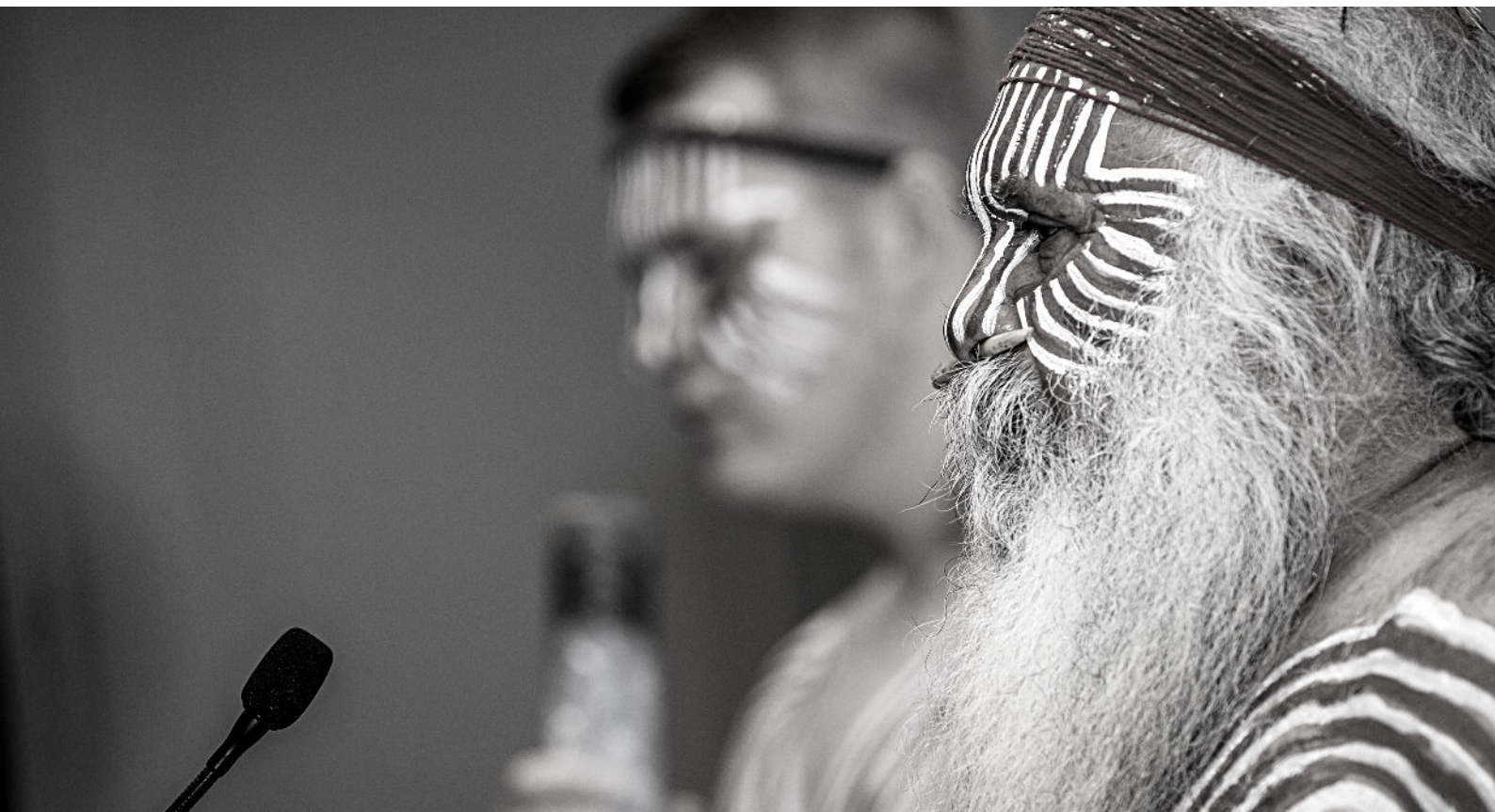




ANNUAL REPORT

WMRR.ASN.AU



VISION

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body for industry, which leads the success of the waste management and resource recovery sector in Australia.

WHO WMRR REPRESENTS

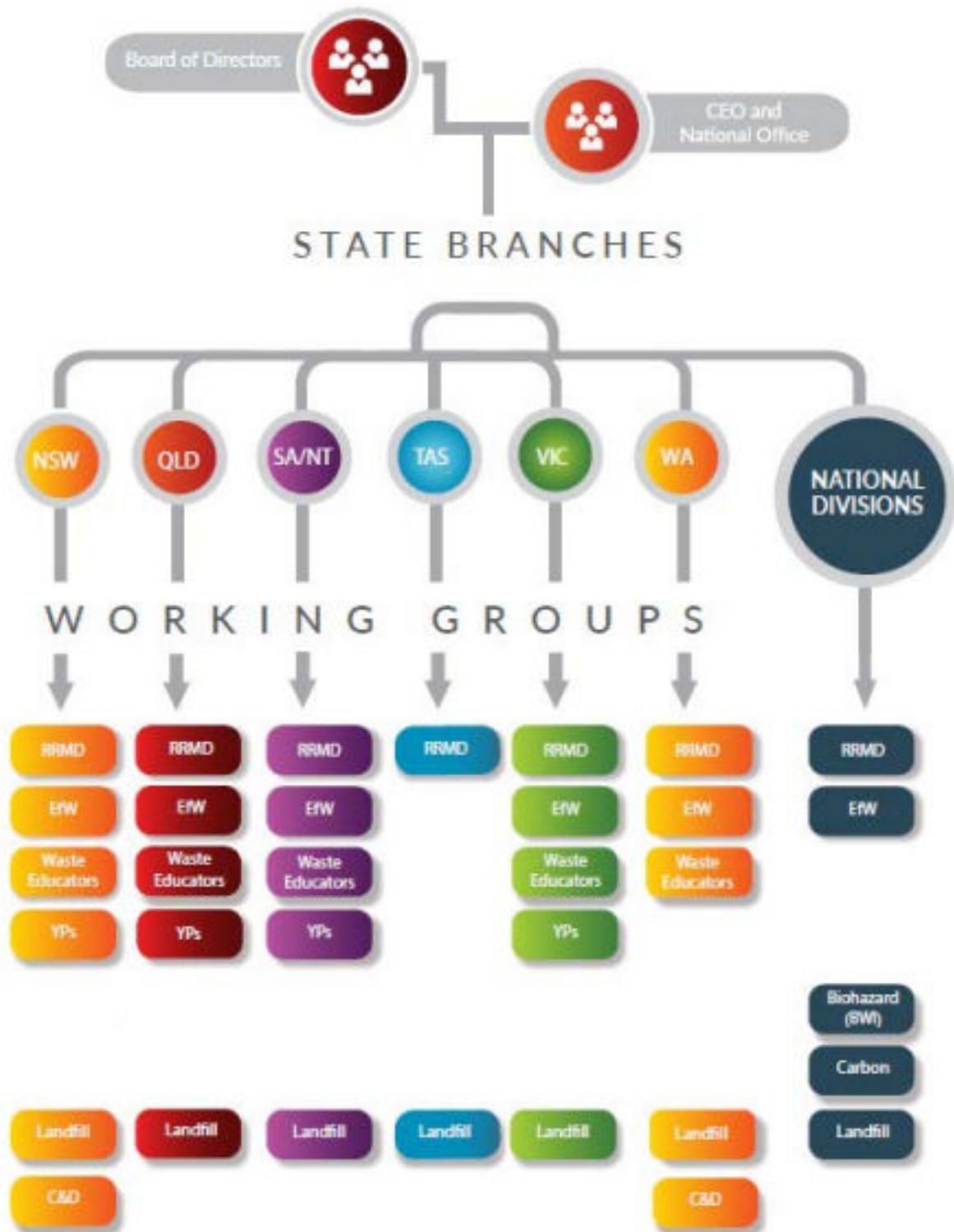
WMRR's diverse membership spans nationwide and represents the breadth and depth of the Australian waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry, including all critical players within this essential industry, which contributes \$15.5 billion nationally towards the Australian economy and 50,000 jobs.

WMRR has more than 2,000 members, representing over 500 organisations from across government and industry within the waste and resource recovery sector (WARR) who are involved in a range of activities in the Australian economy, including community engagement and education, infrastructure investment and operations, collection, remanufacturing of valuable products from resource recovered materials, energy recovery, and responsible management of residual materials.

Member networks exist at national, state and specific industry sector level. In 2020, WMRR offered:

- five (5) national divisions that held 40 meetings;
- five (5) state branch committees that held 60 meetings; and
- 28 state-based working groups that held more than 200 meetings.

WMRR STRUCTURE



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES



WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE RECOVERY IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE & ITS INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD BE STRATEGICALLY PLANNED & PROTECTED.



THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ARE PROTECTED THROUGH THE SAFE & RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF WASTES.



ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY IS CRITICAL TO THE WASTE & RESOURCE RECOVERY INDUSTRY BOTH TO THE POSITIVE SUCCESS OF, AND TRUST IN, THE INDUSTRY.



THE WASTE & RESOURCE RECOVERY INDUSTRY DRIVES JOBS & POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMY.



THE WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES IS SUPPORTED & PROMOTED.



THE INDUSTRY PRODUCES SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS FOR THE ECONOMY AND PROMOTES MARKET DEMAND FOR THESE MATERIALS.

PRIORITY ADVOCACY AREAS

- Facilitate investment in resource recovery and remanufacturing capacity.
- Reform state regulatory frameworks to provide long-term certainty for investment in the sector.
- Streamline and improve consistency and clarity in state regulatory frameworks.
- Foster a common approach to landfill levies between states, including the reinvestment of at least 50% of funds raised from levies in the sector.
- Improve responsiveness of regulatory frameworks to manage market adjustments.
- Improve coordination between state government portfolios within and across state borders with the responsibility for the sector (at first instance, Planning and Environment).
- Promote the adoption of sustainable procurement principles and practices to all levels of governments.
- Support extended producer responsibility, product stewardship, and polluters-pay principles, and the role of the waste and resource recovery sector within it.
- Support the establishment of secondary and end markets for resource recovered materials.
- Improve national waste and resource recovery data to enable the identification, recovery, classification, treatment, disposal and monitoring of waste.
- Support all actions aimed at fair competition and the creation of a level playing field for all stakeholders.
- Foster the recognition of the role of the solid waste industry in carbon abatement.
- Champion the success of individual professionals and organisations working in the waste and resource recovery sector.
- Community engagement and education on waste minimisation and reduction.

CONTENTS



06

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

08

SUMMARY OF MEMBER
SERVICES

13

NATIONAL DIVISION
REPORTS

26

STATE BRANCH
REPORTS

39

FINANCE AND
GOVERNANCE

46

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Money has started to flow. New facilities are being built. Our sector is growing, in terms of traditional economic indicators like revenue and jobs, as well as in its political stature and public standing. There's plenty more work to do, and of course we have to acknowledge it's been an extremely tough year for many in our communities. But let us pause for a moment to acknowledge what we have come through together, and to recognise that – despite many new challenges - the last year has been a positive one for our sector as a whole.

A recent highlight was hearing Prime Minister Scott Morrison, armed with a cheque to support a new recycling facility in Adelaide, talking about recycling being one of six (6) priority areas for modern Australian manufacturing, saying: "Sitting alongside space, defence industry and medicines... I see this in the same way as all of those rather advanced industries." How far our sector has come in recent times!

This is the fourth President's report I have penned and as I wrap up my final term, I am filled with immense pride in our sector and in the Association that represents us. We haven't had an easy pathway but rather than talking amongst ourselves and trying to hide from the community when the media put us under some intense spotlights, our industry managed to harness the newfound public attention in order to drive significant long-term reforms.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2017, we quoted Winston Churchill on never wasting a crisis. In 2018, we turned to Thomas Edison on opportunity meeting preparedness. And in 2019, we drew on the wisdom of Rocky Balboa about the world being a mean and nasty place where it's not how hard you can hit, but how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.

Who can top Rocky to capture the mood for 2020? It feels appropriate to turn to a more classic source, the Chinese philosopher Confucius:

*"Better a diamond with a
flaw than a pebble
without."*

Our sector still has plenty of flaws and there are many areas where we need to keep pushing hard for better outcomes. But we are a sector that provides real value to our communities; what we do as an industry isn't just important, it's absolutely essential to supporting modern society. We can always do better, be safer, and achieve more but we shouldn't forget the fundamental truth, that we are a bright and valuable diamond, not just another dull dreary pebble.

As President, I am extremely proud of the way WMRR has represented its members this year. How the Association has helped spearhead the opportunity to improve our sector and hasn't been shy to take up the hard conversations or call out poor outcomes when required. How it has supported efforts to help our own people work safely and help keep our communities safe.

How the Association highlights the opportunity to deliver more value to our communities through better services and new jobs. How it supports us to improve our environmental outcomes and to grow into a more professional and better coordinated service sector.

One of the really important initiatives of WMRR in 2020 has been a long time coming – we are now making real progress on the development of a training and accreditation program for our sector. The program still has some way to go but the foundations are now set, and there's never been a better time to be encouraging more people to join our sector, and to keep lifting the bar in terms of what we do and how we do it.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the WMRR staff and especially our CEO, Gayle Sloan, who continue to work so hard to promote the interests of our sector, even in the face of adversity. I also want to say a massive thank you to the members who have supported the Association, both financially as well as well as through the provision of their time, skills, and experience to help ensure WMRR has the depth of understanding required to properly represent the sector in these dynamic times.

It has been an absolute honour to represent the membership as WMRR's President these last four (4) years, and I would like to thank the many people who have supported me, challenged me, taught me, and generally contributed to the rich tapestry of the Association. I look forward to watching the Association continue to shine bright!



GARTH LAMB
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SUMMARY OF 2020 MEMBER SERVICES

SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

Federal

- Landfill Gas Method Variation
- Alternative waste treatment crediting period extension review
- Make it happen - the Australian Government's Modern Manufacturing Strategy
- Inquiry into the Recycling and Waste Reduction Bills 2020
- Review of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative - Alternative Waste Treatment) Methodology Determination 2015
- Technology Investment Roadmap Discussion Paper
- 2020 Review of the Emissions Reduction Fund
- Letter to Federal Minister for the Environment - COVID-19
- Consultation Regulation Impact Statement: Phasing out certain waste exports
- Inquiry into Australia's Waste Management and Recycling Industries

New South Wales

- Review of domestic waste management service charges
- Scrap Metal Industry Act 2016 review
- Cleaning Up Our Act: The Future for Waste and Resource Recovery in NSW
- Cleaning up our Act: Redirecting the Future of Plastic in NSW
- Financial Assurances Policy and Guideline on Estimating Financial Assurances

Queensland

- Draft End of Waste Code - Recycled Aggregates
- Queensland waste and resource recovery election priorities
- Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastics Items) Amendment Bill 2020
- Single-use Plastic Items Consultation RIS
- Local government waste management reforms: consultation regulatory impact statement

South Australia

- A vision for a circular economy - South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025
- Valuing our food waste - South Australia's food waste strategy
- Review of the Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007
- Mass Balance Reporting (MBR) Material Types and Conversion Factors
- The Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Bill 2019

Victoria

- Victorian Container Deposit Scheme
- Planning for amenity, health, and safety buffers - draft buffer area overlay
- New Victorian Waste Act and Waste Authority - a proposed model
- Integrated environment protection reform into land use planning
- Proposed draft buffer area overlay - planning for amenity, health and safety

Western Australia

- Waste not, want not: Valuing waste as a resource
- Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007
- Better Practice Composting draft guideline
- A Stronger Tomorrow: State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper
- Closing the loop: Waste reforms for a circular economy
- Review of the waste levy
- Proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1986

MEDIA RELEASES

Members stayed informed through WMRR's regular email correspondence, including **52 weekly Resource Bulletins**, that provided a comprehensive round-up of weekly policy, regulatory, commercial, and funding movements, **nine (9) COVID-19 updates** and other COVID-related guidance, as well as a host of vital information related to industry and government reports, grants, policy and regulatory changes, consultations, submissions, and more.

Media releases

- 2020 – an extraordinary year
- An open letter to Victorian Ministers and all Victorians
- Australia stuck at a crossroads
- Buy Recycled - WMRR and GISA pave the way in a SA-first
- Clinical and related waste management guidance on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- COAG 2020: Australian governments focused on building our sustainable future
- COAG an opportunity to develop WARR infrastructure piece to boost economy
- Commonwealth WARR reforms – genuine market development and product stewardship vital
- Deferment of VIC EP Act commencement a welcome relief
- Federal commitment paves the way for a resourceful Australia
- From (pulp) fiction to reality – building the road to post-COVID recovery
- Moving Victoria from Recycling to a Circular Economy
- NSW Budget sends clear message – government hooked on levy not recovery
- October launch date for WA CDS a win for all
- Outside the square, inside the circle, but all together in Adelaide
- Plastic Wars – the truth about packaging and recycling
- QLD LNP sees the road ahead is green...
- Queensland government launches practical energy from waste policy
- Queensland joins ranks of jurisdictions providing financial relief during COVID-19
- Queensland needs a standalone EPA and deserves levy certainty to thrive
- Real money, real action, real change – the transformation is nigh
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill – narrow margin sends a clear signal
- Significant work still to be done ahead of waste export ban
- South Australia leads (again) with green ambitions for #SAGreat remanufacturing
- Taking conflict of interest out of container refund legislation
- The votes are in! Introducing your State Branch leaders
- Turbo charging WARR requires further and faster action
- VIC landfill levy increase pivotal to recovery
- Victoria forges its own path for CDS
- Victorian industry funding a strong step forward
- WA EOI a step towards boosting local reprocessing
- WMRR announcement: current engagement and activities
- WMRR calls on NSW government to add another 'R' to its recession recovery plan
- WMRR celebrates Containers for Change roll-out in WA
- WMRR welcomes continued focus on product stewardship
- WMRR welcomes new directors and VP at AGM
- WMRR Welcomes NSW's Cleaning Up Our Act papers
- WMRR welcomes WA's action on plastics

MEMBERSHIP**2,000**members from across the
WARR industry**1,500**members in working groups,
branches &/or divisions**114%**increase in working group,
branch & division participation**ADVOCACY • NEWS****43**policy & regulatory
submissions**32**informative & impactful
press releases**50+**media interviews &
appearances**EVENTS****21**events across the country,
including 12 webinars**3**conferences, including 2
virtual & 1 in person**1**new event - the inaugural Buy
Recycled Expo SA**MEMBER NETWORKS**

State/territory branch committees in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania met throughout the year to progress industry policies and develop industry standards and strategies in conjunction with state/territory working groups across a range of sectors.

In 2020, engagement in working groups, state branch committees and national divisions grew exponentially, with approximately 1,500 members involved in one (1) or more of these groups, representing a 114% increase from the year before.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Due to COVID-19, WMRR had to pivot to suit evolving restrictions, including cancelling several in-person events and conferences that were planned for the first nine (9) months of the year, such as the national 2020 ENVIRO conference and the 2020 Organics conference.

However, WMRR was determined to maintain and in fact grow its engagement with members in order to continue facilitating knowledge- and information-sharing, and networking. The Association introduced numerous state-based and national webinar-based forums as well as moved scheduled face-to-face national events, such as the QLD Minister's breakfast, and all meetings to an online platform.

This shift has allowed the Association to extend its reach and communication to members in regional and rural areas. Pleasingly, it has also resulted in membership growth as well as increased and more consistent participation in our various working groups and state branches.

State seminar series, events, & dinners**Webinars***New South Wales**

- Welcome drinks
- Cleaning up our Act' Forum*
- Christmas drinks

State seminar series, events, & dinners

Queensland

- Virtual lunch with the Queensland Environment Minister*
- Christmas drinks

South Australia

- EPA EfW webinar*
- SA Waste Strategy breakfast
- GISA thank-you breakfast

Victoria

- CDS forum
- Recycling Victoria forum*
- Christmas drinks

Western Australia

- Waste Reform forum*
- C&D forum
- Christmas drinks

National webinars

- Waste 2020 14-week webinar series (in partnership with Impact Environmental)
- WMRR Annual General Meeting
- Landfill Gas webinar #1
- 2020 Waste & Recycle virtual conference (in partnership with WALGA and DWER)
- WRAP webinar #1
- WRAP webinar #2
- Waste Educators national forum #1
- Climate KIC webinar #1
- Climate KIC webinar #2

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Waste 2020 conference - webinar series (in conjunction with Impact Environmental)

- Keynote Addresses
- Organics & FOGO
- Social Enterprise
- COAG Panel Discussion
- Waste Strategy
- Education
- Circular Economy
- COVID Panel Discussion
- Product Stewardship
- Collection
- Litter & Illegal Dumping
- Recycling & Resource Recovery
- Indigenous Waste Management
- Energy from Waste

2020 SA Waste & Resource Recovery Conference – Adelaide, South Australia

Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on the 28 and 29 October, this conference was the first and only in-person WMRR conference this year. The two (2)-day program drew 150 delegates to the conference, which included keynote presentations from Australian experts, concurrent sessions under the theme ‘outside the square, inside the circle’, and networking opportunities including welcome drinks and a conference dinner.

2020 SA Buy Recycled Expo

WMRR partnered with Green Industries SA to deliver a free exhibition to increase awareness and demand for products made from recycled materials. Sponsored by GISA, this event, which was co-located with the SA Waste & Resource Recovery Conference, was the first of its kind in SA and attracted 26 exhibitors and 278 attendees over two (2) days.

NATIONAL DIVISION REPORTS

BIOHAZARD WASTE INDUSTRY

“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”
– Theodore Roosevelt.



COVID-19 tested the clinical waste industry like no other event in modern history. While most other annual reports will reflect on the disruptive nature of the pandemic, with majority of industries grappling with lockdown challenges, the exponential increase in clinical waste volume thrust the entire clinical waste management supply chain into the spotlight. Images of yellow clinical waste bags piling on the streets outside aged care facilities peppered the media, the uncertainty around the transmission through, and survival of, disease on surfaces caused concern, and the lack of yellow bins to meet increased demands were just some of the questions and challenges faced by industry.

The BWI Division - a passionate entity of transporters, treatment operators, and consultants - banded together to try to understand the latest facts in order to disseminate accurate information based on the scientific authority we knew to be true. There was a strong sense of service that as an industry, we needed to step forward and assist our customers as they faced the crisis firsthand in their facilities.

Notably, the teams from Med-X under Van Karas, Ace Waste with Alex Homewood, independent and long-term member Trevor Thornton, and Veolia, which I represent, rallied with the ongoing support of the WMRR team. Together, we developed and distributed nationally consistent guidance documents on the most appropriate handling of clinical waste that struck the right balance related to safely segregating what could be considered clinical waste and what was not.

The Division also took the lead in assisting governments, providing independent and best practice guidance and advice to various regulators and other state government departments on managing COVID-related clinical waste and other issues.

BIOHAZARD WASTE INDUSTRY

Our ability to buckle down in the face of a pandemic – despite the direct threat of the virus to our industry – and deliver an essential service while providing unbiased, scientifically proven guidance, and being ready to go above and beyond at a moment's notice is something to be proud of, and it has cemented the BWI Division as the leading and trusted authority on the management of biohazardous waste in Australia.

The pandemic made for a busy year, but the Division also turned its attention to the Industry Code of Practice for Managing Biohazardous Waste (including Clinical and Related Waste), which was due for an update. The Code brings together minimum regulatory requirements combined with a best practice approach to managing biohazardous waste and just before Christmas, we published the 8th edition, which included a chapter on pandemic clinical waste management and is now more accessible as an online publication coupled with FAQs to provide relevant stakeholders with easy reference guides.

BWI continues to push ahead with the vital services we provide, and I am thankful for the support and camaraderie of our members.

TIM LEE
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL CARBON



What a pleasure it has been to rekindle with the WARR industry after a few years of absence. Thank you to Joe Pickin for chairing the division for the last 10 years and thank you to the highly active usual-carbon-suspects who have made the work of the division thoroughly enjoyable.

Throughout 2020, the WMRR National Carbon Division explored whether and how to join the chorus of countries, states, councils, and industries that have committed to reducing their emissions to net zero before 2050, in line with the requirements of the Paris Agreement. Whilst our sector's impact on Australia's national greenhouse gas accounts is well known, the consensus was that we needed to:

1. Clarify what is meant by "net zero" or "decarbonising the industry".
2. Establish a frame of reference to enable a common language.
3. Define a set of metrics around this issue.
4. Determine appropriate targets, strategy and implementation pathways.

Our footprint

In 2018, Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions were 537.4 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e). Of this volume, solid waste emissions accounted for 1.7% (9.357 MtCO₂-e); methane (CH₄) from landfills made up 97% of these emissions (9.045 MtCO₂-e) with the rest resulting from organics processing (0.281 MtCO₂-e) and incineration (0.031 MtCO₂-e). The rates of methane recovery from solid waste have improved substantially, increasing from a negligible amount in 1990 to 7.7MtCO₂-e in 2018.

The solutions to neutralising our impact are also well known. From this perspective, 'decarbonising' means reducing our emissions down to zero within 30 years, even as waste generation continues to grow, by some combination of:

- Reducing emissions from landfill by more than doubling our current landfill gas capture capacity.
- Reducing the landfilling of food and other organic waste.
- Reducing the emissions associated with the handling and processing of waste.

NATIONAL CARBON

Our contribution goes beyond neutralising our own impact

The WARR industry can go above and beyond its own contribution as we play a crucial role in broader supply chain material flows, by reprocessing materials that can be kept in circulation in the productive economy for as long as possible.

From this perspective, 'decarbonising' means contributing to global carbon neutrality through collaboration. Even if we are not able to reduce our own emissions in absolute terms (which we can!), we are in a position to help bring about a 'net-zero emissions future' by enabling others to reduce their own footprint. We can achieve this by growing the number of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) that we and our stakeholders produce, so that the number of ACCUs created matches or exceeds our impact on the National Greenhouse Gas Accounts. We can also triple the WARR industry's current portfolio of carbon projects within 30 years (from 3.6MtCO₂-e to >9MtCO₂-e) by promoting the update of existing ACCU methodologies (landfill gas, AWT, source separated organics, transport and energy efficiency, soil carbon, or fuel switching), and developing new ACCU methodologies to account for the full benefits of recycling (e.g., embodied energy of recyclables), biomethane, carbon capture and storage etc.

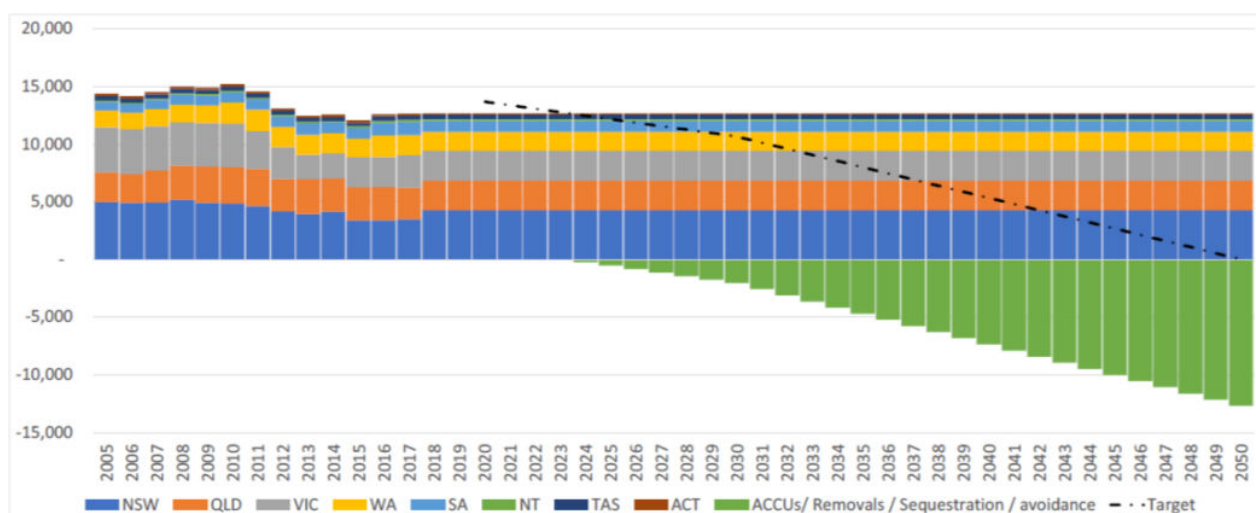


Figure 1 The WARR industry can achieve 'net-zero' by enabling others to compensate for our impact

NATIONAL CARBON

What is the division doing?

The main policy driver, the Climate Solutions Fund, encourages members to seek out ways to produce and sell 'lowest cost abatement' ACCUs to the Commonwealth. To date, there are 150 WARR projects registered under the Climate Solutions Fund. Since FY13, those projects have created 28.5MtCO₂-e of abatement - or about 4MtCO₂-e/year on average in recent years. That is about half of our industry's annual emissions, and 31% of the 91.7MtCO₂-e created under the scheme by almost 1,000 projects.

What's next?

Over the next 12 months, some of our early pioneers' carbon projects will reach the end of their ACCU production. Most projects' crediting period is limited to seven (7) years [except for a five (5)-year extension for LFG flaring projects]. This will create a challenge for the industry as we will be forced to find new ways to ensure that our progress and gains to-date are not reversed. We will need to be creative and find commercial uses for the methane that we capture and the mixed waste that we divert and seek pathways to further expand our activities even as carbon support for existing infrastructure tapers off.

However, new projects that go beyond regulatory requirements will continue to be eligible for seven (7) years or more. With almost 7Mt of organic waste still sent to landfill each year, there remains massive untapped opportunity for the industry to make full use of the Source Separated Organic Waste (SSOW) diversion method, which could unlock net payments of up to \$10/t.

In 2021, the WMRR National Carbon Division will continue to advocate for clear and effective carbon policy that benefits our members, their clients, and the community at large.

JULIEN GASTALDI
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL ENERGY FROM WASTE



Progress in Energy from Waste (EfW) continued in 2020, though the pace of growth, whether in the development of projects or policies, varied widely across the states.

On a federal level, there appeared to be an increasing appetite for EfW, evidenced in part by the release of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' Technology Investment Roadmap discussion paper for consultation in June, which captured the European, North American, and Asian EfW landscapes. This work culminated in Australia's First Low Emissions Technology Statement and a finalised roadmap, both of which seek to complement other federal policies, including the National Waste Policy and Action Plan. Notably, EfW was listed as one of 16 emerging technologies deemed to have strong transformative potential and would likely play a key role in Australia's transition to lower emissions.

Later that year, the Department released its draft Modern Manufacturing Strategy that was backed by \$1.3 billion in new funding for six (6) priority areas, including 'recycling and clean energy'. Not only did this represent a significant shift towards material management, it provided WMRR with an opportunity to advocate for numerous national EfW pathways, including a precinct approach to maximise technologies such as EfW, as well as the need for a harmonised national planning and regulatory framework captured within a national EfW policy, one that sets out a robust framework, and is, importantly, based on proven scientific research and evidence.

On a state level, the highly-anticipated EfW facilities on the west coast – Kwinana and East Rockingham – continued their development, albeit with some delays due to COVID-19. The Kwinana site is expected to be commissioned at the end of 2021 with East Rockingham to follow on its heels. These facilities are very exciting for the industry and will mark a new age in best practice residual waste energy recovery in Australia. We also welcomed the South Australian EfW policy in April, which took a very sensible approach to managing EfW in that state, linking source separation and diversion to eligibility for EfW, as well as utilising EU mechanisms for its policy.

NATIONAL ENERGY FROM WASTE

Queensland too made headway in 2020, releasing its EfW policy following consultation in 2019. The consensus is that this policy is a good high-level document that outlines the key principles of EfW based on a risk-based framework. Getting to the next stage will rely on the development of the EfW guideline that is expected to provide further and much-needed clarity around operating standards and more. A number of large-scale proposals are at various stages of development in Queensland and there is strong government support for them.

Unfortunately, other than Queensland, progress in the eastern states, namely NSW and Victoria, remained sluggish. In NSW, proponents pressed on with their development proposals despite concerns about the state's EfW policy; however, advancement has been hampered by the EPA's slow approval processes and the lack of certainty, with industry continuing to wait for the release of the extremely delayed 20-year strategy, which we understand may impact EfW. Despite this, at least four (4) large-scale and high-quality projects continue to move forward, driven by an overwhelming need for alternatives to dwindling landfill options.

In Victoria, WMRR continues to positively engage with the EPA as it works through industry's feedback on its EfW guidance; however, the final policy has been significantly delayed. This has been disappointing for the industry as there remains very good fundamentals for EfW development in Victoria through a strong need for landfill alternatives and the state's high carbon emission reduction targets.

It is against the backdrop of these trends, movements and challenges that the Division engaged – both on a national level and through the state-based working groups – with policy makers, advocating for best practice policies and regulatory frameworks, and providing recommendations to allow Australia to maximise opportunities in EfW that will lead to positive environmental and economic outcomes, including playing a part in the nation's post-COVID recovery. Our members' tireless efforts have paid off in several ways, from regulators such as EPA Victoria continuing to engage with WMRR on industry's feedback, to an ongoing willingness to listen to the sector's concerns, to committing to speaking with members and presenting updates at working group meetings. In turn, this has resulted in exponential growth in working group membership across all states.

The Division was also tasked at the end of 2020 to progress the actions in WMRR's 2019 EfW Roadmap – Time for Change: WMRR Roadmap to 2025 for Energy from Waste – and two sub-groups, communications and technical, were formed to do much of this work in 2021.

NATIONAL ENERGY FROM WASTE

The division has its work cut out for it in 2021 as we await the release of NSW's 20-year strategy, Victoria's EfW policy, and Queensland's supporting EfW guidance documents. This is alongside the work that the two (2) sub-committees have been tasked with, DAs in the eastern states moving ahead, and of course, the return of the biennial WMRR Energy from Waste conference.

Overall, the future for EfW in Australia has never been brighter with strong alignment between both the need for landfill alternatives and carbon emission reductions. We look forward to helping solve these challenges in the coming years.

BEN SAWLEY
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL LANDFILL



The fundamental role of the landfill sector, particularly its essential nature during periods of service and economic disruption as well as post-disasters and emergencies, took the spotlight in 2020.

The year kicked off with the ongoing clean-up of the 2019 bushfires and since then, the sector has buckled down to tackle wave after wave of unprecedented events, from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to severe flooding across Australia, proving its resilience, necessity, and capacity in protecting human health and the environment. However, our nation's landfill airspace has been, and will continue to be impacted by these events and jurisdictions will need to consider what appropriate landfill planning for our future looks like.

On a national level, the uncertainty surrounding PFAS, specifically the acceptance of PFAS-contaminated materials at engineered landfill sites as well as trade waste with trace elements of PFAS by water authorities, remains an ongoing challenge. WMRR continues to engage regulators and authorities on the prevalence of PFAS in a host of materials and the need for certainty in how industry, which is the end-of-pipe solution, should deal with these materials. Consultation on the PFAS NEMP 3, which would this time focus on the waste and resource recovery sector (amongst other industries), is due to commence soon and WMRR will facilitate member feedback.

Nationally, there is consensus that landfill management is one key area of improvement for the sector but that this highly technical field remains a black box to many, though the thirst for knowledge is certainly there. Thus, the Division embarked on planning for a series of technical webinars that commenced at the end of 2020 with sessions on current best practice in landfill gas recovery at Australian landfills (both larger sites with commercial scale energy recovery and smaller sites using flares and improved operational practices to minimise emissions), and monitoring and management of subsurface migration.

On a state level, working groups remained engaged, driving jurisdictionally relevant activities and submissions associated with proposed regulatory changes, information-sharing, and industry feedback.

NATIONAL LANDFILL

The Queensland and NSW groups continue to tackle ongoing issues that as yet, remain unresolved. Despite WMRR's persistent correspondence with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, there remain numerous levy-related problems. The working group however, has been unrelentless in its pursuit for answers and solutions and continue to share information and knowledge with the Department in the hope that some of the issues can be resolved sooner rather than later, especially with the levy now in its second year of operation.

Meanwhile, the NSW working group has been on a productive hunt and gather mission to provide data and robust evidence on a unique and years-long issue – the levy exemption for engineering materials used as engineered fill at landfill sites. NSW EPA only provides landfill levy exemption to design limits which differ to construction specifications to assure compliance with the landfill guidelines. Operators are faced with budgeting for levy payment on legitimate construction works using virgin quarry product.

It has also been a busy year for SA and Victoria, with the latter preparing for the impending roll-out of the new EP Act that was pushed back from 1 July 2020 to 1 July 2021 due to the pandemic. The Victorian working group has been highly engaged with the EPA and DELWP, providing important operational insight into the issues that need to be ironed out before commencement, including waste classification codes and the state's new waste tracking system.

Over in SA, a few major policy and regulatory changes captured the focus and attention of the sector, namely the implementation of financial assurances, mass balance reporting, and changes to levy exemption for waste fill and construction materials. It is pleasing to see the strength of the working group's relationship with the regulator in action, with the EPA continuing to show both an interest and openness in considering industry's input.

Turning to WA, the working group met on as-needed basis with the sector having had a relatively stable year though operators are keeping a watching brief on the potential impacts of the forthcoming commissioning of the state's two significant energy from waste plants.

2021 will be an exciting year for the landfill sector, with continued roll-out of the technical webinar series and of course, WMRR's biennial Australian Landfill and Transfer Station Conference in June, which has an established reputation as the leading event of its type in the region.

Finally, thank you to all members who have participated in and supported the activities of the working groups and division.

PAUL LIGHTBODY
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY & MARKET DEVELOPMENT



The National Resource Recovery and Market Development (RRMD) Division and state working groups were established in early 2019, in recognition of the role that WMRR and its members have in the resource recovery and market development sector. Since then, the group has gone from strength to strength, building on the strong foundational work of inaugural Chair Mark Rawson and the team. I would like to thank Mark and the state RRMD working groups for sharing information and knowledge in this important area.

In 2020, the looming COAG export bans were on industry's mind and the imperative to develop local markets for recycled materials had never been greater. Thus, the activities of the RRMD Division centered on seeking out exemplary Australian recycling and reprocessing businesses and initiatives that could drive positive solutions to address the impending challenges the sector would face. The work did not stop there, with state working group chairs putting their heads together to uncover ways to connect stakeholders across the entire supply chain to facilitate the take-up of secondary materials in remanufacturing – no mean feat indeed.

It was no doubt challenging but the 2020 SA Buy Recycled expo confirmed our essential industry's role and ability in identifying, promoting, and connecting stakeholders to remanufacturers that are currently manufacturing products made from Australian recycled content. In planning for the expo, WMRR uncovered close to 200 Australian remanufacturers and as the exhibition revealed, many may be unaware of what products are available in the market and which businesses are making these, representing a significant opportunity for WMRR to build linkages that will hopefully grow much-needed end markets for Australian recycled content and products.

Another attribute of WMRR is the fact that we work nationally, enabling a 'horizon scan' view of the Australian market and the division provided the platform for state chairs to identify and discuss valuable and potentially replicable state-based initiatives. Through these reviews and discussions, we have identified some governments (including departments) that are exploring viable ways to procure and consume recovered materials and are well on their way to best practice procurement. In 2021, we will advocate for these best practice models to be adopted by other jurisdictions with the aim of creating nationally harmonised frameworks that support market consumption consistently across the country.

NATIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY & MARKET DEVELOPMENT

We will also continue to advocate on behalf of the sector by showcasing and demonstrating new businesses and innovation through working group presentations and other information-sharing avenues. We will also identify and proliferate innovations and leadership in governance and government procurement.

Given the challenges the sector will face as more materials come under the COAG bans, the important role of the WMRR and the extended resource recovery sector community has never been greater. I would like to thank all WMRR members who have given time and input to the various RRMD groups. We look forward to progressing the key RRMD focus areas over the next 12 months and sharing these with broader WMRR members, decision makers and community members beyond.

LIAM O'KEEFE
DIVISION CHAIR

STATE BRANCH REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES



“What a difference a year makes”. Unfortunately, NSW remains in a policy black hole with optimism in 2019 of the long-awaited overarching 20-year strategy being released dashed, and coupled with ongoing policy and regulatory issues, industry continues to operate with tremendous uncertainty, as it has for more than three (3) years.

There were glimmers of hope at the start of the year, when the second iteration of the 20-year strategy, which the NSW government has touted will guide the future of WARR in NSW, was released for consultation in March. The Branch pulled out all the stops to provide productive feedback, including urging the government to also consider the C&D and C&I streams given the volumes generated, as well as greater emphasis being placed on the design of products, waste avoidance, repair and reuse – essentially calling on the government to go back to first principles of the waste hierarchy. Importantly, WMRR urged the government to release a strategic infrastructure strategy that ensured WARR infrastructure was both viewed as vital and critical, and where land and/or precincts would be identified to de-risk the process of development.

The essential nature of the waste industry services was again on display during the support of the clean-up following the devastating bushfires throughout NSW as well as the integrated response to the management of COVID 19 waste.

The government also released its plastics plan, which showed a level of leadership as there was a clear understanding that business as usual would not achieve results and instead, committing to phasing out single-use plastics as well as developing an ambitious, achievable, and holistic policy framework to support that phase-out were necessary. We were especially encouraged by the outcomes and directions set out in the draft paper and it was clear from the outset that deep consideration had to be given to design standards as well as acknowledgement that managing plastic waste is and must be a shared responsibility, with a good attempt at defining the roles of stakeholders.

NEW SOUTH WALES

And then, we were back to radio silence. However, what is evident is that our waste and resource recovery industry in NSW is resilient and it is determined to get on with the job of delivering essential services while finding ways to invest, innovate and grow. It is this enduring spirit of our sector that must be celebrated.

We just have to look at the EfW developments proposed in NSW as evidence of this resilience. Despite an EfW policy that is challenging, and despite being told that the 20-year strategy, which would encompass EfW was “imminent”, proponents continued with their development proposals, seeking ways to meet the EPA’s requirements while ensuring financial viability and meeting the state’s environmental and economic objectives. While industry is aware of the significant role that EfW can play in an integrated WARR system, this understanding has filtered to other stakeholders and today, our EfW working group is the largest it’s been since it started.

Behind the scenes, our working groups have been engaging with the regulator, notably the ongoing discussions between the EPA and the C&D working group to find workable solutions to unexpected asbestos finds in waste receipted at sites, and testing of recovered fines. There is progress, albeit slow, on this front but it is worth acknowledging the good working relationship that the group has with the EPA.

The landfill working group has also been collaborating on the impracticability of the current levy exemption requirements on engineering materials. The group is gathering robust data and evidence to present to the EPA.

The Resource Recovery and Market Development working group has capitalised on the opportunity to link stakeholders in the supply chain and last year, it started to engage with brands and manufacturers, inviting them to meetings to present and meet with the industry.

In other exciting news, the Waste Educators’ working group continued to go from strength-to-strength, spearheading a national waste educators forum at the end of 2020 that drew such a large crowd and was hailed a massive success that WMRR will be replicating this model for future waste educators forums in 2021. Our Young Professionals working group has also grown and even though we do not yet have a national YPs division, the enthusiastic chairs and vice chairs of each state regularly meet on their own accord to collaborate and share ideas to increase engagement.

NEW SOUTH WALES

A region in NSW that is bursting with opportunities and activities thanks to its strong manufacturing base, proactive local governments, and investor interest is the Hunter/Central Coast region. As such, WMRR is relaunching its Hunter/Central Coast working group in 2021 to drive WARR activities and outcomes.

So, while it is not all doom and gloom, the bright sparks have been made largely by our industry, which we should all be proud of. We have amazing people and an amazing Branch committee which was led by former President Garth Lamb for a number of years before stepping down in mid-2020 – many thanks to Garth for his leadership of the Branch and his continued commitment to the sector and WMRR.

2021 will be an eventful year, with the implementation of the COAG export bans and the federal government's commitment to our sector, as evidenced by the significant funding it has announced through the Recycling Modernisation Fund and Modern Manufacturing Initiative. It is hoped that the NSW government will follow suit and lead the way in capturing the myriad opportunities that our sector has to offer.

PHIL CARBINS
NSW BRANCH PRESIDENT

QUEENSLAND



“2019 left the Queensland waste and resource recovery industry full of optimism with the release of a new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the reinstatement of the waste levy. There was much to be done and plenty to look forward to during 2020, and while much of this was hampered by the unfolding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant budget restrictions from many member organisations, the upshot was that our industry continued to provide essential services of public health and protection of the environment.

Last year, former branch President Melanie Kempton wrote about the industry’s anticipation for the state-wide and regional Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plans. This was a state government election priority highlighted by the Queensland branch and regrettably, at the time of writing, these important documents still have not been released. It is critical that a strategic plan accurately identifies both market demand and supply, as well as the infrastructure needed to provide certainty to our industry.

The Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP), with \$100 million over three (3) years, promised to revolutionise our state’s resource recovery industries and yet, only \$34 million has been announced despite receiving over 270 applications.

Regional Queensland however, has continued to benefit from the \$6 million Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package (RRTAP) that assisted to overcome the challenges of limited access to recycling infrastructure and high transportation costs. While initially only a two (2)-year program, many in the regions are advocating for this assistance to continue until the right infrastructure can be delivered, through the guidance of the infrastructure plans and funding from initiatives such as the RRIDP.

Although diminished, interstate waste transport continues, yet there are opportunities ahead with a legislative review on the efficacy of the waste levy due to commence soon.

QUEENSLAND

The state's regulator has formed some strategic partnerships; conducting joint investigations with the Queensland Police Service, forming an MoU with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to prevent fires in stockpiles, and developing partnerships with local governments have proved successful with 31 dedicated compliance officers working across 27 local government areas targeting illegal dumping.

COVID provided challenges for events; however, a virtual lunch with then Environment Minister, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch and a roundtable meeting with the Hon. Trevor Evans MP, Federal Member for Brisbane and Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental, provided insight into the challenges and opportunities facing Queensland. The state government elections in October saw a change of portfolios for some Ministers and Meaghan Scanlon MP took on responsibilities for waste management and resource recovery, having been allocated the environment portfolio. We look forward to continued engagement with Minister Scanlon as we focus on the strategic priorities that can fundamentally shift the way resources are managed in this state.

The branch and working groups continue to be active and responsive, providing input to WMRR's policy submissions and making representation to government when required, all while keeping up a strong level of engagement through meetings and more.

There are plenty of opportunities for us in the year ahead and I look forward to continuing to work with our members. Thank you for your dedication and commitment over the past year.

MATTHEW MCCARTHY
QUEENSLAND BRANCH PRESIDENT

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



2020 was a most tumultuous and testing period for many in the waste and resource recovery industry. Markets, commodity prices, export bans, and proposed regulatory waste reform influenced all operations and the value of recovered materials. Resilience was further tested as our members played a major role in disastrous bushfire recovery and clean up.

Then there was COVID-19. The SA branch committee and working groups adapted to the restrictions as did most of us, turning to online methods and working with fellow Australians and globally to meet the pandemic head-on. While in-person events were few and far between, and with good reason, we were still able come together for a SA Waste Strategy Breakfast in August, which sparked the light at the end of the tunnel. In October, SA hosted WMRR's first in-person conference of the year – the biennial SA Waste and Resource Recovery Conference in Adelaide.

As you can imagine, planning for a conference amid a pandemic was a considerable task and it is thanks to the WMRR team, the conference committee, and Green Industries SA whose efforts and contributions resulted in a successful conference that was attended by more than 150 delegates and a comprehensive and diverse program. The conference was complemented by the GISA-sponsored Buy Recycled Expo, which drew an even larger crowd, and a sold-out dinner at the Adelaide Zoo.

On the policy and regulatory front, the branch has had a busy year, with members participating in and contributing to the EPA's high-level advisory group and waste industry reference group, single-use plastic ban taskforce (the ban will come into effect on 1 March 2021), and container deposit scheme scoping review advisory group.

Consultation sessions were also organised for members ahead of the EPA's roll-out of mass balance reporting and changes to the collection of levy at landfills in 2021.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA Working groups

The Resource Recovery and Market Development (RRMD) group focused on opportunities presented by the COAG export bans, food organics and garden organics, recovery of small plastic items, and the impacts of COVID on RRMD. Later in the year, the group turned their attention to the diversion of pre-MRF materials.

The Waste Educators were very active with excellent presentations being delivered at their meetings, including a review of the SA government's Which Bin? Education Campaign, highlighting the importance of brands and encouraging stronger community recall of public space messages about recycling. The group also co-ordinated a tour of Treasure Boxes to understand the role of charitable businesses in reducing waste and some of the challenges they face.

The Young Professionals held regular meetings during the year, providing networking and socialising opportunities, including an event that discussed the sector's resilience as well as a tour of Peats Soil's Brinkley site.

The Landfill group took the lead in keeping members informed about, and was involved in, the roll out of changes to landfill waste levy collections, mass balance reporting and financial assurances to stockpiles. PFAS, particularly the acceptance of materials that contained PFAS at landfills, was another development that the group kept abreast of.

The SA branch has been well supported by Brian Johnston, without whom it would be impossible for us to achieve what we have for the sector.

I would like to also acknowledge the significant contribution of GISA CEO, Vaughan Levitzke PSM, over his many years of public service in South Australia. Vaughan's impact on the SA WARR sector during his time as CEO of Green Industries SA, previously Zero Waste SA, cannot be underestimated. WMRR wishes him all the very best in his retirement next year.

WMRR is well entrenched in discussion and collaboration across all sectors underpinning outcomes which will ensure South Australia continues to show leadership and demonstrable outcomes as we head into the new world that embraces the circular economy.

JOHN PHILLIPS OAM
SA BRANCH PRESIDENT

TASMANIA



2019 was a year of positivity throughout Australia and in 2020, the most pleasing thing was that this trend continued. Despite the disruption of COVID on life as we know it, the Tasmanian government continued on the path of regulatory reform and the implementation of change.

The Tasmanian industry is awaiting the commencement of the waste levy in November 2021, which we understand will be initially set at \$20 per tonne, moving to \$60 per tonne over four (4) years. It will be in the second half of 2021 that the details, including how the monies collected will be reinvested in industry, will be finalised. However, the Tasmanian government has said that it intends to invest 100% of the collected levy funds back to industry, a commitment that industry has applauded. WMRR was deeply engaged with the government in 2020 through levy consultation and has also raised that continued funding to regional groups, which are vital for on-the-ground success through education and communication (to name a few), should be considered.

Meanwhile, planning has commenced on the state's Container Refund Scheme (CRS), which will start in 2022; following industry consultation, a two (2)-tiered solution has been accepted by the government. The success of a CRS in Tasmania will be driven by the establishment of a network collection points that are accessible to the community and as Tasmania's population is spread far and wide, collection points will need to be thoughtfully considered. Additionally, as the kerbside recycling stream will be impacted by the transfer of materials from the kerbside bin to collection points, councils will need to adapt to contractual adjustments for the reduction in commodities in the kerbside bin.

2021 is set to be an exciting year of change for Tasmania, driven by these policy and regulatory movements in 2020. Early in the year, the industry will gather at the Tasmanian forum which will seek to create productive dialogues between all stakeholders, including local government, the EPA, industry, and DPIPWE.

JUSTIN JONES
TASMANIAN BRANCH PRESIDENT

VICTORIA



The Victorian branch has had, like so many others, a year unlike any other. The pandemic brought with it new challenges, opportunities, and everything in between. On 16 March 2020, the Victorian government declared a State of Emergency for four (4) weeks and over the following months, the scale of restrictions evolved constantly. Through the pandemic, our industry rose magnanimously to the unprecedented occasion and it became clear to those beyond our sector that WARR is indeed an essential service.

Before COVID-19 put a halt to in-person events and meetings, the branch hosted a CDS forum which provided a useful forum for industry to understand the changes that were to come and to assist with WMRR's submission at the end of the year. When restrictions kicked in – and Victoria has arguably had the most stringent and lengthiest restrictions in the country – the branch and working groups maintained engagement, continuing to meet online. Notably, WMRR made numerous representations to government to ensure that essential services could continue.

2020 was a year filled with a flurry of regulatory and policy activities in Victoria. The year kicked off with the Victorian landfill working group considering the revised Buffer Area Overlay, raising key issues that needed to be rectified. The branch also put on their thinking caps and through their collective skills and experiences, closely examined significant policies that would impact the Victorian policy and regulatory landscape. These included the draft Permissioning Policy under the new EP Act, finalisation of the Victorian Recycling and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Report, and Recycling Victoria – A new economy; the latter included a proposal for four (4) separate recycling streams and DELWP was invited to present on the changes to the branch.

A significant event in 2020 was the deferment of the EP Act implementation, which was pushed to 1 July 2021 due to the pandemic (alongside a halt on levy increases for the year). This proved to be positive for industry, as it allowed WMRR to consult with the government on outstanding issues.

VICTORIA

The EfW policy was another area of contention, particularly the inclusion of a 1Mt per annum cap. However, it is through the strength of our partnerships with the EPA and DELWP that industry was able to positively discuss and work through our issues, concerns, and the government's objectives. The productive discussions that were had, including several meetings between the Victorian EfW working group and government, led to the development of cap inclusions and exclusions. While the final policy has not been released, we are optimistic that the government has taken onboard many of industry's recommendations.

An exciting move this year was the establishment of Ecologiq, a Major Roads Victoria initiative that seeks to optimise the use of recycled content in all major road and rail construction projects. Ecologiq and WMRR have now had several discussions to drive action, including building linkages throughout the supply chain and Ecologiq has continued to meet with Victorian industry through working group and branch presentations, to name a few.

The EP Act will of course be the most significant change in 2021; however, Victoria is also gearing up for a new body, with DELWP releasing a proposed model for the new Victorian Waste Act and Waste Authority in 2020. Industry has provided feedback on these proposals and further details are expected to be released in late 2021.

As 2020 drew to a close, Sustainability Victoria launched its Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre (CEBIC) to bring together businesses, industry bodies such as WMRR, research organisations, governments and communities to foster innovation and collaboration across supply chains to reduce waste, increase re-use and repair and generate new streams of revenue for business.

In 2020, branch president and vice president elections were held and the branch sincerely thanks former President Graeme Stewart for his time and commitment to the committee, working groups, and industry.

There was certainly no lack of action in Victoria in 2020 and Victorian members and the branch were able to unpack the activities and movements at the Christmas drinks, which was a wonderful way to finish off a year that was largely lived online.

With the EP Act being rolled out in 2021, the commencement of the export bans, and work continuing in areas such as the Waste Authority, CDS and more, next year looks set to be another big one for Victoria, with committee and working group members continuing to play a key role in providing valuable input to progress our sector.

KIRSTIN COOTE
VICTORIAN BRANCH PRESIDENT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



2020 was a year like no other, one that saw us zooming to meetings, bringing about so much change to how we, including the WA branch, operate. There are so many heartening instances of industry stepping up in what has been a challenging time for one and all and one such example is the Trucks and Drivers MOU that was put in place by private industry and government sections to share their drivers and truck to get through the pandemic.

This year, WMRR held its branch elections which led to a new President mid-year. A big thank you to former President Adam Johnson and Vice President Janelle Osenton for all their contributions over the years.

The branch and working groups remained active in 2020 and representation from rural and regional councils grew this year; the aim is to keep this up in 2021 and consider how we can re-start the RRMD group which has been dormant for a while.

As with all jurisdictions, in-person events were limited in 2020 and our borders remained closed for most of the year. However, we were still able to gather the troops, hosting an online Waste Reform forum, in-person C&D forum, and of course, Christmas drinks at our “local” – Fibber McGee’s. The latter drew a large crowd and was a good opportunity to unpack the challenges, opportunities, and issues of the year. WA’s annual Waste and Recycle Conference, organised in partnership by WALGA, DWER, and WMRR and held virtually, was also a great success.

On the policy front, proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 were released, which WMRR provided feedback to and the Auditor General published the Waste Management – Service Delivery Report in August that reiterated WA’s lack of success in reaching our 2020 waste strategy targets. Notably, the report stated: “Inadequate local, regional and statewide waste planning, including for waste infrastructure, and a lack of tailored support for local government entities that manage household waste has limited the State’s ability to meet its Waste Strategy targets”. It was also highlighted that the “essential” State Infrastructure Plan had not been prepared at the time of the report but would be in 2021.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 was also up for statutory review in November and considered the efficacy of the legislation in meeting its objectives for reducing waste and encouraging resource recovery, as aligned to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. WMRR's submission noted the focus remained on municipal waste, with no consideration of how to manage the C&D and C&I waste streams which made up the majority volume of waste. WMRR encouraged emphasis to be placed on the sustainable design, production and procurement to close the loop, and pointed out that a roadmap had not been developed to address the issues and recommendations raised in the Auditor General's report.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) was another area of focus in WA, with \$20 million provided through the Better Bins Plus program for the three (3)-bin system. The Draft Composting Guideline was also released for comment at the end of the year to provide support and guidance to industry.

Meanwhile, WA's CDS kicked off in October with no major hiccups and we now have 214 collection points across Perth and other rural and regional areas.

Finally, thank you to all members of the branch committee and working groups for their valuable input and work during the year. I am really looking forward to 2021 with the various policy and funding commitments from both the federal and state governments – real changes await!

LIA BARNETT
WA BRANCH PRESIDENT

FINANCE & GOVERNANACE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation constituted under the Corporations Act 2001 as a company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall strategic direction and financial oversight of the Association.

In 2020, WMRR Board underwent a process of renewal, with a number of two (2)-year Director terms coming to an end. Nominations were called in March 2020 for both nominated and elected Director positions, including for the role of Vice President of WMRR and the members' elected Director, which both fall within the elected Director category. An election was held in May 2020 for the elected Director and Vice President positions.

At the 2020 annual AGM on 10 June, the National President welcomed three (3) new Directors, including the Vice President, and confirmed four (4) current Directors who had re-nominated for a further two-year term. All new Directors commenced their role at the AGM.

There were also two (2) changes to Peak Director representation on the Board that occurred in April 2020.

The Board

Garth Lamb – President
 Adam Faulkner – Vice President (till 10 June 2020)
 Mark Rawson – Vice President (from 10 June 2020)
 Ben Sawley
 Bjoern Becker
 Christine Wardle (from 10 June 2020)
 Georgina Davis
 Jade Barnaby (till 10 June 2020)
 Kim Glassborow
 Marc Churchin
 Mark Biddulph
 Mark Venhoek
 Mike Ritchie
 Toby Terlet (from 10 June 2020)
 Timothy Youe

The Association's projects and programs would not be possible without the hard work of the WMRR national team. WMRR staff employed for the year 2020 included:

Gayle Sloan
 Jack Slater (June 2020 – October 2020)
 Jacqueline Ong
 Jan Cornay (August 2020 – October 2020)
 Julie Gavrilovic
 Justine Foster
 Patrick Lau (till August 2020)

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

The WMRR Board is supported by three (3) committees:

- Audit and Risk
- HR and Remuneration
- Nominations

Audit and Risk committee

The Audit and Risk Committee monitors the Association's financial reporting, accounting and auditing policies and procedures, considers risks to WMRR, and assists in developing responses to any recommendations of the external financial auditors.

The key objectives of the Committee are to:

- review the Association's risks and arrangements;
- approve terms of engagement of audit officer and scope; and
- monitor integrity of financial statements.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Audited Financial Statements and External Audit Report, which are available to members on the WMRR website.

The Audit and Risk Committee has had a substantial change in membership following the election in mid-2020. The committee is in the process of updating the risk register for WMRR. The committee is pleased with the way the Association is navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on WMRR activities, including moving to online options for webinars and other branch activities.

The Audit and Risk Committee believes the Association is in a sound financial position, with sufficient fiscal, risk, and governance controls to effectively manage WMRR on behalf of its members.

Mark Rawson
Audit and Risk committee Chair



BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations committee

The Nominations Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding the appointment of Directors to the WMRR Board. The Committee is made up of a smaller group of Board Directors, which leads the ongoing process of Board renewal and seeks to ensure a diverse and balanced Board.

At the 2020 AGM, we farewelled a number of great contributors to the WMRR Board and following a hotly-contested nomination and election process held in early 2020, we welcomed a number of new Directors to the Association.

Joining the Board in 2020 were Vice President Mark Rawson, a long-time contributor to the Association through his home state of South Australia, as well as via various national working groups. Toby Terlet, based in Western Australia, was appointed as the Members Elected Representative, and Christine Wardle, based in Victoria, joined the Board as a Skills Director.

In the lead up to the 2021 AGM, the process of electing a new National President has, as expected, attracted a strong field of candidates. Outcomes of the election will be announced at the AGM, and the Nominations Committee was very pleased with the strong response from members seeking to play a leadership role in the Association.

At every level of the organisation, WMRR relies on the skills and energy volunteered by its membership in order to represent the sector and deliver the objectives of WMRR. Especially as I prepare to step down as Chair of the Nominations Committee, it is opportune to thank all the Directors who volunteer their time and skills for the benefit of our sector, and with whom I have had the privilege of working with. Their efforts in professionalising the waste and resource recovery sector in Australia is very much appreciated.

Garth Lamb
Nominations committee Chair

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

HR and Remuneration committee

The Board delegates matters related to the employment, remuneration, and performance of the Chief Executive Officer to the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee, which is made up of a smaller group of Board Directors.

The Committee meets on an as-needed basis, including in relation to the annual review of the CEO's performance. The Committee noted that 2020 was an exceptionally challenging and difficult year for the Association overall and while the CEO did an excellent job managing through those challenges, the full bonus component of the salary package was not awarded.

The CEO's contract was renewed for another three (3)-year term in November 2019, and the Committee looks forward to the continued momentum and positive impact the CEO will deliver for WMRR members in the years ahead.

Garth Lamb

HR and Remuneration committee Chair

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income

Income from memberships YTD was \$566,682 versus budget YTD of \$617,193 which is under budget by \$51,000 (-8.2%) and slightly down on 2019 by \$26,000 (-4.3%). This may be explained by the fact that WMRR's conferences are often integral in driving membership - the inability to hold national face to face conferences due to COVID hampered WMRR's ability to drive membership through this type of engagement.

However, the introduction of webinar-based forums has aided in a continued renewal of memberships and also encouraged new members to join foreseeing the benefits of being able to participate in events that previously they would not have been able to.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on conference- and event-related income. The total income for the year was \$860,134, this included government related COVID stimulus payments.

Note 2 - Revenue

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Operating activities		
Members subscriptions	566,682	592,219
Conference income	204,795	661,344
Sponsorship income	48,650	166,623
Advertising revenue	12,088	20,741
Other income	27,919	34,443
	<u>860,134</u>	<u>1,475,370</u>
Non operating activities		
Interest received	7,833	11,885
ATO COVID Stimulus Payments	194,200	-
Total revenue	<u>1,062,167</u>	<u>1,487,255</u>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenses

For the year 2020, WMRR was below budgeted expenses by \$288,000 (-20.8%). Whilst some of the reduction in spending is a direct result of very little expenditure on conferences and events, a prudent approach to managing the finances in these difficult times (including for example gaining a rental reduction) was employed to ensure that costs were well managed.

The main variances are:

- Employment Costs are below budget by \$45,000.
- Member/event-related expenditure below budget by \$201,000.
- Domestic Travel down \$12,000.
- A 20% rent reduction for the period July to December was secured from our landlord.

Total funds received for Cashflow Boost and Jobkeeper for the year ending December 2020 was \$181,900.

EXPENSES

Accounting fees	885	765
Auditors remuneration	7,500	7,500
Bank & merchant fees and charges	3,206	8,274
Meeting expenses	-	3,411
Computer expenses	32,043	30,959
Conference costs	115,537	404,096
Depreciation & amortisation	104,885	54,175
Employment & contractor expenses	707,370	676,799
Insurance	11,421	8,032
Interest	21,995	4,394
Professional and legal fees	3,569	8,636
Consulting fees	14,750	11,487
Office amenities	3,772	3,419
Postage and courier	-	30
Printing and stationery	7,525	4,722
Rent and Outgoings	5,364	4,453
Subscriptions	7,520	7,355
Branch administration	12,658	15,022
Telephone and internet	16,293	23,362
Travelling expenses	7,442	45,880
Sundry expenses	13,307	25,423
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,097,042	1,348,194

The net loss for the 2020 year is \$34, 875. Retained earnings on the balance sheet at the end of 2020 was \$697,582.

PEAK MEMBERS

WMRR THANKS OUR PEAK MEMBERS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT





ANNUAL REPORT

WMRR.ASN.AU