



WA BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

11.30 am - 1.00 pm (WST)

Thursday 14 May 2026

via zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Janelle Osenton, Conor Macgill, Paul Molony, Julie Brockman, Emma Baker, Emily Tomsett, Kelly Levisohn, Gayle Sloan, Giles Perryman, Teresa Belcher, Jason Pugh, Scott Reynolds and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Amy Lennox, Tim Cusack, Donovan Farrell, Megan Surawski.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous minutes

The Minutes of 9 April 2026 WA Branch Committee meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record

Moved: Jason Pugh *Seconded:* Giles Perryman

ii. Actions arising from previous meeting

RMF funding analysis

The branch has highlighted in previous meetings that of the \$46.4M awarded in WA through RMF, only \$6M has been delivered.

Jason Pugh has since reviewed the percentage increase in the waste levy compared with CPI between 2019–2029, using conservative assumptions and found that WA Waste levy increase has been 30.3% compared with a CPI increase: 38%. The Perth Construction Index increase is 59.5%.

- The two EFW facilities were discussed as examples of escalating infrastructure costs - these assets initially expected to cost approximately \$500 million may ultimately cost around \$1 billion once delivered. Concerns were raised regarding the risk that these facilities could become underutilised or mothballed.
- Janelle highlighted that smaller grants can still play a significant role in supporting market development, even if they are insufficient to fund the construction of major facilities. Thus, grant funding should be viewed as a kickstart and catalyst, with proponents expected to forecast and plan for long-term viability.
 - Landfill fees alone do not provide sufficient support for project return on investment (ROI). It was noted that market development benefits should also be considered when assessing these investments. For example, Threadup is relocating to Brisbane after completing operations in the Canning Vale precinct and receiving funding from Queensland government, demonstrating how businesses may choose to locate in jurisdictions with higher levies where market opportunities, funding, and feedstock access are stronger.
 - Members discussed the opportunity to better align projects with *Building Local Business* and *Remade in Australia* initiatives with investment attraction and procurement support programs.

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- The WA Government's [Circular Reuse Economy](#) announcement of 29 April 2026 was noted as stating that estimated benefits included \$250 million in savings and 1,300 local jobs, including the stat that *Reuse generates 62 times more jobs than recycling*.
- A recent [DWER regional RMF funding](#) was discussed. Teresa (DWER) advised that grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$1 million are available for projects involving tyres, paper and plastic.
- It was noted that the DCCEEW [online database](#) of funded and delivered projects is not always up to date, making it difficult to accurately track completed outcomes.

Action: WMRR to issue letter to Minister following up the investment in WA from RMF and highlighting concerns with the structure and tracking of the RMF program.

Circular Economy Group

Following the last meeting, WMRR National Office circulated a poll to seek volunteers for a committee to steer the group and suggest best times and potential presentations.

Whilst the agreed meeting times have been determined along with some topic ideas, but the group is currently without a Chair or Committee.

Action: WMRR to liaise further with participants to determine a Chair for the group and commence meetings.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

Batteries Regulation

Discussion with Kim Giddens after Women of Waste breakfast indicated that priority of batteries regulation will come out in the Waste Strategy. NSW is progressing the procurement process for their PSO, SA has a new Minister who is keen to get batteries moving. NSW is happy to give resources to other states to implement regulation and has been working with Tasmania.

Solar PV stewardship

Solar RIS – Intergovernmental Agreement being developed – similar to energy market model. State would take the lead and others would adopt. NSW is leading the work on this ahead of the next Environment Ministers Meeting in August.

Packaging reform

DCCEEW –have indicated that packaging reform and RaWR Act to be progressed later this year.

Waste Exports

Paper and Cardboard Waste Export restrictions from 1 July – notable for WA who have a large reliance on export markets – need to maximise circularity and recovery.

WMRR Report

WMRR is releasing its State of the Nation Report into Waste and Resource Recovery this year, looking to launch at the WMRR AGM on 22 June 2026

Carbon

NGERS review consultation just closed in which WMRR made a submission supporting the proposed revision for Landfill Emissions calculation Method 2 (site specific) and the revision of the captured emissions limits (CEL) under Method 1 (generic method)

Plastics

Peter Whish Wilson tabled a Bill on 13 May to get product stewardship on agenda. Consultation closing on 15 June. Minister for Industry, Tim Ayers, is hosting a meeting next week with Murray Watts looking at supply chain in plastics, to which WMRR has been invited. This comes as RPM has closed this week (a VIC 'Recycled First' and RMF recipient.

Currently there is no secure market to supply. Similarly, there are CDS stockpiles of PET that can't be moved because its still cheaper to import than remanufacture in Australia.

4. WA Issues

i. **Feedback from the WA Women of WARR Breakfast**

President emphasised it was a good event with strong standard of speakers . Attendees enjoyed the event format and the venue was well received.

ii. **Regulatory and policy updates including:**

State Budget released

In discussion, the group noted that \$97B forecast from levy which went down to \$90B – this was positioned as a win for diversion and for the landfill levy

- Cross reference waste authority data – Perth and Peel - 1.69M tonnes landfilled which should get to \$140M revenue alone Noted that exemptions for daily cover (8%), and there may be disaster and emergency– exemptions: i.e.:
 - a. Waste accepted at no charge which is, or will be, used as landfill cover in compliance with licence conditions
 - Waste reasonably removed from an orphan site by a public authority to mitigate risk to human health or the environment
 - Hazardous waste reasonably removed by a public authority
 - Waste resulting from natural disaster that cannot be reused, reprocessed, recycled or used in energy recover
 - Waste deposited on the shoreline by the action of water and removed by a public Authority
 - Asbestos containing material transported and buried in compliance with regulatory and licence conditions
- The group discussed it if it worth asking for a reconciliation? Noted that QLD had lots levy waived with infrastructure projects.
- Noted that the size of levy nationally \$2B so not a lot going to levy coming from WA

Strategy Update

Waste Authority have given final draft strategy approved and should be released in mid 2026 around budget release.

FOGO

Recent Media - [FOGO contamination](#) on sportsfields – noted that these stories raising concerns around recovered products are not helpful for the entire industry.

iii. **Submissions/consultation**

- HEPA consultation on [National guideline on safe management of lithium ion batteries guideline](#) (15 May 2026)
- 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 (for noting):

- [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)
- [Inquiry into productivity in Australia](#) (27 March)
- [Inquiry into the current state of the Australian tyre industry](#) (23 January 2026)

5. Working group updates

i. Landfill – Requires Committee

Noted that Chris Stannard has moved to WSP – will follow up once his membership is transferred as to whether he can continue to steer the Working Group.

ii. EfW – Jason Pugh (and Scott Reynolds)

East Rockingham

First fire on diesel in May – looking to be operational by the end of the year.

Kwinana

Operating BAU however:

- Still working through waste quality and continuing to educate the supply chain
- Working through licencing – operational licence expected to be a slow process.
- DWER licensing - Kwinana notes liaison with 25-40 estimated DWER representatives in last 12 months so communication is challenging. This lack of a consistent approach highlights the need for coordinated efforts across complicated assets and a pathway to escalate issues more quickly and have better communications with the regular.
- First mover alignment issues are coming through – what is expected? How to manage expectations downstream to stakeholders if delays with government. Also cognisant that EfW is a premium service being charged to people.
- Operating licence expected in 12 months – this is causing an issue regarding the release of data as nothing is on the public record to show contaminant management/outputs. This has been used detrimentally in the EfW inquiries in WA and NSW as it appears the data is being deliberately kept out of the public eye.

NSW

- The [evidence of the NSW chief Scientist](#) at the *parliamentary inquiry* was particularly helpful, supporting EfW over landfill. There was also commentary from the NSW EPA at the Coffs Waste Conference that EfW is a better technology to regulate than landfill
- [NSW Technical Note](#) finally set BREF emissions levels: .
- Ambient NOx are too high already for industrial area in NSW– NSW often set lower than ambient levels.

PFAS

- EnRiskS Webinar on PFAS in EfW held recently- recordings available soon.

iii. Circular Economy – Committee leadership to be confirmed.

iv. Waste Educators – Emily Tomsett

- Therese Manning and Donovan from Brunnings presented at the April meeting on PFAS and organics.
- The size of the red bin keeps coming up amongst discussions
 - Rockingham want weekly red bin collected even with FOGO – which proposed to change to 140L bin fortnightly in line with best practice. Freemantle are introducing \$1.50 per bin charge and has got media coverage about it.
 - Noted that in NSW, Penrith residents with FOGO can opt to pay for weekly collection, with fortnightly the default.
- Increase in e-waste also a significant issue – massive increases in e-waste tonnages. Consumption needs to be addressed at first instance.

6. Events and Training

- i. [Industry Training – Waste and Resource Recovery Foundations](#) Wednesday 10 June 2026 (Melbourne)
Please share with your networks.
Looking at potential rollout the day before the W&RR Conference in September.

- ii. **Upcoming WMRR webinar – EU PPWR** (Tuesday 2 June 2026)

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

- Registrations will open on Friday 15 May 2026.

- iv. **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. Applications to events@wmrr.asn.au

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

- v. **Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference** - 21 -23 October 2026 (Brisbane – details 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.

8. Next meeting date

Thursday 11 June 2026

Branch Priorities (Working Document) – April 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	Accelerate Regulation to create markets for circular products. <i>(This was updated in the March 2025 branch meeting with a view to merge regulation and procurement thresholds driving circular markets into one goal or look to legislate for a framework)</i>	Advocate for the progression and finalisation of a consistent and certain resource recovery framework to ensure policy and regulatory pathways enable the circulation of secondary raw materials. DWER shared a draft recovered materials framework with WMRR in	- The development of sustainable end markets for products and materials made from recycled materials needs to be prioritised; particularly recovered materials and end markets for FOGO. - Controlling contamination front end needs to be prioritised. The branch discussed burdening organic streams with packaging waste,	PRIORITY REMAINS AND SHOULD BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE WORD “ACCELERATE” Suggested priority rewording: “Accelerate regulation to create markets for circular products” 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.

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
		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 government needs to be considered - i.e. can they be warranted to last 50-80 years?	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 on 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 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.	○ 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
			- 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) – Minister is still being onboarded so may stall progress.	
3	Accelerate 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 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	- 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 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)	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 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
		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. ○ 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.		

