

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT
AND RESOURCE
RECOVERY
ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

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

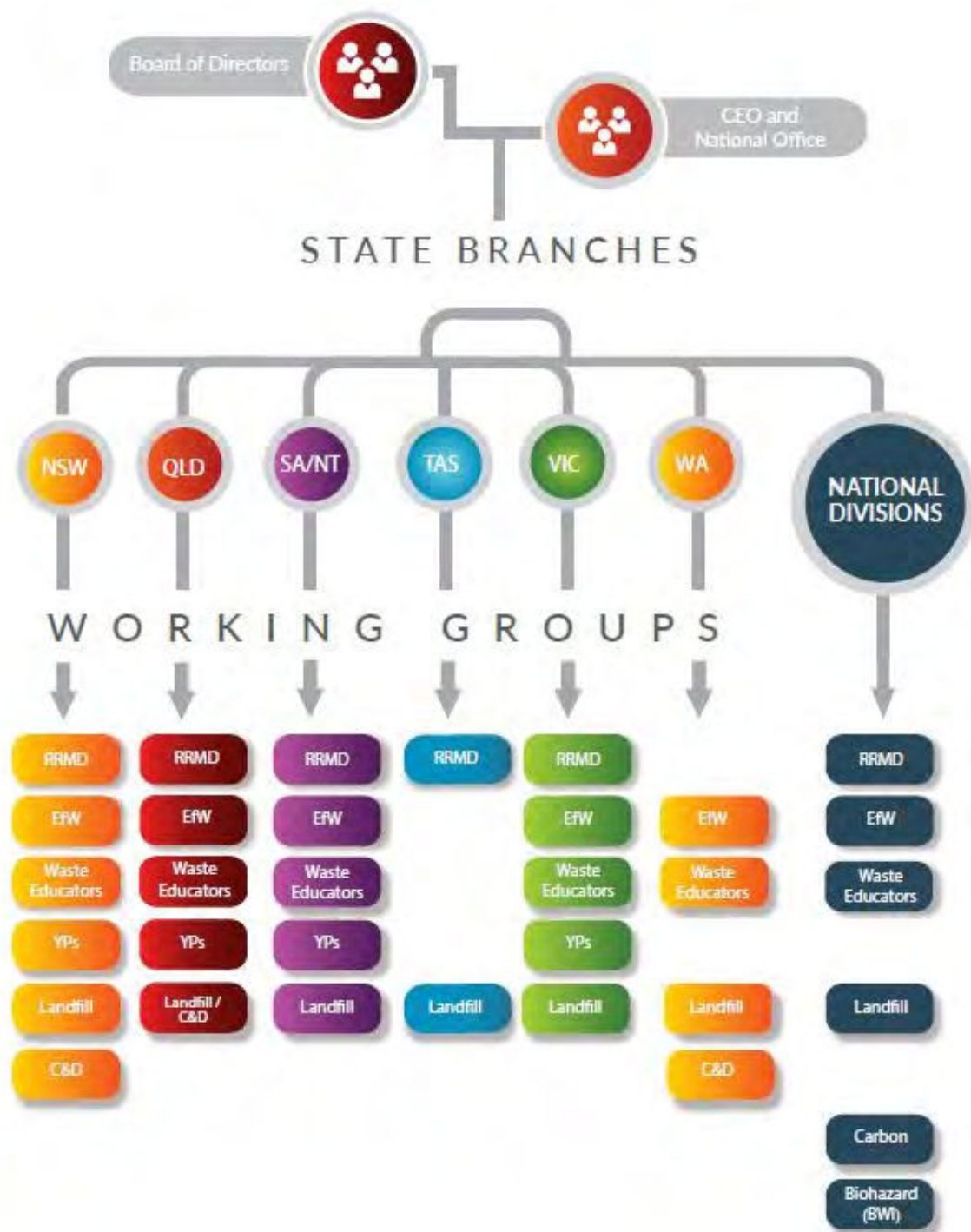
WMRR's diverse membership spans nationwide and represents the breadth and depth of the Australian waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry, including all critical players within this essential industry, which contributes \$15.5 billion nationally towards the Australian economy and 50,000 jobs.

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 2021, WMRR offered:

- six (6) national divisions that held 39 meetings;
- six (6) state branch committees that held 65 meetings; and
- 28 state-based working groups that held approximately 200 meetings.

WMRR STRUCTURE



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.

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

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

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

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.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I pen my first National President's report, I am filled with immense pride for both our sector and WMRR as we continue to service our communities in the midst of a range of challenges that most people will never know or understand. To many, their responsibility ends after they've put out their bin, organised for someone to pick up a load, or empty their truck at a suitable site. But it is so much more for our essential industry as we seek out ways to maximise the value of the materials that we collect (but don't generate) and ensure that we provide quality services even in the middle of a pandemic or natural disaster event.

2021 was a year on repeat where once again, the WARR sector faced unprecedented challenges as the country (and the rest of the world) started to open and face the possibility of living indefinitely with COVID. With this came a flow of supply chain issues, labour shortages, and inflationary pressures that when combined with regulatory reforms such as the start of the waste export bans, made delivering essential WARR services all the more demanding.

Yet our industry delivered and not only did we deliver, we excelled. In 2021, we continued to improve our offerings and capabilities, drove even greater value for our key stakeholders, and facilitated ongoing investment to support new initiatives. And our efforts have, to a large extent, paid off as we saw, and continue to see, increases in landfill diversion and improvements in end-of-life material management, strengthening the path that takes a "waste" to a "resource". These are exciting times for our sector and WARR is now looked upon favourably by the next generation, with young smart people entering our industry, bringing with them new enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

We have much to be proud of as we play a significant role in ensuring a successful transition to a circular economy as well as pushing Australia up the rungs of the waste hierarchy. The work that we do makes the planet a better place, keeps communities healthy, and provides jobs to everyday Australians. Of course, there is still
Continued over page



PRESIDENTS REPORT

to be done in many areas, but we must never shy away from the fact that we work hard as an industry and we do a bloody good job.

Speaking of doing a bloody good job, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Garth Lamb, whose four (4)-year President term came to an end last year. During his tenure, we saw once-in-a-lifetime challenges present themselves to industry and the world. Through it all, Garth stood confidently as WMRR's figurehead while providing behind-the-scenes support to WMRR CEO, Gayle Sloan, and the rest of the team. His contribution, both to WMRR and the industry, is recognised and truly appreciated. And of course, his wordsmithing skills and ability to so eloquently draft communication pieces do not go unnoticed; I am envious, and it put us mere mortals to shame.

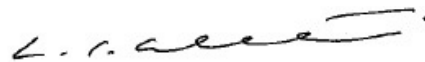
I'd also like to recognise the ongoing efforts of the WMRR team led by Gayle. With the year that we've had, it would have been easy to sit back and say "it's all too hard" but not for this motivated and driven team who continued to achieve great things in 2021. After a 12-month hiatus (thanks to COVID), the team kickstarted WMRR's national conference program in 2021, with the beloved Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations conference in June. Meanwhile, the team continued to ramp up its webinar repertoire, launching the #TakeBackTuesdays series and other information-sharing sessions, as well as finding new ways to share knowledge and insights. The level of engagement that we now have at the state and national levels with regulators and broader government is also seen and recognised by many as being first class.

I know that WMRR is not resting on its laurels but continues to seek out programs and initiatives that will add value for members and help them with their day-to-day operations, for example, continuing to develop Australia's first WARR training and accreditation program.

I would like to also extend my appreciation to all our members. Your input, engagement, and support has bolstered WMRR in 2021, allowing the association to go from strength to strength in a multitude of areas. We recognise your generous provision of time, skills, and experience as well as your ongoing financial support, and you are what truly makes the association - we are nothing without our members.

Finally, to the WMRR Board, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the sector and association. I look forward to working with you in 2022.

"2021 was a year on repeat where once again, the WARR sector faced unprecedented challenges as the country (and the rest of the world) started to open and face the possibility of living indefinitely with COVID."



GEOFF WEBSTER
WMRR NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

SUMMARY OF 2021 MEMBER SERVICES

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY

WMRR submissions to government

Federal

- Nominations for Minister's product stewardship priority list
- Biomethane method package: proposed new method activity under the ERF
- Global agreement on marine plastic litter and plastic pollution - consultation paper
- Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export - Waste Tyres) Rules 2021
- ERF method development priorities for 2022
- Right to Repair Productivity Commission Draft Report
- Landfill gas (generation) method - proposed new method
- Exposure Draft Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export - Waste Plastic) Rules 2021
- Safeguard Mechanism - landfill sector gas capture rate
- Review of the co-regulatory arrangement under the NEPM (UPM) Measure 2011
- Right to Repair

New South Wales

- Revised Draft Material Recovery Facility Processing Refund Protocol
- NSW revocation of recovered fines RRO
- EPA Waste Delivery Plan
- Proposed EP&A Regulation 2021
- NSW Energy from Waste: draft policy statement
- Draft regulatory strategy

Queensland

- Draft Queensland Organics Strategy
- Draft Regulatory Strategy 2021-2026
- Draft State Infrastructure Strategy
- Draft End of Waste Code - Glass Fines
- Energy from Waste guideline
- Submission for proposed end of waste code - incinerator bottom ash
- Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

South Australia

- Improving South Australia's Recycling Makes Cents
- Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS contaminated waste disposal

Victoria

- SV 2030: A decade of action - consultation draft
- Victorian government waste to energy framework
- Proposed waste and resource recovery determinations
- Developing new financial assurance guidance for the waste resource recovery sector
- Western Australia
- Cost recovery part IV environmental protection

Tasmania

- Draft CRS Bill 2021 and Regulatory Impact Statement

MEMBER INFORMATION

Members stayed informed through WMRR's regular email correspondence, including the weekly Resource Bulletins, that provided a comprehensive round-up of weekly policy, regulatory, commercial, and funding movements, 14 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. In 2021, WMRR also launched its monthly Wrap-Up, which showcases the association's activities, media releases, a snapshot of our CEO's appearances in mainstream and trade media, WMRR's policy submissions for the month as well as a few of our forthcoming events and conferences. WMRR CEO's bi-monthly *Inside Waste* CEO column and National President's Board communiqué are also featured in most of these bulletins.

"In 2021, WMRR also launched its monthly Wrap-Up, which showcases the association's activities, media releases, a snapshot of our CEO's appearances in mainstream and trade media, WMRR's policy submissions for the month as well as a few of our forthcoming events and conferences."

MEDIA RELEASES

- Solving Australia's food waste problem requires purposeful planning
- Together, we marched on
- Billion-dollar Queensland WARR package a win for community, environment, and industry
- Australia ReMade – well-intentioned campaign supported
- Resource recovery and retail industries united in support for national textiles product stewardship
- Tasmanian Opposition told to come to the party or get out of the way so we can create jobs
- WARR in Victoria – a misguided race
- A changing tide for energy from waste in NSW
- Waste not, want not: The case for a circular transformation of our food systems
- Queensland's RMF commitment will boost WARR
- From state to state: Australia's thermal energy from waste policy landscape
- WMRR welcomes new Peak Industry Member, Re.Group
- Australia on the right path to tackling plastics
- Room to grow: generating energy from waste in Australia
- ALTS 2021 wrap-up
- NSW strategies signal positive shift in material management
- Policy vacuum, lack of systemic approach leading to exodus of businesses from NSW
- WMRR National President election – the results are in
- WMRR 2021 National President election - voting has commenced
- 2021 Federal Budget – a multi-faceted driving force

2021 IN NUMBERS



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 2021, engagement in working groups, state branch committees and national divisions grew by 11.6% from the year before, with almost 1,700 members involved in one (1) or more of these groups.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

As part of WMRR's commitment to provide greater value to its members, in part through learning and networking opportunities, the association sought to increase our events and conference offering in 2021, growing the number of events by 55% and webinars by 42%, with a number of sold-out events. WMRR was also able to host two (2) conferences in 2021 – the biennial Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations conference and WARRQ (formerly WasteQ) – and launched a second Tasmanian WARR Forum and our popular #TakeBackTuesdays (#TBT) webinar series.

Notably, registrations across all conferences and events, both from members and non-members have remained relatively stable, with a slight dip in conference and face-to-face registrations, which is likely due to COVID-19 restrictions impacting the ability for people to travel interstate.

Meanwhile, online webinars have seen a growth in

member registrations. The ability to connect members and provide ongoing policy and technical content, despite ongoing restrictions as well as the ability to participate across regional and rural Australia, have resulted in higher registrations.

State seminar series, events, & dinners

*Webinars

New South Wales

- Women of WARR leadership breakfast – sold out
- Christmas drinks
- Developing and implementing FOGO in Australia*
- #TBT I – NSW EP&A regulation briefing*

Queensland

- Women of WARR leadership breakfast
- Christmas drinks

WA

- Breakfast with the Minister

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

South Australia

- Chinese New Year dinner
- Women of WARR leadership breakfast
- SA golf day I – sold out
- SA golf day II
- Vaughn Levitzke farewell dinner
- Breakfast with GISA
- Christmas drinks

Victoria

- #TBT V – SV 2030*
- Christmas drinks

Tasmania

- Tasmanian WARR Forum I – sold out
- Tasmanian WARR Forum II

National events

- 2021 Annual General Meeting

National webinars

- National Waste Report 2020
- Understanding and managing fugitive landfill gas (LFG) emissions
- Best practice biohazardous waste management (BWI Code launch)
- Plastic waste – models for avoidance, reuse, and recycling
- Creating a battery product stewardship scheme
- The role of EfW in circular value chains
- #TBT II – Landfill management
- #TBT III – Maximising carbon abatement through FOGO
- #TBT IV – Avoidance, repair and reuse through social enterprises
- #TBT VI – Australian stewardship scheme update (BSC update)
- #TBT VII – End of waste: EU policies and practices
- #TBT VIII – Hazardous Waste in Australia 2021
- #TBT IX – Are we winning the food waste fight?
- YP online debate





EVENTS & CONFERENCES

2021 Australian Landfill & Transfer Stations Conference

The biennial conference marked the recommencement of WMRR's national conferences, following a close to 18-month halt in national conferences due to COVID-19. Held at Doltone House, Darling Island in Sydney from 8 to 10 June, the program kicked off with a one (1)-day workshop and featured a conference dinner and welcome function, drawing a crowd of 137 delegates. The conference provided a forum to share knowledge and discuss opportunities, pathways, and models to drive improvement and innovation in the design, operation, regulation, and safety of facilities.

2021 WARRQ Conference

The biennial WARRQ – formerly Waste Q – conference was held at the Bundaberg Multiplex Sport & Convention Centre in Queensland from 20 to 21 October, with a sold out technical tour on 19 October. Under the theme 'To 2030 and beyond', 108 delegates attended the conference, which drilled into state and regional best practice and innovation, current and new policy directions, challenging waste streams and the opportunities they present, and the importance of education in long-term planning. The program also comprised a welcome function and conference dinner.

WMRR also partnered with the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Western Australian Local Government Association on the 2021 Waste & Recycle conference, and collaborated with Impact Enviro on Waste 2021 (Coffs conference).

WMRR NATIONAL DIVISION REPORTS

BIOHAZARD WASTE INDUSTRY

Another year of COVID-19 outbreaks has again tested the industry bodies dedicated to the management of clinical waste.

While 2020 provided the challenge of understanding and adapting to the issues at large, collaboration and cooperation saw us find our way through the initial surges in volume. New protocols and processes were implemented with industry-wide consensus, both within the BWI group and other organisations, and then confirmed with government and regulators.

In 2021, we sought to address the challenge of clean PPE being classified as clinical waste, and exponentially increasing volumes. In balancing the wide-ranging concerns from healthcare providers – e.g., issues such as potential infections from gowns used in a COVID-19 ward relative to safety risks associated with a pile of uncollected yellow bags outside an aged care facility – it was evident that the need for nationally consistent prioritisation was immediate and real. With the support of WMRR CEO, Gayle Sloan, the division worked on a state-by-state basis to ultimately get a relatively consistent approach across all jurisdictions.

We expect new challenges when the flu season comes around in winter next year, particularly as customers are now attuned to the need for improved safety regimens such that even in the absence of a COVID-19 outbreak, our member organisations are expected to rapidly increase, and then stand down, their clinical waste provisions at each site. As we have over the last two (2) years, we will face these challenges head on, with the BWI division providing expert and timely advice on best practice clinical waste management.

The other significant development that will continue to 2023 is the review of Australian Standards for sharps containers - a critical area that directly impacts the safety of customers and operators

alike, and a great example of the high-level of expertise required to successfully work in the area of clinical waste management. Division members will be putting their heads together to ensure that we provide Australian Standards with considered feedback that works to better our industry.

I would like to thank all members of BWI for their efforts through what has been an extremely challenging period of time, and for the countless hours of support provided by WMRR's Jacqueline Ong. When it would have been easier to simply focus on our own problems and that of our customers, there remains a strong sense of collaboration with a focus on what is best for all of our customers and the broader public.

"In balancing the wide-ranging concerns from healthcare providers it was evident that the need for a nationally consistent prioritisation was immediate and real."



TIM LEE
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL CARBON

A turbulent but positive shift occurred in 2021

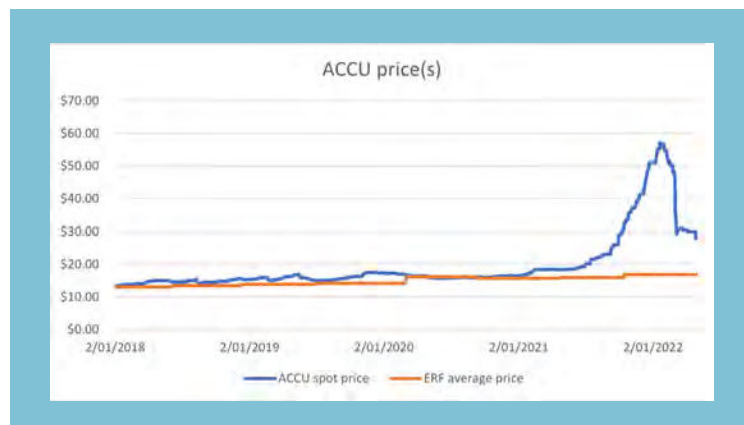
Last year brought about a step change in the Australian carbon markets. After years of activity dominated by the Commonwealth's mandate to only purchase Australian Carbon Credit units (ACCUs) at the 'lowest cost of abatement' possible, 2021 saw the emergence of a strong private demand for emissions reduction outcomes.

That new corporate demand disrupted the status quo as it came with its own budget and its own set of requirements which are more driven by concepts of 'value for money' in meeting voluntary and strategic emissions reduction targets.

Methodologies have also been scrutinised and are now feeling the heat of public opinion. A lot of WMRR projects which were the dominant projects in the early days of the carbon markets in Australia have seen their crediting period come to an end, and questions about their value have been asked openly: Are these projects really 'additional'? Should we invest in buying ACCUs from WARR emissions avoidance at all (LFG or waste diversion)? Were WARR emission reductions going to happen anyway because of other financial or state-based incentives? Is reducing emissions enough or should we also try to remove GHG from the atmosphere and store it away permanently? With a GHG effect power of 86x that CO₂ over a 20-year period, shouldn't methane emissions be better targeted?

These considerations have led to a renewed focus from the National Carbon division on how best to engage with the issues and ties them with our other interests in resource recovery, circular economy and energy.

On current prices (even after government intervention to release more supply, which has taken the heat out of the markets) new opportunities are emerging, and old opportunities are being realised at last.



What is the division doing?

Throughout the year, the division has been working on exploring and developing a view on the WARR sector's role in reducing Australia's emissions. This has led to the integration of carbon emissions management into our national policy platform, which WMRR will prosecute in the lead up to the 2022 federal election.

In practical terms, the division has assisted in four (4) submissions:

- The Biomethane method package: proposed new method activity under the Emissions Reduction Fund
- ERF method development priorities for 2022, with a focus on recognising EfW
- Landfill gas (generation) method – proposed new method
- Safeguard Mechanism – landfill sector gas capture rate

What's next?

Over the next 12 months, the division will continue to support WMRR as we articulate and promote WMRR's vision for delivering net zero emissions through the circular economy.

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NATIONAL CARBON

Australia's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for 2019 were 518.9Mt CO₂-e, with waste emissions for the year totalling 12.4Mt, accounting for 2.4% of Australia's total CO₂-e emissions. WMRR believes that the sector can significantly reduce our direct emissions as well as double the amount of ACCUs (to ~10MtCO₂-e) generated. Further, as the WARR sector is intertwined with all other industries, we have a vast opportunity to assist the entire supply chain in reducing its carbon footprint.

In addition to mitigating our end-of-pipe emissions through landfill diversion, organics processing, and methane recovery, a regenerative economy that is bolstered by re-use, remanufacturing and repair will further enhance the reduction of indirect emissions, e.g., through the reduced extraction of virgin materials for product manufacturing, extended product lifespan, and more.



JULIEN GASTALDI
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL ENERGY FROM WASTE

2021 has been an “interesting” time for energy from waste (EfW) in Australia. In WA, two (2) projects are proceeding with the construction of EfW facilities, and it is hoped that their success will help alleviate some of the community concerns being experienced elsewhere in the country. Victoria is also proceeding to plan facilities with four (4) presently on the drawing board in varying stages of project development; however, EfW capacity in Victoria will be limited by a mandated capacity “cap” of one (1) million tonnes per annum.

Unfortunately, elsewhere on the east coast the situation is not as balanced. It would appear that as a result of community pressure, the Queensland government may have recently rejected a proposal to develop a plant in SE Queensland. The positive however, is that the Department of Environment and Science has not only released a considered policy and guideline, but it is also actively engaging with the EfW working group on improvements in areas such as social licence to operate and other technical requirements.

Over in NSW, the state government has released a policy and guideline for EfW which severely restricts the sites available for such plants. Four (4) “precincts” have been considered suitable: Lithgow, Goulburn, Parkes, and the Richmond Valley. This has resulted in several project proposals being terminated. Other sites may be considered at disused power stations subject to EPA approval. Tellingly, no facilities will be permitted in the Sydney metropolitan area and the EfW policy requirement to limit feedstock quantities as a function of waste collection bin configurations, as well the requirement to pre-process source separated fuel, remain in place.

The ramifications for Sydney are potentially serious given a looming lack of landfill capacity and the logistical issues for waste disposal demonstrated by the recent heavy rains. The strategy document concedes one (1) regional facility will be required

and the government is actively pursuing the establishment of a facility at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. Time will tell if this proposal is successful given the policy constraints it faces.

"The ramifications for Sydney are potentially serious given a looming lack of landfill capacity and the logistical issues for waste disposal demonstrated by the recent heavy rains."

Turning to 2022, WMRR's biennial EfW conference will return in March 2022, after being rescheduled in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The conference will likely be well-attended, with a robust program being set and a host of technical experts and government representatives invited to present.

The federal elections will also be held in 2022 and it is WMRR's intention to advocate for opportunities that the WARR sector can maximise to mitigate emissions, including EfW.



RON WAINBERG
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL LANDFILL

Activity in the landfill sector in 2021 was driven by myriad policy and regulatory movements across jurisdictions with the now familiar overlay of pandemic and natural disaster related challenges.

Acknowledging the vital role that landfills and transfer stations play in the WARR industry, the 2021 conference focused on practical ways to drive improvement and innovation in the design, operation, regulation, and safety of facilities, as well as operational efficiencies. Close to 140 delegates attended the conference, which kicked off with a one (1)-day geosynthetics workshop followed by a two (2)-day program which featured some standout keynote presentations by local delegates.

Knowledge-sharing was a focus of the division in 2021 and chairs put their heads together to develop two (2) technical webinars aimed at assisting members in their day-to-day operations. The first provided insight into managing fugitive landfill gas (LFG) emissions, where attendees learned about the collection and use of site monitoring data in risk management as well as design of LFG collection and control systems. Meanwhile, the second webinar built on one of the highly rated presentations at the conference that drilled into landfill operations management, including practical learnings for remote and regional sites and how to face a growing challenge for landfill managers – PFAS concentrations of landfill leachates.

Unfortunately, the industry is in a state of flux when it comes to PFAS, with several inconsistencies in the way it is managed across jurisdictions, despite the existence of the NEMP, the prevalence of PFAS in a host of materials that are not generated by the WARR sector, and the fact that the sector is already providing pathways for safe disposal of PFAS-contaminated materials. Over in SA, members provided feedback in response to a Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS-contaminated waste disposal. WMRR's submission pointed to the need for a coordinated national approach to managing end-of-life PFAS-contaminated materials and the importance of setting thresholds and criteria based on the latest available science that do not deviate from NEMP requirements. The SA working group also remained active in its engagement with the state regulator, ahead of significant changes in 2021 including mass balance reporting, waste levy rebate changes, and financial assurances.

The *Victorian Environment Protection Act 2017* came into effect on 1 July 2021 and WMRR members were actively involved in discussions with the EPA both pre- and post-roll-out on licensing, IT issues, the GED, and interpretation of changes. The EPA attended most of the Victorian landfill working group meetings to better understand concerns and challenges and while some issues remain – and are being worked on – this openness and strong collaboration has assisted in ironing out a few early teething problems.

Over in NSW, the long-awaited Waste and Sustainable Management strategy was finally released with an interesting commitment – a requirement to have gas capture technology at all landfills. Broadly, this is a positive move that has the potential to filter through to other states and change the focus on LFG capture; however, many questions remain, including how this will affect current Emissions Reduction Fund projects. *The Continued over page*



NATIONAL LANDFILL

working group also assisted WMRR in its research and analysis of the impacts of the EPA's proposed revocation of the recovered fines resource recovery order and exemption, providing data on the viability of using these materials for landfill cover. Work also continued on developing an evidence-based response to the longstanding issues with current guidelines on the levy exemption for engineering materials used in landfill construction.

Progress on the levy issues that the Queensland working group highlighted in 2020 slowed to a crawl, despite the best efforts of WMRR to engage with DES and attempt to keep these current and follow up commitments made to resolve these challenges. DES however, remained keen to communicate with the working group, meeting with members throughout the year on other issues such as stockpile definitions, topographic surveys, and levy adjustments. With the levy efficacy and WARR strategy review coming up in 2022, the working group has its work cut out for it to not only provide detailed feedback on improvements needed, but to also reiterate the outstanding levy implementation issues that need urgent attention.

It was an election year for Tasmania and several announcements were made, including the change in roll-out timeframe of the waste levy from 1 November 2021 to 1 July 2022. However, industry had an opportunity in March to consult on the WARR Bill that would introduce the levy and the main thrust of WMRR's submission was that the rate was simply too low to significantly drive WARR infrastructure investment at the levels needed to meet expectations in the state. The division will no doubt offer learnings from their states' levy roll-out, including best practice operational exemptions, in 2022, when the Tasmanian regulations are released for public consultation.

Finally, over in WA, the working group continues to meet on an as-needed basis, with the chair keeping his ear on the ground and catching up with

members offline on potential issues and opportunities. The landfill landscape in WA remains relatively stable though there were some discussions in 2021 on exemptions which would result in operators being liable for the levy.

Thank you to all members who have participated in and supported their respective state-based landfill working groups, as well as the chairs that have shared vital insight and knowledge throughout the year.



PAUL LIGHTBODY
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL RRMD

2021 was a year of connectivity for the National Resource Recovery and Market Development (RRMD) Division, as chairs pushed to find pathways and opportunities to play a role in linking stakeholders in the supply chain – no mean feat indeed but timely with the commencement of the COAG waste export bans.

It was determined early on that EcologiQ, a Victorian government initiative that integrates recycled and reused content across the state's infrastructure projects, was a positive model that had legs to be replicated in other jurisdictions. Of note were EcologiQ's specification frameworks and tools that linked demand for material during the life of projects to assist with pairing up organisations with suppliers. Following a presentation to the division in February, we then invited government representatives from the other states to a workshop to discuss the opportunities for a similar model in their jurisdiction. While there is still room for improvement, there are green shoots all across Australia, with states making headway in sustainable procurement.

Packaging material was another hotly discussed topic, particularly the years-long failure of the existing co-regulatory packaging covenant, and in August, the division invited the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to meet with chairs for answers, and to see if there were opportunities to interact with the aim of driving improvement and progress in packaging design and management. APCO was also provided an opportunity to share their perception of market development for packaging. It was evident that longer-term thinking and a more efficient model, amongst other things, was and still is required in this regard.

Product stewardship remains a key focus for all states, including for materials such as solar PV and agricultural plastics, and with the launch of the Centre of Excellence, there is a vast opportunity for

WMRR to work collaboratively with the Centre to develop and design robust and viable schemes. The division had initial discussions and meetings with the Centre in 2021 and the work will progress the following year as schemes are being scoped up and considered.

The division heard from numerous organisations in 2021, including Closed Loop and the Australian Road Research Board, to find out just what other stakeholders are doing to facilitate the take-up of recycled content and how the division and state working groups could assist with connecting the up and downstream players. This focus on learning and knowledge-sharing filtered down to the working groups where many also hosted presentations for their state members.

While it has sometimes been challenging to find projects to sink our teeth into, given the broad remit of the group and diverse participants that play a role in building markets, these presentations have drawn light on the value that knowledge-sharing forums have had, and meetings where materials that will shift the dial due to, in some part, regulatory and policy changes, e.g., FOGO in NSW, have drawn large crowds of participants and a healthy level of debate. Moving forward, working groups will continue to invite supply chain stakeholders to share their insights on up-take barriers, gaps, and opportunities in the market, while providing valuable feedback as Australia presses on with initiatives related to sustainable procurement, product stewardship, and more.
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"The attention on our sector has not waned; in fact, we continue to see funding rolled out on a federal and state level to enhance WARR capabilities."

NATIONAL RRMD

The attention on our sector has not waned; in fact, we continue to see funding rolled out on a federal and state level to enhance WARR capabilities, encourage the take-up of recycled content, and build a stronger recovery, recycling, and remanufacturing network. While the future looks promising, we would still need to deal with present day challenges such as the lack of processing capacity for materials that are captured under the waste export bans, noting that infrastructure takes upwards of two (2) years to commission, greater and urgent emphasis on product design – including the use of recycled content and genuine recyclability - and changing the paradigm on product consumption.

There are many pieces to the circular economy puzzle and the road is often fraught with barriers and uncertainty. That said, in 2022, we will continue to strive to pull stakeholders together to facilitate a cohesive and sustainable ecosystem.



LIAM O'KEEFE
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS

The National Waste Educators division launched in 2021 and I am both honoured to be elected the inaugural chair and be part of a committee filled with knowledgeable and passionate state working group chairs representing NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA and SA. What a pleasure it has been to connect and collaborate on waste education topics across the nation; special thanks to vice chair Libby Eustance for her assistance.

Over the past 12 months, the focus has been on sharing education techniques and learnings across different WARR topics. The varied education focus across jurisdictions and different parts of the journey that we are on has allowed us to effectively share insights and add to our knowledge.

A common theme however, was that of food and organic waste. Over in New South Wales, the focus on Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) has ramped up with a commitment by the government in its Waste and Sustainable Materials (WASM) to mandate the source separation of FOGO for households and selected businesses. Queensland also turned its attention to food waste in 2021, with the government purchasing the Love Food Hate Waste licence. The word is, the Department of Environment and Science is developing tools and products for councils to adopt. The state's organic strategy will also soon be out in early 2022.

Meanwhile, food waste diversion and single-use plastics were on the SA agenda, with phase two (2) of the single-use plastic ban to commence on 1 March 2022. On the food waste front, a project that we will be watching in the new year is the partnership between East Waste, Fight Food Waste, and other stakeholders which will look at challenges and understand behaviours in order to improve food recycling rates through more targeted education.

In the west, WA has had measured success in developing consistent education, and it was

interesting and pleasing to hear how the years-long efforts of educators in the state are paying off, with WA now having built a harmonised and consistent set of education programs that are front and centre of the WARR agenda and maintained by the educators across local government. And back east in Victoria, the government is undertaking work to develop draft lists for glass, FOGO, and mixed recyclables in a bid to improve bale qualities at MRFs and standardise recycling at home.

One of the division's objectives in 2021 was to develop a series of webinars that would look at practical ways to drive waste avoidance and we hosted two (2) well attended webinars:

- Plastic Waste – models for avoidance, reuse, and recycling
- Avoidance, repair, and reuse through social enterprises

Looking ahead, the division will continue to drive the avoidance message across packaging, food, and textiles, keeping our ear on the ground as FOGO initiatives and textile waste avoidance solutions continue to be developed and rolled out. It is the division's aim to continue to be progressive and provide members with key updates on these important programs.



GRACE BARILA
DIVISION CHAIR

WMRR STATE BRANCH REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

The WARR landscape is continually changing on a global, national, state and local government level and 2021 was yet another eventful, and sometimes tumultuous year for NSW.

The industry had a busy start to the year, with the devastating floods in March in Western Sydney and parts of the coastal regions requiring rapid deployment of essential WARR services to clean-up and protect human health and the environment.

NSW had been eagerly anticipating an updated WARR strategy for a number of years now so when the Waste and Sustainable Materials strategy was finally released mid-year, it brought a flurry of activity, debate, and communication with the industry and within the NSW Branch Committee. The consensus was it is encouraging to see that “sustainable materials” are now included in government thinking. The strategy was followed up by the Waste Delivery Plan, which provided more detail and timelines and included commitments around “creating a carbon negative waste sector”. In 2021, the NSW government also continued to roll out a number of grants to support infrastructure improvements.

In June, Greater Sydney was plunged into lockdown in response to the rapid spread of the Delta variant of the Coronavirus. Our essential industry continued to deliver its collection, processing, recovery, recycling and disposal services amidst the challenges and at WMRR, our NSW working groups pressed on with their engagement, with the Young Professionals, Waste Educators, Resource Recovery and Market Development, and Landfill members meeting remotely and collaborating at every given chance. We were, however, able to sneak in a few face-to-face catchups (all COVID-safe!) and events, including the sold-out Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast, the Australian Landfill and Transfer Station Conference (ALTS) and even Christmas Drinks.

On the policy front, NSW has seen a number of major shifts, including the release of both the NSW EfW policy and EfW Infrastructure plan, which when combined, have a significant impact on the industry’s plans to provide long-term waste management and energy recovery solutions for the state. The EfW working group was pivotal in providing insight and feedback in response to the government’s policy.

It was also a challenging year for C&D operators with the government announcement of a proposed revocation of the recovered fines orders and exemptions that regulate the manufacturing and reuse of this material. The C&D working group rallied during this time, undertaking a comprehensive review of the government’s proposal which culminated in an in-depth and robust analytical submission to the government, arguing for alternative solutions that would better meet the EPA’s and industry’s objectives while sparing the decimation of both the C&D and construction sectors.

It has been an exciting and rewarding year. With the support of the NSW Branch Committee members, working group chairs, and the WMRR team, we have collaborated and responded to multiple challenges, and I thank them for their support.



PHIL CARBINS
BRANCH PRESIDENT

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

We began 2021 full of optimism as there was much to be done and plenty for Queensland to look forward to, and while much of this continued to be 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.

The long-awaited Queensland Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Report was delivered and provided a baseline understanding of existing infrastructure and future needs if Queensland is to meet our Strategy objectives. While this report guided some investment from the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP), which promised to revolutionise our state's resource recovery industries, it has not quite hit the mark. However, work continued to build on this, with commitments to develop Regional Resource Recovery Plans, and members are now providing input into the development of guidelines for resource recovery precincts.

Through 2021, Queensland continued to focus on a few priority areas with the implementation of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan which saw, amongst other things, the ban on single-use plastics and the expansion of plastic free places. WMRR was also firmly at the table for the development of the Organic Waste Action Plan. Both plans are aligned with the National Waste Policy Action Plan and seek to deliver on the common objectives.

The release of the Recycling and Waste Report showed that while our resource recovery rates have increased, we are by no means leading the pack when compared to other states. Interstate waste although diminished, continued to flow into Queensland, and questions were raised around the "loss" of around one (1) million tonnes of headline waste from the previous year.

The state's regulator has continued to form strategic partnerships and collaborate with local governments, which have proved successful with 31 dedicated compliance officers working across 27 local government areas targeting illegal dumping.

2021 also saw the release of the Queensland Energy from Waste Guideline which supports the policy and seeks to ensure any facilities developed in the state meet the technical, environmental, regulatory, and community expectations. The documents are pragmatic and has provided certainty for the industry to develop, with activity now initiating in Queensland.

Two (2) notable events on the calendar were our Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast in July and the 2021 WARRQ Conference in Bundaberg in October. While somewhat hampered by COVID, both events proceeded with success and provided a much-needed opportunity to reconnect in person with our membership.

The branch and working groups continue to be active and responsive, providing input into submissions and making representation to government when required through sectors including landfill, EfW, young professionals, waste educators, and resource recovery and market development.

Continued over page

"Through 2021, Queensland continued to focus on a few priority areas with the implementation of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan."

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

As the export bans began to kick in, regrettably Queensland was last out of the gate to release the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund (QRMF). All was not lost though and at the time of writing, funding announcements were imminent to support the national ban on exports.

In December, the Queensland government announced its intention to introduce a two (2)-tiered waste levy system, repeal the advance payments to councils [metro zone councils and seven (7) of the largest regional zone councils] and provide a \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund. 70% of waste levy funds continue to be committed to the WARR industry.

There are plenty of opportunities for us in the years ahead with a review of the Queensland Waste Strategy and a review of the efficacy of the waste levy commencing in 2022. To our members and the branch committee, thank you for your dedication and commitment over the past year.



MATTHEW MCCARTHY
BRANCH PRESIDENT

SA/NT BRANCH

2021 was another busy year of adapting to change in the WARR sector, with the roll-out of the federal government's export bans, coupled with SA's single-use plastic bans – the first tranche starting on 1 March 2022, major EPA reforms (mass balance, assurances and operational use guide), review of our CDS, and the emerging issue of PFAS at landfill, influencing operations.

The SA Branch Committee and working groups continued to work with and around the changing climate created by the ongoing pandemic and accompanying restrictions, which saw a raft of new challenges to workforces and operations as the borders opened prior to Christmas.

WMRR events were back on the agenda this year, kicking off with a Chinese New Year dinner followed by the popular Women of WARR leadership breakfast in March. A breakfast event that saw the release of the annual Recycling Activity Survey was also held and to finish off the year, the Branch hosted Christmas drinks at Sparkke on Whitmore.

The Branch also celebrated the career of one of the great contributors to the sustainability and circular economy sector in South Australia, Vaughan Levitzke PSM, in a dinner event held on the 27 May 2021 at the SA Wine Centre. The event was attended by the Minister and 70 people from across the industry; it was a wonderful night of reflection with plenty of good humour. The social calendar would not be complete without the fantastic SA golf day and this year was no exception. In fact, two (2) golf days were held, with the first being a sold-out event.

Another highlight for South Australians was the election of former Branch vice president, Geoff Webster, to the WMRR Board of Directors, taking up the role of National President. With Geoff taking up this position, Tiana Nairn was elected to take his place as VP of the Branch.

Turning to policy, WMRR represented the industry in a number of government groups, including the EPA High Level Advisory Group and Waste Industry Reference Group, Single Use Plastic Ban Taskforce, and Container Deposit Scheme Scoping Review Advisory Group, contributing at consultation meetings that discussed frameworks and associated important issues. WMRR also made a number of submissions with input from members, including our response to the CDS review and the Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS contaminated waste disposal.

Four (4) working groups in South Australia remained active in 2021 – Waste Educators, Resource Recovery and Market Development (RRMD), Young Professionals, and Landfill- with chairs also playing a key role in national collaboration through their respective national divisions.

A number of key topics were discussed and presentations facilitated at group meetings this year, including options for improving the quality of MRF outputs by looking at what items could be targeted for separation prior to facility drop-off (diversion of pre-MRF materials), PFAS issues, ongoing communication campaigns (e.g. 'Replace the Waste'), textile and battery product stewardship. The waste educators were also able to visit Peats Soils at Willunga and Adbri's cement facility at Birkenhead. The Young Professionals working group provided numerous social and networking opportunities in 2021, alongside site tours that covered composting, beverage container production, and use of waste-derived fuels.

It was a busy year for the Landfill working group, which took the lead in keeping members informed and involved about the roll out of changes to landfill waste levy collections, mass balance reporting and financial assurances to stockpiles. The group embraced a keen interest in developments
Continued over page

SA/NT BRANCH

regarding the acceptance of PFAS materials at landfill and played an important role in WMRR's response to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

As with previous years, the Branch Committee was well supported by our secretary, Brian Johnston's efforts, which have fueled the committee's work and achievements.

WMRR continues to maintain strong and collaborative partnerships with significant stakeholders in SA, Green Industries SA being a supporter and sponsor our WMRR. We also have an excellent relationship with the EPA and the Local Government Association. The involvement of representatives from these organisations in our meetings have kept the lines of communication open and assisted all parties in working together for the betterment of our industry.

"The SA Branch Committee and working groups continued to work with and around the changing climate created by the ongoing pandemic and accompanying restrictions, which saw a raft of new challenges to workforces and operations as the borders opened prior to Christmas."



JOHN PHILLIPS
BRANCH PRESIDENT

TASMANIAN BRANCH

2021 will be remembered as the beginning of change. The Container Refund Scheme Bill 2021 and the Waste and Resource Recovery Bill 2021 have passed through the lower house, with the Legislative Council set for debate in early 2022.

These two (2) bills will align Tasmania with the rest of the country and provide benefits to the sector. Providing these two (2) bills are approved through the Legislative Council in early 2022, an anticipated start date for the levy is 1 July 2022. Much is still to be achieved before this time and WMRR is at the forefront of discussions with the Tasmanian government.

Two (2) main projects, initiated by the Tasmanian government, commenced in 2021 - the organics strategy and infrastructure strategy. These two (2) anticipated strategies will form part of the Tasmanian government's future strategic plan.

Following the success of previous Tasmanian forums, it was decided that WMRR would host not one (1) but two (2) forums in 2021, the first kicking off in Hobart in March, which was a sold-out event, and the second in November in Launceston. Both forums proved to be a valuable and effective communication and network tool for our members, particularly with the state buzzing with activity as we sit on the edge of significant change in WARR.

Senator for Tasmania, Peter Whish-Wilson kindly provided the opening address at the first forum, while Minister for Environment, Roger Jaensch, officially opened the second, albeit via a pre-recorded video message. In his address, Minister Jaensch reiterated the government's commitment to the landfill levy's implementation and 100% hypothecation back to the industry. This will be ratified by an independent board whose position is to develop a waste strategy and administer the levy funds.

2022 looks set to be a year of action and progress

for Tasmania and we will no doubt be continuing to provide updates, feedback, and share knowledge to our members through the branch committee and the return of our two (2) forums.

"Two (2) main projects, initiated by the Tasmanian government, commenced in 2021 - the organics strategy and infrastructure strategy. These two (2) anticipated strategies will form part of the Tasmanian government's future strategic plan."



JUSTIN JONES
BRANCH PRESIDENT

VICTORIAN BRANCH

While 2021 was not the year we had all hoped, with Melbourne ranking among the cities to have faced the longest and most arduous series of lockdowns, it was a year of significant change in the WARR sector.

COVID-19 continued to impact all supply chains and many sectors, including WARR, have had significant reduction to their workforces to carry out essential services. We continued to lean into virtual meetings and online ways of working and the branch committee meetings remained well attended.

Aside from COVID, we saw the biggest change in 50 years to Victoria's environment protection laws. The introduction of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* in 2021 saw the law shift to a prevention-based approach and it introduced the General Environmental Duty (GED) that applies to all Victorians. Modelled on somewhat familiar OH&S laws, it requires everyone to reduce the risk of any activity which may harm the environment or human health through pollution or waste and respond if pollution does occur.

As is common with change to complex systems, there have been some teething issues. However, through our keen working groups such as the Landfill working group, coupled with WMRR's advocacy and support, we have maintained strong communication and collaboration with the EPA and other relevant parties and were able to raise and address issues through the pre- and post-roll-out of the Act.

Since its launch in February 2020, the "Recycling Victoria: a new economy" plan has generated much activity throughout 2021 as it continued to evolve the Victorian waste and resource recovery landscape. This included numerous funding opportunities through various departments for industry, business, communities, and councils to create new markets and new business

opportunities for recycled materials. Other key activities included:

- The release of the CDS consultation report in March 2021, highlighting the high level of support for a split responsibility governance model and better consistency between each state's schemes.
- The opening of an EOI in November 2021 to run the CDS scheme.
- The release of the EfW framework in November 2021, outlining how the one (1) million tonne per annum cap on the amount of waste that can be sent to thermal waste to energy until 2040 will operate. This cap will be implemented in legislation and supported by regulations and guidance issued by Recycling Victoria.
- The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* receiving royal assent in December 2021 after being passed by both houses of Parliament. The Act will establish a legislative framework that would enable a new regulator for the state.

"The government also declared it would lead by example by phasing out certain single-use plastic items from government departments and agencies by February 2022."

In February 2021, the Victorian Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio announced a phase out and ban of specific single-use plastics by 2023, which included single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, polystyrene food and drink containers, and plastic cotton bud sticks.

Continued over page

VICTORIAN BRANCH

The government also declared it would lead by example by phasing out certain single-use plastic items from government departments and agencies by February 2022.

At the Branch's monthly committee meetings, we were fortunate to have several speakers come and present on key issues and updates. It was a good reminder that direct engagement is the best way to ensure clarity is provided for matters at hand. Presenters included Metropolitan Waste Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG), Department of Land Water and Planning (DELWP), and Sustainability Victoria.

The lockdowns in Victoria meant that events had to take a backseat this year. However, the YP working group was able to capture a small window of opportunity in between lockdowns to organise a site tour of Sacyr's indoor composting facility in Dandenong South.

Finally, I would like to thank the Victorian branch and the WMRR team for their support and assistance over 2021. It's been an honour to represent the membership as the branch president. I will be stepping down in 2022 but I am pleased to advise that our fabulous vice president Kelvin Davies has kindly offered to lead the branch in 2022. Thanks Kelvin, and all the very best.



KIRSTIN COOTE
BRANCH PRESIDENT

WA BRANCH

Much like 2020, 2021 continued in a similar fashion with a host of Zoom meetings and the occasional face-to-face meetings, given our borders were closed for much of the year. 2021 was extraordinarily busy for the WARR sector, who, like most industries, required some acrobatics and agile thinking as the industry got busier with less resources.

The branch committee and working groups remained active in 2021 and we have had representation from within the private and public sectors, including rural representatives, across education, recycling, landfill, consulting, EfW, waste processing and C&D. This diversity enabled branch members to cross pollinate our knowledge and provide insight on on-the-ground operations and changes at meetings. The aim for 2022 would be to reinvigorate our now dormant RRMD working group, with market development being such a vital part of what we do.

Although in-person events were few and far between (because of COVID), we were able to welcome Gayle Sloan back to the west in April and a productive meeting was held. The Branch also hosted Christmas drinks in December at our "local" Irish pub. It provided us with an opportunity to host a meeting with both the committee and members who had signed up to drinks and we had a good discussion about our objectives for 2022. This year's annual Waste and Recycle Conference, organised in partnership by WALGA, DWER, and WMRR, was also a success, with knowledge imparting, truth-telling sessions a hit.

"The Roads to Reuse initiative was also implemented where C&D waste will be used for road base on one of WA's road projects."

The state government rolled out a host of grants this year, including \$1 million towards e-waste, \$174 million in recycling investment for eight (8) plastics, paper, and tyres projects for plastics, paper and tyres. The Roads to Reuse initiative was also implemented where C&D waste will be used for road base on one of WA's road projects. While a positive, there is still much more to be done to drive the acceptance and use of C&D materials in WA.

Following consultation in 2020, the government released its second Review Report of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* in September, identifying a range of issues such as the requirement for clarification around governance of the Act and compliance.

There were also many changes in government this year, with a high turnover of environment ministers – three (3)! - starting with Stephen Dawson to Amber-Jade Sanderson followed by Reece Whitby, as well as a new director general (Michelle Andrews) at DWER. In amongst all these changes, WA announced that we will be fast tracking the single-use plastics ban by four (4) years to 1 January 2022.

In terms of policy, the wait continued for DWER to release guidelines and finalise the review of policies following consultations over the last few years. These include the End of Waste guidelines, Composting Guidelines, waste levy review, infrastructure plan, and landfill guidelines.

Turning to the Waste Authority, two priority areas in 2021 were C&D and organics, with the authority issuing a step-by-step guide to FOGO servicing and C&D roll-out plan. In 2021, we had at least five (5) of our 24 urban council moving to FOGO and nearly the same number from our rural shires.
Continued over page

WA BRANCH

On the infrastructure front, construction of WA's two (2) EfW plants (Avertas and East Rockingham) progressed in 2021 and are on track to commence operations in 2022. Cleanaway's new MRF also opened in June and a new class IV landfill was constructed in the Pilbara region.

It has been a big year for WA, and I'd like to thank the branch committee and working groups for their valuable input and hard work this year.



LIA BARNETT
BRANCH PRESIDENT

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE **REPORTS**

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 management with 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 is made up of Christine Wardle, Mike Ritchie, and Mark Rawson (Chair), and supported by the WMRR team.

During the year, the committee reviewed the risk register for WMRR. The WMRR WHS policy was also reviewed and considered to be still suitable for the association.

The committee is pleased with the way the association is financially and operationally navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on its activities, including moving to online options for webinars and other branch activities. Membership of the association also continues to grow. A small financial loss was recorded in the 2021 calendar year, mainly due to conference earning impacts from COVID-19. Financial reserves remain strong.

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.

"The committee is pleased with the way the association is financially and operationally navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on its activities, including moving to online options for webinars and other branch activities."

MARK RAWSON
AUDIT AND RISK
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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 – Garth Lamb, Mark Biddulph, Geoffrey Webster (Chair), and Georgina Davis - which leads the ongoing process of Board renewal and seeks to ensure a diverse and balanced Board.

At the 2021 AGM, we farewelled retiring President Garth Lamb who served the full four (4)-year term as permitted under our Constitution. Garth did a great job during his presidency, covering a number of very challenging issues that faced the industry and the world. He provided excellent leadership through this time and left the role having made a very positive contribution throughout his tenure.
Continued over page

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

In looking to address Garth's imminent departure, WMRR ran a nomination and election process for the President's role in mid-2021. I was honoured to be voted into the position by my peers and thank everyone for this privilege.

In the lead up to the forthcoming 2022 AGM, there are a number of Board members whose time on the Board will come to an end. Several may stand for re-election; however, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Georgina Davis, Kim Glassborow, Mike Ritchie, and Tim Youe for their input and commitment over their two (2) terms to both the association and sector. Their passion and dedication are truly appreciated, and we will no doubt work with you across WMRR's other activities and initiatives.

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. We are fortunate to have a great industry with all its members playing an important role in delivering this essential service. I would like to thank all the Directors who volunteer their time and skills for the benefit of our sector - their efforts in bringing professionalism to the WARR sector in Australia are very much appreciated.

"Garth provided excellent leadership through this time and left the role having made a very positive contribution throughout his tenure."

GEOFFREY WEBSTER
NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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, these being Geoffrey Webster (Chair), Garth Lamb, Toby Terlet, and Kim Glassborow.

The Committee meets on an as-needed basis, including in relation to the annual review of the CEO's performance. The Committee met in December 2021 and went through a structured review process to assess the applicability of an annual increase in the CEO's base salary as well as an assessment against the performance. The committee recognised the challenges that 2021 presented to the Association and noted the excellent job undertaken in managing through those challenges. The CEO received an increase in the base salary recognising inflationary impacts as well as being awarded a portion of the bonus component.

The Committee looks forward to the continued momentum and positive impact the CEO will deliver for WMRR members in the years ahead.

GEOFFREY WEBSTER
HR AND REMUNERATION
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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 2021, the National President, Garth Lamb's, final two (2)-year term came to an end and nominations were called in April 2022 for our new National President, with four (4) candidates nominating for the position. An election was held in May and close to 200 membership votes were received.

At the 2022 annual AGM on 8 June 2021, we thanked and bade farewell to Garth (who remains a Peak Director) and welcomed Geoffrey Webster as WMRR's 2021-23 National President.

The Board

Geoffrey Webster (President, appointed 8 June 2021)
 Garth Lamb (President, retired 8 June 2021.
 Director, appointed 17 August 2021)
 Bjoern Becker (appointed 16 January 2019)
 Mark Biddulph (appointed 19 February 2020)
 Georgina Davis (appointed 11 May 2018)
 Kim Glassborow (appointed 11 May 2018)
 Henry Anning (appointed 28 April 2021)
 Mark Rawson (appointed 10 June 2020)
 Mike Ritchie (appointed 11 May 2018)
 Toby Terlet (appointed 10 June 2020)
 Mark Venhoek (appointed 16 May 2016, retired 31 December 2021)
 Christine Wardle (appointed 10 June 2020)
 Timothy Youe (appointed 11 May 2018)
 Ben Sawley (appointed 11 May 2018, retired 28 April 2021)

WMRR National Office

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 2021 included:

Gayle Sloan
 Jacqueline Ong
 Julie Gavrilovic
 Justine Foster
 Gabrielle Warden (from April 2021)
 Amanda Nairn (till May 2021)
 Remy Cramb (till October 2021)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income

Income from memberships YTD was \$635,525, up from the previous year by \$68,843 (+10.8%) and 2021 was the highest membership year in WMRR's history. The 2021 year also saw a minimal increase of 1.5% in membership fees.

As part of WMRR's commitment to provide greater value to its members, in part through learning and networking opportunities, we have sought to increase our events and conference offering in 2021, growing the number of events by 55% and webinars by 42%. The increase in events and webinars in 2021 drove renewals as soon as event registrations were made available and led to a steady flow of renewals and new memberships even into the second half of the year. All of this was done against the backdrop of COVID-19 restrictions.

Two (2) of WMRR's in-person conferences were also able to return in 2021 – the Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations (ALTS) conference and the 2021 WARRQ conference, and WMRR was able to add a second Tasmanian forum in 2021. The 2021 Energy from Waste conference, however, was deferred to 2022.

Although conference registrations were still reduced due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, total conference income was \$314,417, a significant increase from 2020 by \$109,622.

WMRR did not receive any COVID-19 relief in 2021, compared with \$194,200 in 2020, which significantly assisted in operating WMRR that year.

The total income for the year was \$1,111,572.

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Advertising revenue	19,735	12,089
Conference income	314,417	204,795
Sponsorship	100,500	48,650
Interest received	1,091	7,833
Subscription income	635,525	566,682
Government COVID Grants	-	194,200
Sundry income	40,305	27,919
Total Income	1,111,572	1,062,168

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenses

For the year 2021, WMRR was below budgeted expenses by \$193,768 (-13.9%), In part due to reduced costs associated with ALTS, the deferral of the Energy from Waste Conference, and overall management of overheads.

The net loss for the 2021 year was \$93,718 after adjustments. However, this does not include the transfer of training reserves from the balance sheet of \$50,000, which as noted in the Auditor's report, reflects a notional loss of \$43,718. Retained earnings on the balance sheet at the end of 2020 was \$603,701.

EXPENSES		
Accounting fees	845	885
Advertising and promotion	15,868	-
Auditors remuneration	9,996	7,500
Bank & merchant fees and charges	4,525	3,206
Computer expenses	36,322	32,043
Conference costs	233,485	115,537
Depreciation & amortisation	91,798	104,885
Employment & contractor expenses	703,525	707,370
Insurance	12,480	11,421
Interest	18,459	21,995
Professional and legal fees	-	3,569
Consulting fees	24,900	14,750
Office amenities	3,514	3,772
Postage and courier	-	-
Printing and stationery	3,142	7,525
Rent and Outgoings	3,256	5,364
Subscriptions	5,750	7,520
Branch administration	11,356	12,658
Telephone and internet	13,769	16,293
Travelling expenses	11,784	7,442
Sundry expenses	515	13,308
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,205,291	1,097,043

PEAK MEMBERS

WMRR WOULD LIKE THANK OUR PEAK MEMBERS
FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT



