

VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

9.00 - 10.00 am AEST

Wednesday 13 May 2026

Zoom teleconference

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Ray Trevorah, Gayle Sloan, Hannah Young, Christine Wardle, Kathy Mac Innes, Maarten de Beurs, Samuel Lawson, Justin Cohen, Graeme Stewart, Jared Roberts, Shaun Rooks, Kelvin Davies, Peter Laslett, Stephen Reardon and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Michelle Mandl, Anthony Douglas, Gayle Seddon, Adrian Scott, Jo Garett.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of the 8 April 2026 Branch Committee meeting were circulated with the agenda, noting that the attendees had not been recorded. Following review, the attendees in the minutes were corrected to include only Christine Wardle, Gayle Seddon, Gayle Sloan, Graeme Stewart, Kelvin Davies, Kathy Mac Innes, and Maarten de Beurs.

With this change made, the minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Graeme Stewart *Seconded:* Christine Wardle

ii. Actions arising:

- No actions arising.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Federal Budget

- Budget released last night though there does not at first review seem to be any key impacts for the WARR sector.

ii. Federal WARR Issues

- RAWR Act and packaging reviews from 2025 have yet to meaningfully progress. It is unclear about packaging being driven by feds or the states.
- There is indication that product stewardship approaches are being considered, though no developments of note since April update after the March Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM)
 - Batteries regulations progressing in SA - looking to align with NSW. The next EMM is in August according to the Communique issued.
- Carbon issues have been progressing with consultations through DCCEEW including the 2026 NGERS review which included a revised Landfill Emissions Method 2 for specific site calculations.
- Paper and cardboard export restrictions will be commencing 1 July 2026.

iii. Victorian Issues

Ministerial update

- New Victorian Environment Minister Enver Erdogan has been in the role for a month today. His office has had 2 meetings with WMRR, and from Monday there will be a waste advisor in his team.

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Departmental Restructure

- The absorption of Recycling Victoria into the EPA will be in place from 1 July – however no review of structure before that. SV is being wound up by 30 June 2026.

Waste to Energy

- Waste to Energy parliamentary inquiry hearings in progress, with Sunbury hearing last week and WMRR to present to the Melbourne hearing later this month.
- Noted that EfW under pressure from CFMEU with some contractors and anecdotally refusing to work in Victoria.

Biogenic gas policy expected soon

- Victoria expected to soon release its biogenic gas policy. This follows from the recent submission on the addition of behind the meter biogas into the Victorian Energy Upgrade to which WMRR made a submission.
- Noted this will bring attention to EfW alongside organics AD.
 - The Branch discussed that AD unlikely to have any impact on kerbside as AD mainly suited for C&I organics or a biosolids digester (none in Victoria currently)
- In terms of optimising inputs into EfW stream, AD unlikely to impact kerbside inputs. It is hard to see how the TEEP test (technically and environmentally and economically practicable) test will apply to EfW facilities – especially noting plastics coming into organics collections.

4. Presentation: VRIP Annual Progress (Peter Laslett, Director, Sector Strengthening, Recycling Victoria)

This meeting was attended by Peter Laslett, along with Stephen Reardon – Manager for the Sector Infrastructure Team, to present an overview of the inaugural [VRIP Annual Progress Report](#).

The presentation slides have been replicated with permission.



Progress Report Contents



This progress report provides an update on the implementation of the VRIP in the 12 months from October 2024 and October 2025. The key content is as follows:

- **Infrastructure overview:** an overview of key developments relating to Victorian recycling infrastructure since the publication of the VRIP. This includes an assessment of progress and achievements against relevant strategic directions in the inaugural VRIP.
- **VRIP actions:** an assessment of the progress and achievements against the actions for government set out in the inaugural VRIP.
- **Indicators:** the indicators we will use to track progress against the VRIP in progress reports.
- **Issues and matters for further action:** an assessment of whether any issues have arisen in the application of the VRIP that could necessitate changes. This includes an assessment of whether any issues have arisen in relation to infrastructure.



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Infrastructure Overview – Material Streams



Organics

In the last year, organics processing facilities in Geelong and Newbridge have received approval to increase food organics garden organics (FOGO) processing capacity and a new facility was approved in Bendigo. The combined additional capacity of these facilities is over 55,000 tonne per year.

The above developments align with the VRIP ongoing direction of increased regional facilities to support regional circularity and the medium-term direction of increased sector capacity to meet projected FOGO reprocessing demand.



Plastics

The landscape for plastics recycling is continuing to evolve, creating opportunities for Victoria to lead in advanced recycling. Progress includes the following:

- Feasibility work is progressing on a large-scale soft plastics-to-pyrolysis oil facility in Geelong.
- An advanced chemical recycling facility for soft plastics is also planned for Victoria, and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has issued a development licence for a waste plastic to oil facility.
- A soft plastic processing plant focused on post-consumer recycled (PCR) soft plastics: rLLDPE / rLDPE opened in Pakenham in September 2025.
- Australian Government co-funding of \$9 million has been secured to scale a closed-loop farm plastics recycling plant targeting silage wrap. Silage wrap is an enduring recycling challenge.

The above developments align with the VRIP near term direction of new technologies to increase capability for problematic and soft plastics.



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Infrastructure Overview – Material Streams



E-waste and renewable energy technologies

There is evidence of increasing investment in infrastructure to match the increase in battery waste:

- A battery-in-device shredding (BIDS) plant and new discharge facility was established in Campbellfield. This facility provides safe handling of high-risk batteries with the capacity to shred devices to recover embedded batteries and aims to recover 95% of metals, plastic and valuable critical metals for further recycling².
- There is a proposed expansion of an e-waste recycler in Laverton North to increase capacity.

The above developments align with the VRIP near term direction of increased capability to recycle e-waste and batteries.



Aggregates, masonry and soils

Four more facilities were reported since the VRIP was published. There is also a proposed facility to process asphalt and crushed rock, primarily from roads undergoing resurfacing to create recycled construction materials.



Textiles

The Seamless clothing product stewardship scheme announced that it is supporting 7 projects to support collecting, sorting, processing and recycling of clothing and textiles. Several of these projects will operate in Victoria including to establish collection points.



Infrastructure Overview – Recovery and Transfer



Material recovery facilities

There are 2 less material recovery facilities (MRFs) in Victoria due the closure of regional facilities. As smaller facilities, this is not projected to create immediate capacity issues.



Transfer stations

The term transfer station covers a broad range of facilities. Some facilities provide a drop off service for the public. Other facilities play an important role in the aggregation of collected waste for more efficient onward transport. These facilities are expected to become increasingly important as landfills close and material is diverted to alternative destinations, as evidenced by changes to circumstances in Melbourne's south-east:



Infrastructure Overview – Residual Waste



Landfills

- Two place-based challenges identified in the VRIP remain pressing landfill capacity issues:
 - Melbourne's south-east: All but one of the landfills in this area are projected to reach capacity within the next 10 years, including Hallam Rd landfill, which is one of the 5 largest landfills in Victoria in terms of annual throughput, and is currently projected to reach capacity by 2030.
 - Barwon South-West region: The VRIP projected that Anglesea and Geelong's main landfills are on track to reach capacity by 2029. This will result in around 100,000 tonnes per annum of material needing to be diverted to alternative destinations.



Waste to energy

Since the VRIP was completed, there have been important developments in waste to energy:

- As noted above, the SEMAWP procurement process has concluded, with waste from the 9 participating councils to be sent to the Maryvale Energy from Waste facility for processing.
- The thermal waste to energy cap has been increased to 2.5 million tonnes and Recycling Victoria has issued 7 cap licences (noting projects will need to secure appropriate EPA and planning approvals).

These developments align with the VRIP medium term direction of increased use of waste to energy facilities to divert waste away from landfill.

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Infrastructure Overview – Hazardous Waste



Hazardous waste

The landfill capacity challenges set out above also impacts the options for disposing of hazardous waste.

- There remains a single point of dependency for Category B landfill disposal (Taylors Road, Dandenong South) identified in the VRIP. The VRIP also identified a place-based challenge relating to legacy contaminated mining waste in the Bendigo area.
- One Geelong landfill has stopped accepting asbestos waste. While there are alternative destinations in western Melbourne, limited asbestos drop-off and disposal points was raised as an issue in the VRIP.

These issues underline the importance of landfills for safe disposal of contaminated waste, and Recycling Victoria is establishing a cross-government residual and hazardous waste working group.

The VRIP also identified contaminated soils and solvents as materials with limited disposal options. Developments in the reporting period include the following:

- A paint recovery facility, which also recovers solvent-based paints, to reclaim and repurpose unwanted paint and paint packaging opened in Braeside.
- A proposal has been submitted for an additional soil washing facility for western Melbourne with capability to recycle category construction and demolition soil into clean fill material.

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VRIP Actions

Ref	Action	Lead Agency
1.1	Continue to provide information on infrastructure sites across Victoria	On Track
1.2	Evaluate the VRIP approach to statewide infrastructure planning to inform the next VRIP.	On Track
2.1	Work collaboratively to support innovation to manage emerging and problematic waste streams	On Track
2.2	Provide regularly updated information on problematic waste and horizon scanning for emerging waste streams	On Track
3.1	Work with the sector and across government on coordinated strategic planning for the efficient use of the residual waste system and supporting diversion from landfills	On Track
3.2	Establish cross-government working group to address priority residual and hazardous waste challenges, including legacy contaminated soils in Loddon Mallee, Cat. B landfill, asbestos disposal, monitoring the clinical waste sector	On Track
4.1	Work with industry to improve data collection and the analysis provided to the market to inform infrastructure planning and decision making	On Track
5.1	Integrate recycling and resource recovery into State Government planning strategies and frameworks such as Plan for Victoria (PfV), Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs), and the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPPs).	On Track
5.2	Develop guidance for planners and industry relating to waste, recycling, and resource recovery infrastructure.	On Track
6.1	Continue to advocate at a national level for systemic changes, such as for product stewardship and government procurement, to provide stronger market demand and operating environment for recycling infrastructure	On Track
6.2	Establish an infrastructure working group, including LGA and industry stakeholders and regional representation, to inform infrastructure planning	Complete
6.3	Provide and maintain guidance materials to support sector investment, such as investment prospectuses	Complete
6.4	Working collaboratively to support the Victorian community and businesses transition to a circular economy.	On Track



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Indicators

Infrastructure facilities

The table below provides a snapshot of the current facility numbers. For detailed facility data and infrastructure maps, please refer to the [Recycling Victoria Data Hub](#).

Table 2 – Infrastructure

Infrastructure type	Total number facilities in Victoria (VRIP 2024)	Total number of facilities in Victoria (October 2025)	Change since VRIP
Organics anaerobic digestion	8	8	0
Organics reprocessing	80	79	-1
Paper and cardboard reprocessing	5	5	0
Paper and cardboard recovery	11	9	-2
Glass reprocessing	7	8	+1
Glass beneficiation	2	2	0
Construction and demolition waste recycling	49	52	+3
Tyres reprocessing	6	6	0
Textiles recycling	4	4	0
Metals recovery and reprocessing	14	17	+3
Plastics reprocessors	52	53	+1
E-waste reprocessors	26	28	+2
MRFs	12	9	-3
Waste to energy facilities (operating) ³	1	1	0
Landfills ⁴	47	47	0

Under the CE Act, VRIP progress report may include key indicators and metrics that assess the VRIP's implementation.

This progress report includes total number of waste and resource recovery facilities in Victoria by material stream as an indicator. The number of facilities listed in the table below indicates where there have been changes to the infrastructure provision in the state since the inaugural VRIP.

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Issues arising and matters for further action



Issues

Transfer station capacity: The strategic response to the landfill capacity challenge in south-east Melbourne is the proposed waste to energy facility in Maryvale. This requires transfer station capacity over the longer term to support the aggregation and efficient transport of large volumes of material collected in Melbourne's south-east to the proposed Maryvale facility. There is a proposal that would provide the needed capacity, but should it not proceed or not be ready before Hallam Road landfill close, there would be a capacity shortfall in the area.

Regional MRF viability: Three regional MRFs closed in the reporting period. While no immediate capacity issues have been identified, the closures are not in line with the VRIP direction of increased opportunities for regional facilities, noting that regional MRFs can support opportunities for regional circularity.

Plus: existing issues of landfill capacity, single point dependencies and social license.

Further action

To reflect the issues above, Recycling Victoria has identified the following areas as initial priorities for further detailed assessment in the next VRIP:

- recovery and transfer infrastructure needs
- capacity and throughput pressures on landfills and the timing of waste to energy facilities coming online
- reprocessing and disposal of hazardous waste.

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Any questions?

recycling.victoria@deeca.vic.gov.au



Branch discussion

- The next Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan (VRIP) review is scheduled for 2029, in line with the five-year review cycle following the Silver Review. Given current challenges, there is active consideration of whether earlier intervention or targeted updates may be necessary.
 - The CE Act contains provisions allowing earlier reviews before the five-year deadline; and updates to specific sections of the VRIP where required.

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- Peter emphasised that the investment prospectus is considered a live document and is intended to evolve over time. The VRIP site includes a publicly available infrastructure database, including online map and CSV datasets.

Hallam Road Hub and Land Use Planning Challenges

- Discussion focused on the Hallam Road hub plan developed with the Metro Group. Land use planning issues were identified as a major challenge, particularly residential encroachment around waste infrastructure. However, the Veolia matter at VCAT saw residential encroachment contributed to the outcome against the facility. Questions were raised about how VRIP should respond to these types of planning conflicts as the hub model was originally intended to protect and preserve waste infrastructure capacity.
 - The SEMAWAP process for Maryvale occurred approximately four years ago – leaving councils out of contract next year with no EfW/residual solution.
 - Recycling Victoria (RV) is continuing to work with Maryvale, but there is recognition of the need for a more systemic and collaborative approach with the land use planning framework.
 - Although VRIP states that waste infrastructure should be protected from encroachment, this concept has not been effectively embedded within the broader land use planning framework.
 - It was noted that retrospective buffer overlays could not be applied at Hallam Road
- State Significant Industrial Precincts (SSIPs) were discussed in this context. Noted that there is ongoing engagement with DTP is occurring with RV regarding the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) for sites such as the Ravenhall landfill.
- A VRIP action item was identified to further examine land use planning guidance.

SWRRP and VRIP

- The former Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRP) did not effectively utilise the land use planning system.
 - While SWRRP informed investment decisions and promoted a “hub and spokes” infrastructure model, this approach has not been fully captured within VRIP.
 - SWRRP was seen as resembling a strategic plan, but lacked the legislative tools and enforcement mechanisms necessary for implementation.
 - It was considered a useful future directions document, though ultimately non-binding.
- There was acknowledgement that the available data in the VRIP is strong, but that implementation mechanisms remain weak.

EPA Coordination

- Concerns were raised regarding the level of influence over EPA and planning processes. There should be an opportunity for RV to work more effectively with EPA to ensure facilities are appropriately protected and industry can invest with confidence in Victoria.
- Batteries and local collection points for other streams were identified as emerging issues for EPA that had not been directly addressed through VRIP. Soft plastics were mentioned as another example of infrastructure and logistics challenges outside the current VRIP scope.
- Waste densification during transport was discussed, including whether it should trigger licensing requirements.
 - It was noted that DEECA is examining aggregation and material flows, though not explicitly waste densification.
 - A potential tax incentive for transport operators facilitating densification and aggregation was suggested.

Levy Settings and Waste-to-Energy (WtE)

- Angela Hofnagel was identified as the key contact regarding the waste levy.

- The levy was recognised as a major behavioural and investment driver influencing VRIP outcomes. Jared proposed establishing a working group focused on the Waste-to-Energy pathway involving Treasury, DEECA and EPA to improve the sector's ability to influence consistent policy settings.

Key concern from the branch - the sector's ability to invest with confidence in Victoria given planning and regulatory uncertainty.

- It was discussed what "good" implementation would look like under SWRRP and VRIP metrics, including how to measure progress and "close the gap".
- EfW inquiry outcomes may hinder progress.
- SWRRP aimed to avoid facilities being forced to truck material out of the west but VRIP does not address this.
- Election issue for this year for WMRR will be the SE residual.
 - Noted that kerbside service standards also affecting councils – both are cost of living issues.

5. Regulatory and policy issues

The following issues were noted:

- EPA illegal dumping crackdown on [rogue skip bin](#) operators.
- [RMF](#) applications close 1 July 2026.

i. Submissions/consultation

- HEPA consultation on [National guideline on safe management of lithium ion batteries guideline](#) (15 May 2026)
 - Branch encouraged to email WMRR with any considerations for this submission.
- DCCEEW consultation on policy [settings for new or updated rules and regulations](#) that support a smooth transition to the new National EPA
- [Carbon Credits and Other Legislation Amendment \(Integrity and Transparency\) Bill](#) Consultation (22 May 2026)

Recently closed

- [2026 NGER Scheme Updates](#) (8 May 2026)
- [Victorian Energy Upgrades - Industrial heat decarbonisation](#) (28 April 2026)
- [Guarantee of Origin Scheme Amendment \(biogas, biomethane and iron ore\)](#) (27 April 2026)
- [Asbestos Framework Review](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy \(WtE\) infrastructure in Victoria](#) (3 April 2026)
- [Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling](#) (27 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into microplastics](#) (6 March 2026)

6. Working group updates

i. Landfill - Kathy Mac Innes

- BPEM compliance code due to be released for consultation soon.
- Fuel price hikes are impacting the sector and access to geomembrane materials.
- VCAT Hallam Road refusal was also discussed in the previous Working Group meeting.

ii. EfW – (Anthony Douglas)

- The working group will meet this month.

- EfW matters have been discussed in Item 3 and 4.

iii. **RRMD – Maarten de Beurs**

- Lisa McLeod stepping down as Vice Chair. Ben Quill and Lisa Birch have joined the committee.
- This month's meeting will be a planning session for the group to identify priorities for the next 12 months.

iv. **Waste Educators – (Gayle Seddon) Hannah Young**

- Circularity of textiles is the working group theme.
- The April meeting included a presentation from Katrina Naish from A Fitting Connection – who work with communities to repurpose textile materials.
- The May meeting will include a presentation from Textile Recyclers Australia, and a site tour of the facility is in planning for coming months.

v. **YPs – Ray Trevorah**

- Call for committee members needed as the group has not been active this year.
- The group will be included in the Waste Educators meeting for May.
- Justin suggested a tour of Terra Firma focused on material compliance testing could be an opportunity for YPs (and also noted it would be helpful also for the Landfill working group). This will be followed up offline.

7. Events

i. **Landfill online training:**

- Module 3: Landfill Gas Generation & Management - Wednesday 13 May 2026

ii. **Industry Training – Waste and Resource Recovery Foundations** Wednesday 10 June 2026 (Melbourne)

- Participants encouraged to share with your networks.
- Noted that as this is the pilot training event, an attendee cap will apply.

iii. **WMRR AGM** - Monday 22 June 2026 (Adelaide Convention Centre)

- Registrations will open on Friday 15 May 2026.
- Held ahead of the [ENVIRO Conference](#)

iv. **Save the dates:**

- **VIC Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast** (September 2026 TBC)
- **VIC End of Year Drinks** (Thursday 3 December 2026)

v. **Conferences for 2026**

- [ENVIRO Conference](#) – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 21 & 22 October 2026 (Brisbane)

8. Other business

Meeting closed 10.18 am.

9. Next meeting date

Wednesday 17 June 2026.

Annexure A: WMRR Branch Priorities as discussed October 2025

Issue	Progress / Comments
Regulatory Challenges within and across departments	<i>(e.g.: EfW cap licence v DAs, Regulatory documents as guidance v compliance documents, Community v Technical (when assessing proposals)</i> Group comments: • Parliamentary Inquiry into EfW is a prime opportunity for advocacy on these challenges • Challenges with guidance approach of regulators may lend itself to ‘train the trainer’ workshops facilitated by WMRR (once stabilised workforces within DEECA.) ○ Noted that there has been positive experience from the Branch dealing with the science division who have expressed desire to acquire knowledge from industry ○ There is an opportunity for education and positioning managing waste as an essential service for Victorians that warrants a consistent approach to regulation and compliance – and not held to ambiguous, uncertain and unforeseeable standards. ○ Aware that some regulatory staff are visiting sites and there is opportunity for industry to increase such opportunities for regulators to gain an understanding of industry. ○ It was noted that RV have demonstrated a good understanding of the WARR industry and its challenges. ○ The groups are keen to reiterate positioning WARR as a good neighbour and essential service - not an adversary (i.e. landfills are a top 5 area of concern...)
Position on the rollout of the Service standards and the glass bin	• WMRR has been active in support for national alignment on the expansion of CDS scheme to support wine and spirit bottle collections. WMRR understands 33 councils oppose the rollout. - councils are planning their budgets based on the financial impacts and they are taking this advocacy lead.
Action on Batteries	• WMRR nationally has pushed for alignment with NSW Framework. • VIC Waste educators have focused on achieving behaviour change for managing batteries and other hazardous item. • <i>Notes:</i> ○ <i>Mornington will look to present kerbside figures on batteries in bins.</i> ○ <i>WMRR to share recent Queensland data.</i> ○ <i>WMRR to follow up on the presentation from DEECA on the next steps for the batteries regulations.</i>
Technical specification requirements handicapping procurement of recycled materials	• WMRR nationally working on agreed frameworks for IBAA and APCr and encouraging federal and state agencies equivalent to Ecologi. • WMRR has been active in advocating for recycled content thresholds at national and state level. • VIC RRMD group has been looking at successful models affecting increased procurement of recyclable materials.

Issue	Progress / Comments
Definitions of Waste	Feedback provided by WMRR to the EPA in September on guidance material – awaiting response.
Waste Levy	The group also added that Levy hypothecation should be addressed. WMRR position is that at least 50% should be coming back to industry. For Victoria, it was agreed that the levy needs to continue to rise and go back to industry