday 12 March 2026

Actions arising from meeting:

Issue	Action	Status
Branch Priorities for 2026	WMRR will consult with Holly Mackey and report back to the branch regarding proposed priorities from WRR and consider how these align to our priorities of SUP, organics and batteries.	In progress. Taken offline
Single Use Plastics RIS and update on WRR strategy	WMRR to liaise with Holly regarding next steps (Gayle and Michael).	In progress. Taken offline.
Connect with new head of EPA – invite to speak at TAS Forum	<i>Action to reach out to the newly appointed Head of EPA</i>	In progress. Taken offline

Annexure A

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 is 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.	.