

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

COMMITTEE MEETING

8:15am, Thursday, 26/3/2026

Green Industries SA Boardroom, Waymouth St, Adelaide

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Tiana Nairn, Brian Johnston, Mitchell Bacon, Gayle Sloan (WMRR), Fiona Chambers, Wendy Bevan, Geoff Webster, Cameron O'Malley, Melisa Bailie, Marina Wagner, Brianna McGee (LGA), Amandine Johnson (EPA), Ben Leonello (EPA), Lisa Lepore (WMRR), John Phillips, Rob Gregory, Michael Richardson, Leah Maxwell, Amy Henshaw, Jessica Wundke (GISA), Kristian LeGallou, Anthony Brazzale, Adam Gray

Apologies: Phil Hitchcock, Andrew Smith, Fraser Bell, Josh Hull, Steve Sergi (EPA), Henry Bowesman, Michelle Jones (EPA), Matt Scales (GISA), Don Richardson, Paul Lightbody, Mark Rawson, Michel Diratani, Melissa Salt, Lachlan Jeffries, Kat Heinrich, Serena Yang (GISA), Danny Mitroussidis, Toby Terlet, Sarah Bruns, Grace Barila, Maria Madsen

The meeting was opened at 8:15am.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes of the branch meeting held on 26/2/2026 were accepted. Moved: Marina. Seconded: Mitch. Actions arising addressed throughout the meeting.

3. Committee Discussion

3.1 Battery Fires Discussion

- Since the last SA Branch meeting, Marina has taken the lead in continuing to push for greater local action around batteries. A small group have come together (not a formal sub-committee) to help advance efforts in this space. Meeting arranged with EPA on the 2nd of April.
- There have been more fires since the last SA Branch meeting and this continues to be a pressing issue for the sector.
- Key areas of focus are what can be done immediately in both metro and regional areas
- Tiana welcomed Amandine and introduced Ben Leonello who is backfilling for Michelle Jones's role, including battery policy and regulation work.

EPA update – Amandine Johnson & Ben Leonello

- Recognising the urgency of this work due to its implications for human health, operations, and financial matters, efforts are underway in the background to prepare a gazette notice for banning all batteries from landfill. A submission will be made to the new Minister in late April, subject to approvals. This is part of a broader suite of initiatives related to battery bin bans.
- Timeframe (estimated) = September/October ban in effect.

- It was discussed that collection, logistics and educational work needed to support and complement the bans must also be rolled out.
- Monthly meetings are occurring with inter-jurisdictional EPAs to work towards harmonisation on a range of issues relating to batteries like e-bikes, e-scooters and product stewardship legislation.
- The HEPA National Waste Working Group is developing a national end-of-life guideline for LiON batteries. The next step will involve seeking input from industry stakeholders, councils, and other relevant parties. The consultation process is anticipated to commence in April, with particular emphasis on material outcomes and associated risks. The draft document will be shared by AJ when available.

Discussion

- The committee discussed the matter, with the following key points emerging from the discussion:
 - Needs to be a greater focus further up the chain (not end of pipe solutions), eg. Rolling out NSW style product stewardship legislation
 - Needs to be greater urgency, and more immediate actions and/or expedited process
 - Desire for a clear plan that sets out what is happening immediately, mid-term and longer term
 - The needs and resource constraints of regional South Australia must be considered in solutions
 - Lead times and publication is a big factor in drop off days and need to be considered to raise public awareness

4. Working Group Reports

4.1 Resource Recovery & Market Development Group – Leah Maxwell

- Currently coordinating site visits for the year and will send invitations once the schedule is finalised

4.2 Waste Educators Group – Cam O'Malley

- Meeting held last week. Andrea Bassett presented on climate change impacts. Amber Sojenka spoke to the group about the Henley Beach Op Shop and the work they are doing to save waste. A tour of the SA Water Desal plant has been organised for April 24th.

4.3 Landfill SA – No Rep

- No Report

4.4 Young Professionals Group – Kristian Legallou

- The group held a catch up on the 10th of March and are planning additional activities.

4.5 Carbon Group – Tiana Nairn

- A meeting of the National Carbon Division was held last week.

- AWT method development has commenced, with invitations to stakeholders to engage in process.
- Landfill safeguard mechanism review continuing to progress.
- Understand WMRR's State of Industry Report (including carbon component) is progressing.

5. Government Business

5.1 EPA – Amandine Johnson

- Will continue to facilitate future updates about container deposit legislation changes.
- Ben will be working on Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy (W2R EPP) updates including Product Stewardship, Battery Bin Ban and the broader review.
- Working in partnership with WMRR and GISA around batteries.

5.2 Green Industries SA – Jessica Wundke

- Cate M will be scheduling meetings with groups following on from the recent waste strategy workshop and will be happy to present updates at future WMRR meetings.
- Batteries continue to be a significant concern, as reflected by the Labor Party's affirmation of its commitment to WMRR in its response to WMRR's election priorities correspondence.
- A call for tenders has been put out for Which Bin education for schools. The Department for Education and Department of Treasury and Finance have been involved in this process. Call for tenders closes on April 20th at 3pm.
- The Precinct Resource Recovery Program involving the City of Unley and the City of Adelaide will be getting underway, with support from Rawtec. Further updates will be provided as the program commences.
- SUP Act Review response is available at: [Independent review: Single-use and Other Plastic Products \(Waste Avoidance\) Act 2020](#)
- Thanks to Local Government stakeholders who attended MUDs workshop and providing feedback on the guide. Consultation continues with an industry (including planning and architecture) session next week followed by direct consultation with some waste companies
- The SA Circular Economy Resource Recovery Infrastructure plan (CERRIP) project is progressing, the Waste flow projection model, which will inform the project, is still being finalised

5.3 LGA SA – Brianna McGee

- LGA provided input into GISA MUDs review (as mentioned in GISA report earlier in the meeting)
- Local Government is directing attention towards LiON batteries, with particular emphasis on product stewardship. There is a strong interest in connecting with the newly appointed Minister for the Environment about this issue.
- W2R EPP Review – Clause 10.2: Weekly collection of food organics within green organics bins and fortnightly collection of general waste. I would like to raise this for further discussion.
- LGA, through functional support group, providing input into the fuel supplies impacted by the Iran conflict. Dept. of Energy and Mining (DEM) seeking input on the issue.

6. Board Reports

6.1 National Update – Gayle Sloan

- A note regarding fuel was sent to members via a recent EDM, and correspondence has also been made with Chris Bowen MP and relevant State Ministers. Contact has been made with DCCEEW to clarify the procedures established under the Emergency Liquid Fuel Act, including the prioritisation process for states. At this time, we are not at the critical stage. Industry feedback indicates that all major suppliers confirm adequate fuel availability.
- There has been a significant increase in fuel costs, with some capital contracts invoking force majeure. In certain instances, new contracts are being established to address these changes
- The EMM is scheduled for tomorrow. The agenda is focusing on discussions regarding batteries, solar panels, and the framework for restarting the Circular Economy initiative.
- Packaging continues as a topic of interest.
- A letter from Tim Watts MP's office indicates that export exemptions for LDPE are no longer being granted. Since there is currently no onshore processing capacity, this decision appears impractical. Gayle S will be returning to provide feedback regarding this matter.

6.2 President's Report – Tiana Nairn

- The GISA Sustainable Procurement Working Group met earlier this month. SA Water, DEW and others continue to promote sustainable procurement. Work on a guideline is continuing, not at level of 'requiring' purchase of recycled content.
- Green Industries are keen to continue raising awareness of suppliers in this space, expanding the Circular Economy Knowledge Hub
- Committee discussion:
 - The Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) maintains standards regarding materials such as concrete and bitumen, with a primary focus on specifications
 - Circular Economy Market Development grants program supports sustainable procurement
 - The response letter to WMRR election priorities from SA Labor (16th March) refers to EPA product standards for compost
 - EPA may be able to provide more information
- SA Labor response to WMRR election priorities has been circulated with the SA Branch.

7. Enviro Conference

- Abstract submissions have been received and are currently under review. The speaker list is being finalised. A total of 47 abstracts were submitted. Efforts to secure sponsorship will be initiated shortly.

8. Other Business

- Marina & John – Waste collection is essential but not listed in the Essential Services Commission (ESCOSA) Act as essential service classification. The group discussed this, noting this has been talked about before and in weighing up pros and cons of this classification, rather considered 'Priority' service.

9. Next meeting date

The meeting closed at 9:23am. Next meeting is scheduled for the 30th of April at Green Industries SA.

Tasks Arising from Branch Meetings

Date Raised	Issue	Action	Responsibility
August 2025	EPA presentation	Liaise with Michelle J regarding receiving a future update on the EPP review and EPR legislation progress.	TN, GS
October 2025	Smoulders, hot spots and fires Incidents, records and definitions.	Co-ordinate meeting with EPA representatives and MRF operators around regular and consistent data collection	GS, LL
October 2025	Ban solution finder information accuracy	Review data for accuracy	MS, GS
February 2026	Batteries Assets PDF	Matt Scales to provide the PDF for circulation	MS, BJ
February 2026	Batteries Data	Request EPA to provide ongoing data on facility fires (hot spots and fires reported). Tiana N to raise with Amandine; Gayle S to coordinate template.	TN, GS
March 2026	Batteries End-of-Life guidelines	Amandine to share once they become available for consultation.	AJ, BJ

Schedule of Activities 2026

Month/Year	Date	Event Detail
April 2026	24/4/2026	Waste Educators Group Hosted Site visit: SA Water Desal Plant
April 2026	30/4/2026	SA Branch Meeting
May 2026	28/5/2026	SA Branch Meeting
June 2026	18/6/2026	Waste Educators Group Meeting
June 2026	23-24/6/2026	Enviro Conference, Adelaide
June 2026	25/6/2026	SA Branch Meeting
July 2026	30/6/2026	SA Branch Meeting
August 2026	27/8/2026	SA Branch Meeting
September 2026	17/9/2026	Waste Educators Group Meeting

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September 2026	24/9/2026	SA Branch Meeting
October 2026	29/10/2026	SA Branch Meeting
November 2026	26/11/2026	SA Branch Meeting