

WA BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

11.30 am - 1.00 pm (WST)

Thursday 9 April 2026

via zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

- i. Attendees: Libby Eustance, Jason Pugh, Kelly Levisohn, Emma Baker, Emily Tomsett, Julie Brockman, Chris Stannard, Jill Lethlean, Conor Macgill, Gayle Sloan and Lisa Lepore.
- ii. Apologies: Giles Perryman, Julie Baughan, Paul Malony, Megan Surawski.

It was noted that the WST time has not been updated (against AEST) in the current agenda. This has been noted and will be rectified moving forward.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of the 12 March 2026 WA Branch Committee were confirmed as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Jason Pugh *Seconded:* Libby Eustance

ii. Actions arising from previous meeting

Item	Action	Responsible	Update
2 (ii) RMF funding analysis - 2020-2025	WMRR to look at RMF analysis of where the money went. The online database allows data to be filtered by type and state but is not 100% accurate. WMRR Project Officer Matilda undertook some of this analysis in 2025, however this needs updating.	WMRR National Office	<i>For action.</i> President raised that Brad Pettit (Greens) - raised in government \$46.4M awarded in WA through RMF. It was noted that only 2 facilities shouldn't be operating by now, but as of today – only \$6M delivered. - Noted that the cost of construction in WA is very difficult. - Lack of investment reflects poorly on the WA waste levy and lack of legislation in place for use of recovered materials. Noted that there is a shortfall in knowledge of RMF, and funding allocations are not compared to export requirements and what infrastructure is required in situ. - Eg: Initial project selection included Paper Pulp (Veolia) . The Branch queries whether this should have been approved (who is going to export it?)

WMRR NATIONAL OFFICE
57 ST JOHNS ROAD
GLEBE NSW 2037

(02) 8746 5000
INFO@WMRR.ASN.AU

WMRR.ASN.AU

			- AusWaste also have a paper pulp project and got \$10M and no project referenced on their company website - Remondis and Veolia also awarded funds. <i>Action:</i> WMRR to follow up with WA government, noting lack of activity in our sector at the moment.
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	<i>Outstanding.</i> Currently outstanding and will be progressed in April and removed from the Branch actions.
7(ii) Fuel Impacts of Middle East War	WMRR to liaise with Federal Government regarding fuel access for waste sector.	WMRR CEO	<i>Actioned and Closed.</i> Letter sent to Ministers Bowen, Ayers and Watt, and media release issued 18 March 2026. WMRR now in regular liaison with DCCEEW and Member EDM issued to members on 25 March 2026.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

i. Fuel Supply & Service Continuity

- DCCEEW reached out to WMRR and is engaging regarding fuel supply issues .
- Fair Work Commission considering emergency fuel cost pass-through clause for all transportation (not just TWU contracts) on a weekly basis
- There is currently 36-38 days of fuel access - access to fuel supply posing some regional challenges, but main concerns are around costs rather than access.
- There is concern that not all waste customers have funds to absorb passed-through fuel costs.
 - Some organisations are looking at passing through costs as fuel cost increase (that will stop when it can) but not all organisations are in that situation. For example, some collection contractors are increasing temporary 3.5% surcharge which has been tolerated, but local governments can't sustain above the 3.5%. Councils are trying to work out how they could pass through transport costs.
- WALGA and ALGA are in discussions to agree national priorities as to what services would be prioritised.
- There are also concerns about running out of diesel to fuel equipment – i.e. East Rockingham boiler runs on diesel. Relaxing the fuel standards to allow stock to last longer (i.e. down to 92% with biofuels) may assist to bring down costs.
- NSW and VIC have had roundtables and very conscious of the need to keep moving and make clear that services will not stop. NSW local governments may have a DWM (Domestic Waste Management) reserve that they should be using and ideas of utilising levy funds may be discussed in the future.

Sector impacts for recycled materials

- Recycled Materials opportunities are not resulting from the crisis:

- Noted that demand for recycled PV pipes should prosper given the shipping restraints / access to virgin plastics. However, shortly before the crisis, RPM was decommissioned due to insufficient orders. Greenpipe (HDPE drainage pipe) could pivot back into production if demand increases.
- WMRR has identified the opportunity to connect stakeholders with suppliers of onshore remanufactured materials.

ii. **Environment Ministers' Meeting (27 March 2026)**

Overall feedback on recent discussions was positive, with outcomes considered better than expected.

Intergovernmental agreement

- EMM has established an intergovernmental agreement, exploring a model similar to the electricity market where one jurisdiction (e.g. SA) leads and others adopt; Queensland is considering how this would operate consistently across jurisdictions.
- Packaging and solar panels identified as first materials for stewardship action, with ministers committed to reconvene in August. NSW is leading development of the Solar PV Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). Due to provide update at the next meeting in August.

CDS

- In principle agreement on the CDS scheme for beverage registration was achieved.

Batteries

- Responsibility will largely sit with states.
- WA is engaged progressing batteries and CEO noted potential momentum for the Parliamentary Secretary/Minister to align with NSW's lead on battery regulation.

iii. **Waste exports**

- Refusals for LDPE going offshore , with existing export exemptions ending in July.
- For WA, this may be a concern as closer to Asian offtake markets.

iv. **PFAS**

- No update – WMRR and AORA are writing to HEPA to get nationally aligned PFAS levels in organics on the agenda.
- ICHEMS unintended trace levels have been deemed not appropriate by Queensland who are insisting on the waste levels.
- SA and WA *Replace the Waste* website (Boomerang Alliance drafted , government funded website) does not reflect the updated PFAS iCHems information.
- “Intentionally added PFAS” is a confusing concept
- Media coverage of the issue (Bunbury Harvey) was on ABC Radio SouthWest this morning (9 April 2026) .

4. **WA Issues**

i. **Regulatory and Policy updates**

- *Waste Strategy*
 - No update. This is something WMRR will follow up with Kim Giddens.
- *Recovered Materials Technical Working Group*
 - Momentum for this group seems to have stalled.
 - No invitations received by WMRR. President to look into when the next meeting is.
- *Batteries*

- No update from DWER on the progress for WA batteries – noted that Adrian Wiley is currently on leave.

ii. Submissions/consultations (WA and national)

- [Public consultation on the Exposure Draft of the Guarantee of Origin Methodology Determination Amendment \(Biogas, Biomethane and Iron Ore\)](#) (closing 27 April 2026)

Recently closed:

- [Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy \(WtE\) infrastructure in Victoria](#) (closed 3 April 2026) * not yet on WMRR site as awaiting publication by the parliamentary committee.
- [Inquiry into Solar PV reuse and recycling](#) (23 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into microplastics](#) (6 March 2026)
- [Inquiry into productivity in Australia](#) (20 February 2026)
- [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

- No meeting yet – meeting hopefully later this month.
- Phytocap guidelines grant application for ARC Linkage funding has gone in using cell moisture sensors to assess performance.
- PFAS treatment is still a priority for discussion nationally.
 - Destruction of PFAS in landfill gas engines is good if catalytic treatment included.
- LGNSW webinar on [lessons learnt from regional landfill fire](#) in Albury is being actively discussed throughout the Division.

ii. EfW – Jason Pugh

- Kwinana processing and East Rockingham are getting closer to final completion.
- Diesel pricing and shortages are a concern so looking to switch to biodiesel (as noted in item 3).
- KVI have released a study on methane in landfills – arguing to get EFW in the emissions trading scheme and get landfills out of it.
- Destruction of PFAS in EfW WMRR webinar coming up.

iii. Circular Economy –

- WMRR National Office will circulate a poll for timing and Working Group leadership.

iv. Waste Educators – Emily Tomsett

- January meeting was focused on food waste and upcoming April meeting on PFAS and compost.
- July meeting will be on soft plastics – Circular Seed are an example of an organisation locally producing products.
 - Branch discussed that there are so many polymer types that it is hard to separate - Polyethylene is what everyone wants. The emphasis should be to move on design – CEFLEX addresses the standardisation of the polymers. In 2019, SPCA was supposed to move on the design standards (CEFLEX).

- FOGO a key topic for the group
 - CCC meeting discussed the agreed FOGO timeline and draft communications.
- Waste Sorted Awards opened.
- Containers for Change Resource hub has been created with acceptance of wine and spirit bottles.

6. Events and Training

i. 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)

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

- This will pilot in Victoria on 20 May 2026, with plans to rollout across each state throughout the year.
- Introductory foundation course for waste and resource recovery sector addressing the different aspects of industry to get an understanding of how the system operates. Looking to run one in WA in September 2026.

iii. WMRR AGM

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

iv. [WA Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast](#) (Friday 1 May 2026, DoubleTree by Hilton, Perth)

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
- [Rebecca Goodwin](#), Municipal Manager WA, Veolia

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

v. 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
- Todd Sampson is confirmed to present.

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)

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.

- Libby and Jason to meet to revise the priorities to add the word to “accelerate” objectives 2 and 3.

8. Next meeting date

Thursday 14 May 2026

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible
RMF funding analysis - 2020-2025	<i>Action:</i> WMRR to follow up with WA Government, noting that \$46.4M awarded in WA through RMF– only \$6M delivered. The online database allows data to be filtered by type and state but is not 100% accurate.	WMRR National Office
Circular Economy Working Group	A poll to be circulated in April 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
Recovered Materials Technical Working Group	The group has been inactive. WMRR President to follow up.	WMRR President

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</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:

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 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	“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. ○ 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	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	• 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 wth: • 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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