



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 16 April 2026

1.00pm – 2.00pm AEST

Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

- i. Attendees: Michael Attard, Megan Surawski, Holly Mackey, Gayle Sloan, Steve Jordan, Veronica Schilling, Jeff Holmes, Kylie Roberts-Frost and Lisa Lepore
- ii. Apologies: Morag Anderson, Paul Jackson, Tegan Lovell, Nick Simmonds.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

The Minutes of 12 March 2026 Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record
Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded*: Gayle Sloan

ii. Actions arising:

Item	Action	Responsible	Update
3 (ii) Batteries Regulation	WMRR to issue a letter to Minister reminding them of EMM obligations as per sent to Queensland.	WMRR National Office	Letter issued today and will be sent to the group. Closed.
4(i) MRF and CRS	WMRR to follow up with branch members in separate meeting to ensure the program is recognising reuse or alternative processing outcomes	WMRR National Office	Meeting was scheduled and group confirmed no further action at this stage but will reach out to WMRR if anything specific arises. Closed.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Environment Ministers' Meeting 27 March 2026

Strong commitment from jurisdictions to continue progressing stewardship initiatives , and feedback that there seems to be clear traction and momentum at EMM under Minister Watt.

Stewardship:

- RaWR Act review report coming but will be 'department led'. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) process should take over.
- Minister Watt indicated willingness to collaborate with NSW (Minister Penny Sharpe) on batteries and solar.
- Batteries: NSW has led and responsibility now shifting to other states to progress their own legislation.
 - Victoria expected to accelerate efforts; Tasmania has expressed interest.
 - WRRR Board engaged with Tasmania prior to EMM regarding opportunities to leverage NSW's progress and share resources and approaches. A full briefing paper will be issued to WRR Board in May, with Ministerial briefing to follow (potential involvement from NSW EPA)
- Solar: Remains a national priority.

- NSW drafting an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for solar, to be presented at EMM in August. Regulation may proceed via this agreed pathway.
- National solar pilot continues in parallel, with NSW leading the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for photovoltaics (PV).

Packaging

- Discussion on kerbside recycling framework (Keith Chessell involved).
- No clarity or progress on mandatory eco-modulation at this stage.

Export Restrictions

- Ongoing challenge: plastic export restrictions
- No exemptions currently available.

Fuel & Supply Chain Impacts

- NSW and VIC are resourced for continued discussions.
- Key challenges: rising diesel prices (unlikely to decrease significantly), supply chain disruptions (materials harder to source), and cost increases of 30–40% for materials.
- Industry Impacts being felt. For example, NSW civil contractors: at risk of closure within 2–6 weeks. Sector is particularly impacted due to fixed-term contracts and diesel reliance, and not all contracts allow cost pass-through.
- Fair Work determination (Road Contractors) due 17 April - Waste transport expected to be included in the order. Sector encouraged to clearly itemise fuel-related costs in invoicing ahead of the determination.
- Opportunity identified to Increase use of recycled materials and support supply chains using recycled plastic bales in light of the fuel crisis.
- WMRR exploring pathways to integrate recycled content into supply chains.

iii. Carbon

- Landfill Gas (LFG) Method 2 revised in the proposed NGERs 2026 update.
- Move toward improved measurement approaches (vs pure emissions factors) for entities reporting under NGERs

iv. TAS WARR Forum

- Scheduled for 21 May 2026 in Hobart, with schedule being finalised.
- Tasmania fates and flows for mattresses should be done in time for the forum. The group also discussed a calculator for mattress airspace.

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. WRR Board Update

HPI (Round 3)

- Funding increased from \$5M to \$10M due to oversubscription. Challenge in that project costs have significantly escalated since application, so now looking at how to apply appropriate escalation adjustments

Fuel Crisis

- Tasmanian Premier seeking advice on cost-of-living relief measures, and some consideration of levy-related responses (primarily service-focused) although not encouraging any waiver of levy but rather considering using levy funds (There is strong concern that once removed, levies may not be reinstated).
 - Noted there is potential for ministerial direction under exceptional circumstances.
 - Looking to access mechanisms such as targeted relief approaches.
 - Other jurisdictions exploring risk management strategies: ie NSW local councils applying escalation rates in project planning

Waste Levy

- 1 July 2026 is final step up.
- Communications are being prepared now – focus on showing how the investment being delivered.
- No appetite to hold off the increase.

CRS

- Going well with first year anniversary in May. The next step is to do impact work on wine and spirits inclusion to advise Minister.

Plastics

- SUP going to cabinet to seek permission to start drafting plastic reduction Bill in May . Fifteen (15) priority materials in phase 1.
- Will cover SUPS, PFAS and compostable packaging

Waste Strategy

- Waste Strategy consultation expected mid-May Getting regional feedback next week.
- Notional targets expected.

Restructure

- Will look to update on the restructure and organisational review for next meeting – Holly to present how it is presented and how the EPA fits in.

ii. Regulatory and policy updates (discussion)

- *Fuel impacts*
 - Budgets all set before the fuel crisis
 - Launceston have agreed to the average over three months variation for fuel costs.
 - General consensus that priority should be red bin kerbside – keep core services going as required for public health and safety. Priority is to keep WARR organisations whole.
 - Industry estimates of impact are around \$2 per tonne at the moment.
 - Fuel is around 12% of budget for some businesses.
 - Noted that fuel impacting the Mac Point stadium – behind delivery schedule.
- *Infrastructure updates*
 - New TOMRA facility opening.
 - Hobart City Mission – Reuse Repair Rewear Project (textiles) – data gathering for repair and reuse strategy and action plan for the next 12 months
 - Launceston looking at pulling out cotton wool and textiles to Waverley Wool Mills to make blankets for social groups.

iii. Regional updates

- TasWaste South have released draft infrastructure plan to member councils - may be out shortly.
- North West:
 - Cradle Coast kerbside regional collection contract going out soon.
 - Taking end of price month by month for fuel pricing
 - Considering bulking up to cut fuel – would be valuable
 - Flammable fives education to commence
- Draft batteries lithium ion guidelines are being looked at by some regional groups for submission
 - Discussed that many schemes support the Chain legislation for stewardship

iv. Branch priorities for 2026 (standing item open for comment)

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.

This item is on hold currently and will be discussed and finessed following the outcomes of Waste Strategy.

v. Submissions/consultation

- [Asbestos Framework Review](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Public consultation on the Exposure Draft of the Guarantee of Origin Methodology Determination Amendment \(Biogas, Biomethane and Iron Ore\)](#) (closing 27 April 2026)
- [Proposed 2026 amendments to the NGER Scheme](#) (closing 8 May 2026)

Recently closed:

- [Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy \(WtE\) infrastructure in Victoria](#) (3 April 2026) * not yet on WMRR site.
- [Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling](#) (23 March 2026)
- [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 Size Learning

- Second session in development with Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence.

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. 'WARR 101' (working title for Face to Face Training)

- This is an introductory foundation course for waste and resource recovery sector addressing the different aspects of industry to get an understanding of how the system operates.
- This will pilot in Victoria on 20 May 2026 (TBS), with plans to rollout across each state throughout the year.

iv. WMRR AGM

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- Board Elected Director Voting Open – closing 1 May 2026.
- Jason Pugh WMRR VP for 2026-2028 (following AGM)

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

[Registrations](#) open.

Consolidated program will be circulated when ready and time put aside in next meeting to discuss.

vi. ENVIRO Conference – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)

- ENVIRO Awards nominations close Friday, 1 May 2026.

vii. Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference - 21 & 22 October 2026 (Brisbane TBC)

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

6. Other business

7. Next meeting date

Thursday 7 May 2026

The group agreed to move forward the meeting from the original time of 14 May 2026 to discuss the Forum.

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
3(iv) TAS Forum	WMRR to provide update of program.	WMRR National Office	Update at May meeting.
4(i) WRR Update	Provide update of WRR Restructure and organizational chart.	WRR / Holly Mackey	Update at May 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.	.