

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

COMMITTEE MEETING

8:15am, Thursday, 30/4/2026

Green Industries SA Boardroom, Waymouth St, Adelaide

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Tiana Nairn, Brian Johnston, Gayle Sloan (WMRR), Fiona Chambers, Wendy Bevan, Geoff Webster, Marina Wagner, Brianna McGee (LGA), Amandine Johnson (EPA), Ben Leonello (EPA), Lisa Lepore (WMRR), John Phillips, Rob Gregory, Michael Richardson, Amy Henshaw, Kristian LeGallou, Ali Roush, Anthony Brazzale, Adam Gray, Matt Scales (GISA), Michel Diratani, Lachlan Jeffries, Toby Terlet, Leonard Leyland

Apologies: Phil Hitchcock, Andrew Smith, Fraser Bell, Josh Hull, Steve Sergi (EPA), Henry Bowesman, Michelle Jones (EPA), Don Richardson, Paul Lightbody, Melissa Salt, Kat Heinrich, Serena Yang (GISA), Danny Mitroussidis, Sarah Bruns, Grace Barila, Maria Madsen, Mitchell Bacon, Cameron O'Malley, Melisa Bailie, Leah Maxwell, Jessica Wundke (GISA), Mark Rawson, Lacey Webb

The meeting was opened at 8:15am.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes of the branch meeting held on 26/3/2026 were accepted. Moved: John. Seconded: Marina. Actions arising addressed throughout the meeting.

3. Committee Discussion

3.1 Battery Fires Round Table and EPA Engagement – Tiana Nairn

- The roundtable (2nd April) provided useful historical context on EPA processes, regulatory reforms, and operational considerations from GISA
- It helped the Minister receive a full briefing very early in her new role
- Ben circulated the slide pack, seeking clearance to circulate with WMRR SA Branch Committee
- Ben, Amandine, Gayle & Tiana met earlier this week to discuss scope, coordination between agencies, bin bans, and logistics
- EPA has heard stakeholder concerns and challenges

EPA Update – Amandine Johnson/Ben Leonello

- Product stewardship and battery bin bans remain key focus areas
- A focus group is being established with representation from WMRR, LGA SA, MFS, EPA, WRISA, GISA, and the National Retailers Association
- Topics for discussion will include compliance expectations, education, and market infrastructure
- EPA has completed statutory and feasibility assessments. Internal approvals for drafting of the battery ban gazette are underway. Expected timing for ban, subject to all approvals required, is September–October 2026
- Battery Focus Group meetings will occur as needed (approx. every two months)

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- EPA will engage brand owners as part of the process

Committee Discussion

- Compliance approaches should not rely solely on penalties to operators, EPA internal consultation has highlighted compliance design issues
- Education at the community level is essential
- A Terms of Reference for the focus group will be drafted and circulated with focus group members
- Both landfill and bin bans are in scope for changes to be made.

Product Stewardship legislation

- The process is underway for seeking Government approvals for product stewardship legislation; in a manner that will support more rapid progression

National Processes

- HEPA and the National Waste Working Group have draft guidelines for end-of-life lithium-ion batteries out for comment
- Consultation closes on 15 May
- WMRR National Office are preparing a submission

Action: Brian to circulate draft guidelines to the group

3.2 Round Table Update – All

Lachlan J – concerned about circular economy and linear results. Green bin diversion is being used to remediate landfills or reclaim mine sites. Farmers are becoming concerned about quality of products. Contaminant avoidance matters. There is a need for a step change in management for a circular economy.

Anthony B – Batteries fires, smoulders, hot loads occur daily. Regional transport and market access for materials remains difficult.

John P – Priority, urgency and engagement on all our key issues, particularly around the CDS, with the review process verging on 10 years to change regulation so far.

Brian J – Strong participation and engagement of industry at the SA Committee level really positive to see.

Tiana N – Need for stronger alignment of carbon policy with waste policy to maximise current efforts and achieve more circular outcomes in practice.

Matt S– Batteries, strategy and business plan have been priority issues.

Wendy B – KESAB has been delivering tours, audits, and community engagement activities. Talking to people about what everyone in the industry does.

Rob G – concerned progress has slipped with organics recovery, and batteries remain a key concern.

Michel D – Challenging to promote waste and circular economy amid resourcing pressures.

Michael R – warning of possible restrictions to future greenfield site developments, which may impact waste and resource recovery infrastructure expansions.

Leo L – Fuel, Fires, FOGO are key issues.

Kristian L – trying to keep momentum in the industry, including for FOGO improvements.

Geoff W – HDPE piping and sheeting shortages are delaying projects. Concern about adopting Victorian regulatory approaches for landfill.

Fiona C – strong shared mission everyone has around batteries. Soft plastics return-to-store bins will be available from Monday; Woolworths planning a soft launch. Issues with Kerbside collections, drivers/trucks been drawn in from interstate to provide core services. Eyes on your bins project in collab with NAWMA: Blue Environment and BehaviourWorks have been engaged to help with learning about successful approaches to reducing contamination (mentioned at previous meeting). Learnings to be shared soon.

Ali R – Bin it right campaign ongoing, over 20,000 views on battery messaging on social media platforms, 1,000 click throughs to website. Feedback from engagements is that people are understanding batteries can't go in bins.

Marina W – need to get batteries management done effectively. Need for sustainable markets for resource recovered materials and infrastructure plan are other priorities

Gayle S – Request a CLO and product quality update from EPA at next meeting. Fuel council transport decision is binding.

4. Working Group Reports

4.1 Resource Recovery & Market Development Group – Leah Maxwell

- No update

4.2 Waste Educators Group – No Rep

- Marina Wagner reported that the group hosted a site visit/tour of the SA Water Desalination Plant on the 24th of April

4.3 Landfill SA – No Rep

- No Report

4.4 Young Professionals Group – Kristian Legallou

- No update

4.5 Carbon Group – Tiana Nairn

- The National Division held a meeting early this week, topics included NGER reporting update consultation, early work around AWT method and the new National Inventory Report
- Safeguard mechanism review is also continuing
- NGER waste defaults do not recognise FOGO implementation for landfilled waste, impacting on councils' ability to measure carbon benefits of its implementation.

5. Government Business

5.1 EPA – Amandine Johnson

- CLO and product quality noted as an update to be provided at next meeting
- Brief CDS update also expected at next meeting

5.2 Green Industries SA – Matt Scales

- Batteries remain an important focus,
- Media on batteries has included speaking to radio and an article on batteries, awareness and safety
- Progressing toward a battery campaign, keen to seek WMRR input on messaging and scope
- Updates on depot operations, transport, acceptance of non-metro material, and EOI for additional collections are progressing and may be available at the batteries focus group

Action: Tiana will convene a discussion to assist with coordinated input on messaging.

5.3 LGA SA – Brianna McGee

- Local government elections later this year will affect consultation timeframes. LGA elections – end of oct to start November
- OGM coming up on the 28-29 May 2026
- There has been active involvement in the fuel security space;
 - Mapping taking place, involved in working through high-risk category items. Waste and resource recovery classified as a critical service, level one. In NSW there are examples of where they stopped services eg. Stopped FOGO services as a fuel supply related measure
 - Fair Work cost recovery orders for fuel allow full cost pass-through
 - Noting this challenge is in the context of broader ongoing challenge for financial sustainability for Local Government

6. Board Reports

6.1 National Update – Gayle Sloan

- Gayle sent letter of thanks to the Minister following the recent battery round table and seeking advice on the scale and duration of education. The letter was tabled in meeting
- Future stewardship work progressing through EMM
- Packaging reforms advancing, though no final outcomes yet
- Batteries and solar panel stewardship progressing
- Carbon consultations underway, including Guarantee of Origin and industrial heat decarbonisation in Victoria

6.2 President's Report – Tiana Nairn

- Batteries have continued as a priority as discussed
- Feedback on Waste Strategy engagement around desire for clearer prioritisation and direction discussed with Cate Mussared, with the initial intention of building relationships amongst broader stakeholder noted.

- Alignment of the Waste Strategy and annual business planning has been a key priority subsequent to the workshop, relating to action prioritisation. Next phase of engagement are being considered and will be advised on in due course.
- SA Labor response to WMRR election priorities has been circulated with the SA Branch
- Infrastructure strategy status update sought, Matt Scales to seek further information

Action: Matt S to see further information for update on infrastructure strategy

7. Enviro Conference

- Meeting held two weeks ago
- Abstracts under review
- Next meeting scheduled shortly
- Ian Gulland confirmed as a speaker

8. Other Business

- Nil

9. Next meeting date

The meeting closed at 9:32am. Next meeting is scheduled for the 28th of May at Green Industries SA.

Tasks Arising from Branch Meetings

Date Raised	Issue	Action	Responsibility
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
April 2026	Batteries End-of-Life guidelines	Brian to circulate with SA Branch Committee	BJ
April 2026	Batteries – strategic education requirements	Tiana to convene a meeting to coordinate message to GISA	TN
April 2026	SA Circular Economy Resource Recovery Infrastructure plan (CERRIP) project	Update on progress	MS

Schedule of Activities 2026

Month/Year	Date	Event Detail
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

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