



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 7 May 2026

11.00 am – 12.00 pm AEST

via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Morag Anderson, Nick Simmons, Michael Attard, Fiona McAlpine, Allard Bernhofen, Gayle Sloan, Jeff Holmes, Justine Foster, Fiona Harding, Kylie Roberts-Frost, and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Veronica Schilling, Tegan Lovell, Paul Jackson.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of 16 April 2026 TAS Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded:* Jeff Holmes

ii. Actions arising:

- TAS Forum – national update of program to be provided at this meeting (see item 4) (*closed*)
- WRR Board Update – WRR to provide an update of the WRR Board Restructure (*remains outstanding*)

3. National advocacy (CEO)

National Environment Ministers

- Next meeting is in August 2026 wherein the ministers have agreed to look to establishing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to implement a state-based stewardship approach, similar to energy.
- The model is intended to mirror the energy sector's jurisdictional approach, as seen in South Australia's role in driving national energy market reforms as state-led approaches are likely to achieve outcomes more quickly than federal processes and help overcome federal policy inertia. Noted that this approach should avoid "out-greening" one another through differing approaches which could create unnecessary complexity and inconsistency.

Packaging Reform

- This activity is being led by the Federal Government.
- The kerbside recyclability framework is currently being revisited. Further details are expected as the review progresses.

Battery Stewardship and Regulation

- National Alignment Progressing with South Australia following the NSW battery regulatory model. Western Australia and Tasmania have also indicated they intend to adopt legislation based on the NSW framework. Tasmania may potentially be regulated through NSW arrangements due to limited state resources, with discussions ongoing. The newly appointed Victorian Minister has not yet clarified Victoria's position, though stakeholders remain hopeful of alignment. Queensland has not yet committed to a regulatory approach and is awaiting the outcome of its strategy development process.

- NSW to go to market in the near term on PSO for batteries.
- At the moment, management of batteries is heavily reliant on one scheme/recycler, that is not particularly interested in dealing with small batteries.
- “underfunded recycling schemes don’t solve it [the problem]”

Carbon and Emissions

- NGERS Review submission due this week in which WMRR will broadly support the proposed Method 2 for site specific landfill emissions measurement.
- AWT method progressing with proponent led workshops via the Australian Resource Recovery Council.

Fuel and supply chain issues

- Strong view that states will move together Notably, the NSW leading the push.
- FWC Road Transport Contractual Chain Order issued – potential cost impact on councils – WMRR has a calculation methodology which can be shared on request.

Battery Recycling Expose in Sydney Morning Herald

- B Cycle – cost of the scheme does not cover the true costs of administering the scheme. Ecocycle have the majority share of the scheme. Damaging to B Cycle and confidence in scheme (NSW about to tender for the scheme and this does not help product stewardship schemes in general).
- Stresses the importance of developing a scheme with the right checks and balances . Generator obligation is key – getting generator to be responsible for how they manage the materials at end of life –i.e.: underfunded recycling schemes will not solve the problems.

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. WRR Board Regional Workshop

- WRR Board Regional Workshop on 21 April 2026 confirmed that the strategy coming soon and new data strategy with levy waste data (not just solid waste). The circular economy pillar has been formally removed as it is integrated.
- Noted that the 3 regional waste groups have completely different governance structures.
- Rethink Waste Education – is now fully subscribed with staffing
- Waste and Innovation Resource Recovery Fund – targeted (to sector) funding and private investment. Coming soon but not yet announced for dates and funding allocation.

ii. Fuel and supply impacts

- With regard to fuel costs, most contracts have been updated to take the average across the quarter rather than the last day of the quarter to obtain the price. Urgency has died down on the fuel supply.
- Audits are impacted by tightened budgets – looking at having costs reduced from local governments because of the budget impacts of fuel and transport costs. Consultants have also been asked to reduce their fees.

iii. Update- NEMP 3.1

- Freshwater ecosystem criteria for PFOS is now in detectable ranges - 99% protection range was previously unachievable, but is now achievable

iv. Branch priorities for 2026 (On Hold – this is a standing item open for comment)

On hold until release of the Waste Strategy, which is now in public consultation phase. It was noted that the Board did listen to previous feedback.

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.

v. Submissions/consultation (for reference)

Open for consultation:

- [2026 NGERS review](#) including a revised Method 2 for landfill gas capture (8 May 2026)
- [National Guidelines on the safe management of end of life batteries](#) (15 May 2026)

Recently submitted:

- [Guarantee of Origin Scheme Amendment \(biogas, biomethane and iron ore\)](#) (27 April 2026)
- [Asbestos Framework Review](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Inquiry into solar recycling and reuse](#) (27 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into microplastics](#) (6 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into productivity in Australia](#) (20 February 2026)
- [Inquiry into the Australian tyre industry](#) (23 January 2026)

5. WMRR Events

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

The group reviewed the program noting that the program was shaping up well with some strong local case studies and an emphasis on government updates:

- government updates would be led by the Minister opening address, followed by Holly Mackey WRR Update and Paul Jackson from TasWaste South on the regional infrastructure plan.
- Organics and PFAS presentation from EnRiskS
- ACCU generation in landfill gas (Nick Simons) and emissions reduction from ReCFIT
- Update on Recycle Rewards
- Westbury hub case study
- Investment panel
- Local case studies – including Tasker materials, recycling in hospitals (Launceston) and Hobart City Mission

ii. Upcoming Online Training (half day):

- Landfill Training Module 3 – [Gas Generation and management](#) (Wednesday 13 May 2026)

iii. Foundations of Waste and Resource Recovery (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 Melbourne on 10 June 2026, with plans to rollout across each state throughout the year.

i. WMRR AGM

- 22 June 2026 (Adelaide)

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

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

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

6. Other business

- AH Beard has gone into administration – manufacturing in Tasmania may be culled as a result.

7. Next meeting date

Thursday 11 June 2026.

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
WRR Board Update	Provide update of WRR Board Restructure and organizational chart.	WRR / Holly Mackey	Update at next opportunity

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 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.	.