



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 12 March 2026

11.00am – 12.00pm AEST

via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Steven Jordan, Michael Attard, Veronica Schilling, Tegan Lovell, Gayle Sloan, Jeff Holmes and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Paul Jackson, Kylie Roberts-Frost, Morag Anderson.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous Minutes:

The meeting minutes of 12 February 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded:* Steve Jordan

ii. Actions Arising:

- 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. *Actioned. WMRR's updates from Holly are covered in item 4.*
- Connect with new head of EPA – invite to speak at TAS Forum. *Closed. Taken offline.*

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Upcoming Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM) on 27 March 2026

- State frustrations expressed at the Senior Officers Meeting last week (ahead of the EMM), because packaging was not on the agenda.
- Expected to include discussions on batteries and solar stewardship.

ii. Batteries Regulation

- Tasmania is having a workshop with NSW in two weeks' time. WMRR is encouraging alignment with other states.
- Whilst NSW has moved with legislation and regulations and is progressing the appointment of a scheme coordinator, there is still no clear outcome or progress on battery stewardship nationally despite it being identified as a priority.

Action: WMRR to issue a letter to TAS reminding them of EMM obligations as per sent to Queensland.

iii. Solar Panels

- NSW is leading the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on solar stewardship. There is ongoing discussion about preparing the RIS while additional solar trials continue (< \$20M allocated).
- NSW has indicated it will go alone if no national action progresses.

iv. Packaging

- Limited progress on packaging regulation over the past four (4) years, despite being a national priority for EMMs.
- APCO has withdrawn proposal for eco-modulated fees to members with no indication that it will be back on the table.
- COAG previously promised market development for onshore packaging recycling (2018), but this has not materialised.
- Australia has had limited investment in processing capacity due to Container Return Scheme impacts, and access to cheap imported recycled pellets.
- Design for recyclability consultation closed February 2025, but it now being revisited for targeted consultation in coming months.
- WMRR will meet with Secretary Mike Kaiser to push for national packaging regulation or allow states to move ahead independently.

v. DCCEE WARR Priorities

- WMRR Meeting with DCCEE Secretary Mike Keiser this week will focus on the ongoing lack of certainty across several priority areas such as waste and recycling sector fires, critical minerals and packaging regulation (noted above).
- EMMs have not strongly focused on the recycling sector's immediate priorities.

vi. Export Restrictions

- PET export exemptions will cease after 1 July, which may create challenges for MRFs. Previously, some exporters accepted PET streams containing trays. Many of these markets are no longer accepting this material, potentially disrupting processing pathways and some MRFs have already stopped accepting them.

vii. PFAS in organics

- This issue is still ongoing as a national issue and is a particular priority in Queensland, DETSI concerns about unintended trace levels in organics, which were proposed by WMRR (EnRisks). DETSI has indicated they received different advice from iChEMS. Efforts underway to facilitate discussion between iChEMS and DETSI.
- It has also been noted that iChEMS has been tasked with establishing nationally consistent compost contaminant thresholds, expected after completion of current microplastics work.
- In theory it would be an EPA issue in Tasmania -something to follow up with the EPA Head at the TAS Forum.

LFG Method remade

- Can Tasmania benefit from the remade method? No comments yet from the Branch.

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. Regulatory and policy updates

WMRR met with Holly Mackey and discussed the following matters:

- *Waste Levy*
 - Currently, the government hypothecates levy revenue and redistributes funding to the sector. Concern raised regarding the risk of the waste levy being reduced or removed, particularly as it has reached the top rate this year.

- Discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring government retains a financial interest in the levy to sustain investment.
- A key lesson from Queensland was noted: allocating a portion of levy revenue to government (e.g. 50%) can support ongoing commitment and funding.
- In the context of the Waste Strategy refresh, it was noted that:
 - If only the waste and resource recovery (WARR) sector benefits from the levy, government may be reluctant to increase it further.
 - The levy should act as an incentive for government as well as industry.
 - It was also noted that some government infrastructure projects may be exempt from the levy (i.e. as done in Queensland with major infrastructure projects), which could distort market behaviour regarding circularity and waste.
- *Glass Recycling and CRS Impacts*
 - Concerns were raised regarding the impact of the Container Return Scheme (CRS) on glass flows to MRFs. A proportion of glass processed through Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) is CDS glass; however, not all of this material is being successfully recycled. This creates a challenge in claiming recycling benefits where material ultimately goes to landfill.
 - Cost pressures were noted, with processing costs increasing from approximately \$50 per tonne to \$80 per tonne.
 - Concerns were raised that if scheme coordinators are unable to secure viable end markets, material may default to landfill.
 - Many councils operate under risk-sharing contracts, with some MRF contracts stipulating that residual glass can only be sent to landfill.
 - It was noted that in southern regions, some MRF glass is being processed into sand products rather than traditional recycling streams (and these councils should be receiving CDS benefit).
 - Question raised as to whether there is potential to claim a “redemption” or benefit where material is reused in ‘alternative’ applications.
 - General agreement that contracts should better enforce recycling outcomes where possible. It was noted that further clarification may be required.

WMRR to follow up with branch members in separate meeting to ensure the program is recognising reuse or alternative processing outcomes

- *Waste Strategy*

WRR Strategy is being tightened and released for public comment – expected late April May
Veronica has seen an early draft, and there is a proposal to brief the councils early in the consultation period 27 April for regional waste organisations

- *Restructure at WRR Board*

Director positions currently [open](#).

ii. Regional Updates

- *Farm waste:*

- Steve Jordan (NRM North) is undertaking a flow analysis of farmgate waste.
- NRM South and Tas Waste South are also progressing work on farm waste.
- Key waste streams include horticultural plastics such as silage wrap and netting. Current on-farm practices are largely anecdotal, with waste often burnt or buried.

- Veronica is progressing work with DrumMUSTER and BagMUSTER, including potential advocacy for silage wrap processing – High Priority Infrastructure Grants are expected to be announced by the end of the financial year.
- An Off-the-Road (OTR) tyre amnesty is being delivered at Dulverton, with a focus on agricultural tyres.
- ACCC have authorised regional collection for Dulverton and procurement is expected to commence late April.
- Dulverton is developing a public-facing dashboard to improve transparency on waste diversion outcomes.
 - Current reporting includes kerbside data and quarterly transfer station reports. The aim is to consolidate data into a single platform to drive community engagement.
 - NRE is engaged and developing a similar system (expected in 4–5 years), with a focus on ensuring future data compatibility

iii. **Branch priorities for 2026**

The Branch has previously identified SUP, organics and infrastructure as key items to move forward, particularly with the levy being realised to full extent in 2026.

These are to be finessed following the delivery of the Waste Strategy.

iv. **Submissions/consultation**

Closing soon:

- The Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water has launched an [inquiry into solar panel reuse and recycling in Australia](#). - Friday 27 March 2026.

Recently submitted:

- Inquiry into microplastics (6 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into productivity in Australia](#) (20 February 2026) – reopened now until 27 March)
- [Inquiry into the current state of the Australian tyre industry](#) (23 January 2026) – public hearings have commenced.

5. **WMRR Events**

i. **Bite Sized 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.

ii. **‘WARR 101’ (working title for Face to Face Training)** – In development for delivery in Victoria. Date and venue TBC

iii. **WMRR AGM**

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- [Board Nominations open](#) – closing 25 March.

iv. **TAS WARR Forum** (Henry Jones Art Hotel, Hobart, Wednesday 27 May 2026)

Program is being finalised. [Registrations](#) open Monday 16 March 2026.

The group noted that the following topics will be key to discussions:

- Waste Strategy release
- Impacts of the levy lift
- Local examples – Michael to liaise with Justine (Tasker Foam Glass) and Veronica to share details regarding Strahan Village.

v. **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](#)

6. Other business

7. Next meeting date

Thursday 9 April 2026 (TBC)

Finalising forum program will be focus.

Actions arising:

Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
3 (ii) Batteries Regulation	WMRR to issue a letter to TAS reminding them of EMM obligations as per sent to Queensland.	WMRR National Office	<i>Letter to be issued</i>
4(i) MRF and CRS	<i>WMRR to follow up with branch members in separate meeting to ensure the program is recognising reuse or alternative processing outcomes</i>	WMRR National Office	Meeting to be scheduled.

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.	.