

WA BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

10.30am - 12.00pm (WST)

Thursday 12 March 2026

via zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Emma Baker, Giles Perryman, Libby Eustance, Jason Pugh, Gayle Sloan, Janelle Osenten, Paul Molony, Julie Baughan, Conor Macgill and Lisa Lepore

Apologies: Emily Tomsett, Kelly Levisohn, Chris Stannard, Katelin Opferkuch, Tim Cusack, Jill Lethlean, Donovan Farrell and Teresa Belcher.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous minutes

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

Moved: Libby Eustance *Seconded:* Gayle Sloan

ii. Actions arising from previous meeting (20 November 2025)

a. [Waste Authority Annual report 24/25](#)

This item was held over for further discussion from last meeting. The branch made the following comments:

- Data is being updated and shared in a timely manner
- Per capita graph was 2.5 tonnes p.a. The increase in C&D per capita reflects the 24-25 completion of new homes in WA (which went up 25.1%). The group noted that:
 - WA has always been a construction state – the negative connotations of ‘levy without enforcement’ vs ‘waste levy with enforcement’ (mandatory reporting) is reflected in the reported increase.
 - Waste tracking and leaking into regional areas when tracked will provide an opportunity for similar increases to be shown.
 - These results are evidence of the objectives / priorities of the working group having not been met - legislation on recovered materials is not driving investment.
- It is a good report particularly around the behaviours and the yields. The Branch is hopeful that this data is used in the new strategy. For example:
 - Evidence of a drop off in compliance despite having WasteSorted?
 - P26 and 27 on what people are doing at kerb with loose materials placed in recycling bin and the impact of people bagging materials to take to their Containers for Change. It was noted that this issue is being worked on by DWER with a campaign being launched imminently to assist in normalising the different ways to put your recyclables in the bin and the best way to handle the materials.
 - The data also shows that there are very targeted behaviours that are working. For example, when people are told how bagging of recyclables impacts the process – people change behaviour when told and it is reflected in the data.

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- Discussed the QLD truck audits which showed 96% of loads have batteries.
- The Branch also discussed whether the collected data was bin tagging data or verbal reported behaviour. Bin tagging data shows how out of whack the verba data is. It was discussed that the verbal feedback is analysed by behavioural economists at DWER.
- The Branch confirmed that the report backs our calls for improved systems thinking – WA has great data but it doesn't seem to be used effectively to drive change in the system.

b. RMF funding analysis - 2020-2025

WMRR to look at RMF analysis of where the money went. (Project Officer Matilda undertook analysis on this in 2025)

This has been noted but is currently outstanding and to be explored in a future meeting.

c. WALGA meeting on FOGO

In the previous meeting, it was discussed whether WMRR could share Queensland data showing PFAS is in both garden organics and FOGO. Subject to approval from DETSI. This matter has been taken offline for follow up.

Whilst the specific data is not yet approved for sharing, the following key points were discussed:

- PFAS is in the water, in soil and everywhere.
- AORA Fact sheet about [PFAS in Compost Products](#)
- Community is not having the discussions to realise that chemicals are everywhere. People forget about the BAU impacts of what happens generally in the community.
- KVI is looking at destructing PFAS in EfW facilities.
- PFAS factsheets produced for WMRR by EnRiskS were appended to [WMRR's EfW submissions to NSW](#) and Victorian parliamentary inquiries - these talk about exposure pathways.
- Crucial to understand that FOGO does not make PFAS worse – PFAS pathways result from compostable packaging. It was noted that there will be WA 'Wait a While' factsheet to come.
- [What's the GO with FOGO?](#) NSW data shows PFAS levels tested in NSW organics by the NSW EPA.
 - Data [dataset-whats-the-go-with-fogo.xlsx](#) (See group 14)– important to look at background levels – ie SA data only reported above 0.05
 - Noted that the Mixed Waste Output Order (MWO) in NSW for land application was creating a product for mine site / landfill rehabilitation, so PFAS was not tested then. Previous main concern for AWT outputs was bromides.
- Noted that the beneficial reuse framework does not yet exist in WA.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. PFAS in organics

- This issue is still ongoing as a national issue and is a particular priority in Queensland – DETSI is concerned 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 PFAS contaminant thresholds, expected after completion of current microplastics work.
- Noted that AS 4454 work did not address PFAS levels.
- WA has not raised the need for a national approach in the HEPA meetings, but WMRR is working with HEPA to get this on the agenda.

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

- Will include discussions on batteries and solar stewardship
- Batteries – Not sure if WA is going down the regulatory path. WMRR is encouraging alignment with other states.
 - Whilst NSW has moved with legislation and regulations and is developing a scheme coordinator, there is still no clear outcome or progress on battery stewardship nationally despite it being identified as a priority. NSW regulations should be operational by 1 October 2026.
 - SA indicating they will move on this after the election.
 - QLD unlikely to move in the short term.
 - VIC not until 2027.
 - Tasmania is looking to work with NSW and has meetings planned in upcoming weeks to progress this matter.
- 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 (approx. \$20M allocated). NSW has indicated it will go alone if no national action.

iii. Packaging

- Limited progress on packaging regulation over the past four years, despite being a national priority for EMMs.
- APCO withdrawn proposal for fees to members with no indication 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, cheap imported recycled pellets.
- Design for recyclability consultation closed February 2025, but it now being revisited for targeted consultation in coming months.
- State frustrations expressed at the Senior Officers Meeting last week (ahead of the EMM), because packaging was not on the agenda.
- WMRR will meet with Secretary Mike Kaiser to push for national packaging regulation or allow states to move ahead independently.

iv. DCCEEW WARR Priorities

- WMRR Meeting with DCCEEW Secretary Mike Keiser this week will focus on the ongoing lack of certainty across several priority areas:
- Waste and recycling sector fires, critical minerals and packaging regulation. EMMs have not strongly focused on the recycling sector's immediate priorities.

4. WA Issues

- **Regulatory and policy updates**
 - *Waste Strategy update*
- No updates following the strategy consultation in December 2025 – but hoping for release this financial year.
- WMRR submission [Beyond WASTE 2030 - Waste Strategy Review](#) (16 December 2025)
 - *Consistent Communications Collective (CCC)*

- The recent meeting focused on going through the changes to the inputs list and timeline for rollout, with a view to have changes completed by mid-year, followed by a rollout for local governments to support to replace outdated information.
- Behavioural focus shifting to “Not Bagged” messaging, as bagged recycling behaviour has increased (as discussed in item 2 (ii) in relation to the Waste Data).
- Two-phased approach – updating the collateral and then looking to do a FOGO relaunch.
- RecycleRight is now part of Waste Sorted and will be updated as well, noting that WALGA are getting feedback from councils who are being directed to old RecycleRight information which contains conflicting messaging at the moment. Priority to get these aligned as soon as possible.
 - *WMRR meeting with Parliamentary Secretary, Kim Giddens*
- WMRR Branch President and CEO have recognised Ms Giddens as a potential ally in government who will look at facts. She was open to understanding the complexity of the WARR system, inclusive of behavioral issues.
- Went through issues raised in letter to Minister Swinbourn – focusing on the levy being too low, investment in essential infrastructure lacking, issues with waste leakage, lack of end markets and legislation.
- Indicated support for Technical Working group on recovered materials – WMRR stressed that government must close out the legislation as discussions have been going since 2017.
- Also discussed national perspectives around PFAS, batteries etc.
- Confirmed that the priorities of the Minister are Waste Strategy and Made in WA. (The Branch needs to consider how we can leverage off Made in WA). Noted that the next FOGO Reference Group has been cancelled as waiting for the Waste Strategy to be further down the line.
- Government focus is obviously on cost of living. She was particularly receptive to levy and data capture and reporting.
- Noted that ~3 councils in Perth metro area don’t have an EfW waste supply agreement – so a jump in levy shouldn’t hurt them at all.
- The EfW facilities got up and running with low levies – nuanced conversation about why we need to increase levies. The cost of these assets basically doubled in the covid years – needs to be demystified what these things cost.
- Kim Giddens have been confirmed for Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast .
 - *Waste Authority looking for nominations for 2 new Board members (closing 23 March 2026)*
 - *CDS pricing will remain unchanged until 1 February 2027.*
- The Scheme Expansion is set to commence on Wednesday 1 July 2026
- A stakeholder webinar on Wednesday 18 March 2026 to outline new eligible containers and regulatory updates.
 - [DWER’s Strategic Intent: Beyond 2050](#)
- Released 25 February 2026.
- The document emphasises evidence-based regulation, partnership-driven action, and world class science to guide sustainable outcomes.

- **Funding**
- \$2.7 million in funding to support Southwest local governments in maintaining Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services with \$95 flat rebate per tonne.
- **Submissions/consultations (WA and national)**
- [Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy \(WtE\) infrastructure in Victoria.](#) (closing 3 April 2026)
- [Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling](#) (23 March 2026)

Recently closed:

- [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. Working group updates

- i. **Landfill – Chris Stannard**
First meeting of the year coming soon.
- ii. **EfW – Jason Pugh**
Kwinana operating. East Rockingham expected to be completed this year.
- iii. **Circular Economy – No Chair**
The group met in March and a poll will be circulated for preferred meeting times in coming weeks as well as a call for a member/s to help steer the group, which is currently without a Chair.
- iv. **Waste Educators – (Emily Tomsett)**
Meeting coming up on April 30 focused on FOGO, Compost in May and PFAS.

6. Events and Training

- i. **Bite Size Learning**
 - These sessions provide a quick online skills update.
 - [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 Centre of Excellence.
 - Happy to take onboard any suggestions for future topics.
- ii. **Landfill training**
Opening for registration soon.
 - Wednesday, 15 April 2026 - Module 1: Intro the Landfill Waste Disposal
 - Wednesday, 29 April 2026 - Module 2: Landfill Leachate Generation & Management
 - Wednesday, 13 May 2026 – Module 3: Landfill Gas Generation & Management
- iii. **‘WARR 101’ (working title for Face to Face Training)** – Date and venue TBC
Daylong course commissioned – foundations of waste type course. The first pilot will be held in May in Victoria and then be rolled out around the country.

iv. **WMRR AGM**

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

v. **[WA Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast](#)** (Perth, 1 May 2026 TBC)

The speakers are:

- [Hon Cheryl Edwardes AO](#) - Honorary Special Counsel, Board Member, and former Minister for the Environment
- [Kim Giddens MLA](#) – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment; Community Services; Homelessness

Resource Hub are sponsoring two people to attend again this year- apply [here](#) .

vi. **WA Waste & Resource Recovery Conference (Perth, 9 & 10 September 2026)**

- Applications now open for the Program Committee – looking for 1-2 volunteers.
- Time commitment is 2-3 x 1-hour meetings and an allocation of abstracts to review.
- There may also be an opportunity to chair a session - interested member to send applications to events@wmrr.asn.au

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

- Abstracts close 20 March.
- YP Scholarships close 27 March.
- ENVIRO Awards opening soon.

viii. **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 14 & 15 October 2026 (QLD TBC)

7. Other business

i. **Branch priorities (standing item)**

- Provided at [Annexure A](#), are provided for review and comment.
- These will be reviewed further following the release of the Waste Strategy.

ii. **Closing of Strait of Hormuz**

- Raised in the context of the impact on fuel and fuel prices.
- For textiles, this is resulting in stockpiling issues for materials that are usually shipped.
- Noted that WA and Far North Queensland may be most impacted. Access to shipping is very difficult anywhere in Australia. Turnaround on shipping containers is being pushed to 2-3 month delay. The longer it drags out, the contingencies get smaller for operational stockpiling etc.
- WMRR will reach out Federal Government regarding transportation to include waste for fuel access.

8. Next meeting date

Thursday 9 April 2026

Actions arising:

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Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
2 (ii) RMF funding analysis - 2020-2025	WMRR to look at RMF analysis of where the money went. (Project Officer Matilda undertook analysis on this in 2025)	WMRR National Office	This has been noted but is currently outstanding and to be explored in a future meeting.
5 (iii) Circular Economy Working Group	A poll will be circulated for preferred meeting times and a call for a member/s to help steer the group, which is currently without a Chair	WMRR National Office	To be progressed in April.
7(ii) Fuel Impacts of Middle East War	WMRR to liaise with Federal Government regarding fuel access for waste sector.	WMRR CEO	

Branch Priorities (Working Document) – Last updated February 2026

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
1	Advocate for a comprehensive review of waste levy to ensure it is utilised as the economic lever to place a price on material and divert it from landfill to return to the productive economy and create green jobs. A levy must reflect the real opportunity cost of building and operating infrastructure to resource recover, as well as mitigate carbon, in a more resource effective net zero economy. As part of the review industry requires greater certainty and transparent hypothecation of at least 50% to industry, to ensure a viable WARR sector in WA.	The levy increased by \$15 in 2024-25 (the first increase since 2018) and now moves with CPI, hitting \$88 in 2025-26. WMRR continues to advocate for a greater increase.	- Targets and waste strategy not moving – needs higher levy, move waste out of landfill, create infrastructure to process. - There is a need for an increase in landfill levy and improved regulation and enforcement of it including incorporating portability and addressing zones; - Opportunity for revenue - although there is a lot of pressure for no levy. - Ideal is to give us (industry) more back and raise less government revenue – WMRR will put at least 50% back to industry. - Extending the regulated area should be encouraged.	PRIORITY REMAINS Infrastructure investment, clarification levy zones and levy hypothecation will be the key to driving industry success in achieving targets.
2	Regulation to create markets for circular products. <i>(This was updated in the March 2025 branch meeting with a view to merge</i>	Advocate for the progression and finalisation of a consistent and certain resource recovery framework to ensure policy and regulatory pathways enable the	The development of sustainable end markets for products and materials made from recycled materials needs to be prioritised; particularly	PRIORITY REMAINS AND SHOULD BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE WORD “ACCELERATE” Suggested priority rewording: “Accelerate regulation to create markets for circular products”

Western Australia Initiatives	Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
<i>regulation and procurement thresholds driving circular markets into one goal or look to legislate for a framework)</i>	circulation of secondary raw materials. ○ DWER shared a draft recovered materials framework with WMRR in late July 2023 who have advised they wish to work with industry to finalise and implement. This will be a voluntary framework. Advocate for the procurement of secondary raw materials content at all levels of government and market development. Activate discussions with DWER and encouraged connection with EcologiQ. ○ Install recycled content targets. <i>(This could be assigned to the CE Working Group)</i> ○ Noted that we need a risk-based framework (i.e. IBAA) rather than prescriptive standards like <i>Roads to Rehab</i> • Risk of recycled material being taken on by the	recovered materials and end markets for FOGO. ▪ Controlling contamination front end needs to be prioritised. The branch discussed burdening organic streams with packaging waste, noting it will limit markets for FOGO derived products. ▪ Move away from wish-cycling and understand impact of policies throughout the entire system – i.e.: SUP bans impact on FOGO inputs. • Clarity is needed regarding whether the Resource Recovery Framework will be voluntary or mandatory. • Strong and informed, evidence-led policy development is needed, including real EPR (not simply collection schemes and bans); ▪ BAU approach to achieving goals is not working. ▪ Minister's office does not seem keen to take responsibility for	Regulation to create markets for circular products needs to be accelerated. Absence of clear standards and specifications is undermining quality. • Development of the RRF is crucial and needs to be a mandatory (not voluntary) framework. ○ Currently, WA not looking at bulk (general) orders and exemptions, with these mostly applied to road and infrastructure building projects. ○ There is a missed opportunity for organics. ○ Developing markets is crucial ○ Looking for beneficial reuse that is safe and widely accepted to get the level of recovery needed to meet targets. • Shifting focus to developing markets for circular products (rather than trying to find uses for end products) is integral.

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
		government needs to be considered - i.e. can they be warranted to last 50-80 years?	compostables contaminating the FOGO stream (i.e.: they did not explicitly tell people to put them in the compostable bin) ▪ Opportunities to leverage advocacy through the Consistent Communications Collective and FOGO Reference Group Meetings with WALGA and DWER. • Mandatory sustainable circular procurement at all levels of government is needed. • WMRR understands that DWER may be supportive of a national approach to consistency for PFAS in organics. WA was hoping to push for national consistency on testing at HEPA (but did not yet progress) – Minster is still being onboarded so may stall progress .	
3	Strategic investment on WARR infrastructure by government, focusing on priority materials;	Systems approach – all aspects matter to get a quality product Needed in the WA market, particularly around FOGO processing. What can we be doing	• Need for LGs to tender for long-term contracts to warrant investment. No one will tender to build and invest for a short-term contract. Creating additional	PRIORITY REMAINS BUT MAY NEED REVISION POST STRATEGY RELEASE Priority materials may not be in the revised strategy, and this priority should clearly articulate that infrastructure investment

Western Australia Initiatives	Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
	to advocate for this – using the data to show why we’re not hitting the targets? Noting the contamination management for FOGO particularly an issue – quality is the make or break with FOGO. ○ Eg: Current issue that 7% FOGO contamination - half of which is packaging. Noted that WA Government has brought the FOGO reference group back Importance of linking data over weighbridge by stream before taking next steps: ○ What does best Practice look like – what examples do you have in Australia – do we want to? ○ May be worth considering WMRR’s submission on infrastructure plan – link waste flows etc may assist in shaping this priority.	capacity requires long contract terms. • Grants can sometimes distort the market rather than accelerate the market by preferencing specific facilities/operators with large. There is not enough due diligence done on viability and end markets) – the state’s Infrastructure Strategy should address this. • Waste tracking and investment in the supporting infrastructure is needed (including IT and weighbridges). • Approval processes are lengthy – health check on development applications/approvals. • Greater emphasis on priority inputs – especially for FOGO (letter issued to Minister Swinbourn in June 2025)	extends to weighbridges which are needed to manage and track material flows, This priority is closely tied to Priority #1 which calls for clarified levy hypothecation. Organics are still top of with FOGO, along with: • Batteries and solar panels • Emerging contaminants • Tracking C&I <i>*Noted that in other states, the Retailers Association is looking at standardizing collection at supermarkets to get standardised communications in bin rooms etc. to promote clean streams.</i>

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
		○ Consider <i>Circular Cities</i> waste flow analysis (Emily Tomsett can connect) ○ Waste infrastructure plan – data should be shared as an appendix to any government correspondence		

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