

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

COMMITTEE MEETING

8:15am, Thursday, 5/2/2026

Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Tiana Nairn, Brian Johnston, Mitchell Bacon, Gayle Sloan (WMRR), Fiona Chambers, Kat Heinrich, Wendy Bevan, Geoff Webster, Kristian LeGallou, Danny Mitroussidis, Cameron O'Malley, Melisa Bailie, Marina Wagner, Brianna McGee (LGA), Matt Scales (GISA), Mark Rawson, Paul Lightbody, Don Richardson, Anthony Brazzale, Sarah Bruns, Melissa Salt, Amandine Johnson (EPA), Lisa Lepore (WMRR), Toby Terlet, Grace Barila, Adam Gray, Michel Diratani

Apologies: Phil Hitchcock, Andrew Smith, Fraser Bell, Josh Hull, Steve Sergi (EPA), Serena Yang (GISA), Rob Gregory, Henry Bowesman, Michael Richardson, Leah Maxwell, Michelle Jones (EPA), Amy Henshaw, Jessica Wundke (GISA), John Phillips,

The meeting was opened at 8:15am.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes of the branch meeting held on 5/12/2025 were accepted. Moved: Marina. Seconded: Geoff. Actions arising addressed throughout the meeting.

3. Committee Discussion

3.1 Branch Activity Focus for the Year – Tiana Nairn & All

- [South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030](#) was released in December 2025. An implementation workshop is being hosted by Green Industries SA on the 11th of February 2026. Gayle S and Anthony B will be attending on behalf of WMRR. Other WMRR members will attend as well, since invitations were extended to various stakeholders who are also part of WMRR.
- In January the EPA SA released [Summary of Submissions and EPA Response Report](#) after completing it's review of stakeholder submissions on the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy (EP(W2R)P) proposed reforms. Tiana N has been in touch with Gayle S to coordinate on WMRR's continuing engagement with EPA, including further updates.
- WMRR will be making the relevant South Australian political candidates aware of priority issues for the sector in the lead up to the upcoming State election.
- The [launch](#) of the four (4) embedded batteries drop off sites took place in December 2025. There is also a [batteries section](#) on the Which Bin website containing information for the public about disposal. Thanks to Matt Scales and the team from Green Industries SA for ensuring this important information was released prior to Christmas.
- Matt Scales was invited to provide an update as follows;
 - The launch of the drop off sites was a good event with MFS Chief Officer, the Minister for Emergency Services, and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water in attendance.

57 ST JOHNS ROAD
GLEBE NSW 2037

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

WMRR.ASN.AU

- All disposal options and avenues were strongly promoted including the B-cycle scheme locations.
- Note that the East Waste collection truck present at the event with special signage promoting correct disposal of batteries was itself subject to a fire arising from batteries in the load on January 13th.
- Green Industries are looking into running a long-term awareness campaign only focusing on batteries. Work on a campaign is commencing via a selective approach to four (4) creative agencies.
- Matt agreed to provide a PDF of assets that are available to help with promotion.

Action: Matt to send PDF to Brian for circulation with committee.

- The committee discussed the issue, raising the following key points:
 - The importance of legislation cannot be overstated, although establishing appropriate laws may require a significant time commitment; for instance, the time taken for the legislative process in New South Wales to progress to where it is now.
 - It is suggested that fines be introduced for individuals disposing batteries as part of the solution.
 - Brand owners should play a more active and visible role in addressing these issues.
- Amandine was welcomed and invited to present an update on batteries from the EPA's perspective, with the following information provided:
 - Meetings were held earlier this year around building stronger data sets and streamlining data collection.
 - The National Waste Working Group of the Heads of EPA Australia and New Zealand is developing guidelines for the management of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries which EPA SA is supporting.
 - Currently no further updates.
- The SA Branch committee members expressed a strong interest in receiving a clear timeline regarding when legislation can be implemented.
- Gayle S mentioned she has a meeting scheduled with EPA SA CEO John Gorvett and Deputy CEO Amy Dennison on Friday.

4. Working Group Reports

4.1 Resource Recovery & Market Development Group – Marina Wagner

- There has not been a meeting of the group since the December meeting. Liaison to occur regarding the next meeting.

4.2 Waste Educators Group – Cam O'Malley

- The meeting dates for 2026 have been set and circulated with group members. The first meeting of the group is scheduled to take place on the 19th of March. A tour of the SA Water desalination plant and possibly a wastewater treatment plant are being considered.

4.3 Landfill SA –Gayle Sloan/Mel Salt

- NSW is currently seeking feedback on its proposed Landfill and Sewage Treatment Plant PFAS Monitoring [Chemical Control Order](#).
- An ARC linkage grant submission is to be made for the phytocap research project (mentioned at previous meetings) following consultation in last few months. The project's objectives have been refined to include funding two PhD students and addressing key questions regarding the operation of photocaps with landfill gas, capture efficiency under NGERs, ecological sustainability, carbon offsets, as well as aspects related to biodiversity. The outcome of the project is to produce updated phytocap guidelines and training materials as originally planned. Sponsors have been obtained and support will continue to be pursued even after the successful award of grant funding.

4.4 Young Professionals Group – Kristian LeGallou

- There has not been a meeting of the group since the last SA Branch meeting. Kristian and Maria will be in touch soon regarding plans for the working group.

4.5 Carbon Group – Tiana Nairn

- The ACCU Scheme Landfill method was made late last year.
- The AWT method will be reviewed this year using a proponent-led method development process.
- The Animal Effluent Method and Waste Water Method will also be reviewed, following a crediting extension of Animal Effluent Method was made late last year.
- Preliminary engagement regarding the review of the Safeguard Mechanism and landfill operations is occurring, including an industry roundtable held on 12 December at which WMRR was represented.

5. Government Business

5.1 EPA – Amandine Johnson

- The Summary of Submissions document regarding feedback on the Waste to Resources EPP proposed reforms has been released as mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- Amandine acknowledged questions concerning the forthcoming steps and timeline for Waste to Resources review process, with further information to be provided.

5.2 Green Industries SA – Matt Scales

- A meeting of the Green Industries SA Board is scheduled for this morning.
- Activity around batteries was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- The main focus of the agency is commencing the implementation of South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030, currently dedicated to the upcoming workshop. Next steps will be able to be discussed subsequently.

5.3 LGA SA – Brianna McGee

- LGA is involved with a range of key items/topics mentioned earlier in the meeting including lithium-ion batteries, South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030, and the review of the EPA's Waste to Resources EPP.

- The LGA is participating in a review of the Multi Unit Dwellings Guide to enhance best practices in waste management. This process will include upcoming workshops with council members, and comprehensive consultation with industry stakeholders is anticipated as part of the review.
- [LG elections](#) will be taking place later this year

6. Board Reports

6.1 National Update – Toby Terlet/Gayle Sloan

- The proposal for a [national trial of solar panel recycling](#) was recently announced along with an invitation for businesses and suppliers to comment on the pilot.
- Packaging waste, stewardship, and export restrictions continue to be priority concerns for WMRR. Ongoing discussions are being held with the relevant federal government ministers and their offices regarding these issues.
- Work on WMRR's state of the industry report (as mentioned at previous meetings) is continuing, with a draft expected in the coming weeks. The project involves three consultants, with Blue Environment having recently been working on carbon impact modelling for the report. The report remains on track for a March release.
- State Election priorities were mentioned earlier in the meeting. National Office will draw on elements of the WMRR submission to the South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030 draft to inform the priorities document. SA Branch Committee members are invited to contribute to the priorities.

Action: SA Branch members invited to send their comments about election priorities to WMRR Office and Tiana or Brian.

6.2 President's Report – Tiana Nairn

- The Women of WARR event has been scheduled for the 3rd of March and it is set to be an excellent event.
- The Enviro conference will be hosted in Adelaide across 23-24 June this year. A call for members to form the conference committee was circulated in December 2025 and closed in January. The committee has been established, including three (3) SA Branch members. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for tomorrow, with a call for abstracts expected to be sent out Monday. Some international speakers have been approached to present.

7. Case Studies

Nil

8. Other Business

Nil

9. Next meeting date

The meeting closed at 9:20am. Next meeting is scheduled for the 26th of February yet may be shifted to the 3rd of March 2026, at the conclusion of the Women of WARR breakfast.

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	Election Priorities for SA	Committee input to the document	TN, BJ, LL, GS

Schedule of Activities 2026		
Month/Year	Date	Event Detail
February 2026	26/2/2026	SA Branch Meeting
March 2026	19/3/2026	Waste Educators Group Meeting
March 2026 (2)	26/3/2026	SA Branch Meeting
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
September 2026	24/9/2026	SA Branch Meeting
October 2026	29/10/2026	SA Branch Meeting
November 2026	26/11/2026	SA Branch Meeting