

NSW BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 - 9.00 am

Tuesday 11 August 2026

Via Zoom

President: Richard Collins

Vice President: Shaun Devine

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Ron Wainberg, Shaun Devine, Jason Sweeney, Gayle Sloan, Jennifer Hughes, Phil Carbins, Alisdair Lawrence, Phillipa Helene, Samuel Swain, Richard Collins, Vanessa Seaton, Ed Nicholas, Andrew Kosciuszko, Nicole Greenwood, Oscar Gallagher, James Barwood, Alex Morris, Katherine Dodd, Miles Mason, Megan Surawski, Nick Cowman, Clare Mahendradatta and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Garth Lamb, Alarik Wong, Hossein Ghiasinejad.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the 14 July 2026 NSW Branch Committee meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Ron Wainberg *Second:* Vanessa Seaton.

ii. Actions arising

No actions arising from previous meeting.

3. National advocacy (CEO)

- The EMM in September should see the Solar PV Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) released.
- Queensland remains unwilling to progress battery stewardship reforms, while progress in South Australia is being delayed at Cabinet level. NSW PRO procurement in progress with regulations in place from 1 October 2026.
- The Safeguard Mechanism Review consultation paper is being released soon with the Climate Change Authority's Annual Progress Report consultation closing last Friday. WMRR submission advocated for landfill facilities to be considered outside of the mechanism and noting the nuance of the sector against broader industries under the mechanism. WMRR is seeking to avoid Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities being brought into the Safeguard Mechanism, with the Smart Energy Council's recent report on EfW viewed as an early warning of this possibility.
- Tony Chappel is moving to the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) and departs the EPA at the end of this month. WMRR will share relevant submissions relating to carbon policy, including its work on the inclusion of resource recovery pathways under the Guarantee of Origin Scheme.
- Peter Whish-Wilson's farewell is being held this week. The EPR Bill is under discussion, and engagement is underway with the new Circular Economy lead.
- DCCEEW is undergoing staff changes with the departure of Dean Knudsen and Mike Kaiser firming up his reporting directors. The Federal Circular Economy Unit in DCCEEW was noted to have approximately 107 staff, although there is concern about the level of sector-specific experience within the unit.

4. NSW Issues

i. Regulatory and policy updates

EPA Leadership

- Nancy Chang will commence as Interim CEO of the NSW EPA on 14 September 2026. Her return was viewed positively, particularly for maintaining momentum on the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) expansion and battery stewardship procurement ahead of the election. Nancy is also expected to attend the WMRR Forum.

Waste levy

- No commitment has been made on broader levy changes. Interstate waste levy arrangements are expected to be announced in September, with implementation not expected until February 2027.

Battery stewardship

- Announcement of the Product Stewardship Organisation (PSO/PRO) for batteries is expected in October 2026.

Asbestos

- WMRR is continuing to seek a meeting with the NSW Government/EPA to discuss next steps on asbestos reforms.

Infrastructure:

- A meeting is planned on part 2 of the Waste and Circular Infrastructure, which is expected to be exhibited before the end of 2026. WMRR feedback will emphasise the lack of regional alignment and the need to build regional infrastructure and processing capacity.
- The FOGO mandate is an important starting point, but greater clarity is required on the next phase of infrastructure and policy development.
- Council procurement and regional planning is a key issue as councils cannot be bound to particular procurement outcomes (as part of a joint process with others) without an appropriate legislative head of power, and procurement incentives alone may be insufficient. Different jurisdictional approaches were noted, including Victoria's removal of the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRGs) and the limited progression of regional planning arrangements in Queensland.

National Harmonised Auditor Accreditation Process (NHAAP)

- The 2026 National Harmonised Auditor Accreditation Process (NHAAP) for Site Auditors opens on 1 September 2026 and closes on 15 October 2026, with the accreditation process expected to take approximately 8–12 months.
- A NSW-specific information session will be held on 26 August 2026 at 2.30 pm. Registrations can be made through the NSW EPA.

Queensland Draft End of Waste Codes

- Two draft End of Waste Codes are currently on exhibition:
- Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA) End of Waste Code: Consultation closes 28 August 2026.
- Tanalith E Treated Timber Sawdust and Shavings End of Waste Code: Consultation closes 24 August 2026. The draft Code proposes a pathway for Tanalith E-treated timber sawdust and shavings to cease being regulated waste and be reused as feedstock in compost manufacture where specified requirements are met.

NSW EPA Biosolids RRO/E Consultation

- Key issues under consideration include testing and sampling requirements for biosolids and appropriate margins of safety.
- Two separate Resource Recovery Orders and Exemptions (RRO/Es) are being developed: one for land-applied biosolids and another for composted biosolids.
- The EPA is consulting with water authorities on the land-application RRO/E, with release anticipated in September 2026.

- The composted biosolids RRO/E requires further consideration of contaminant limits. Care will be needed to ensure limits are scientifically justified and that comparisons between the two RRO/Es are not misleading.
- PFAS limits are unlikely to be explicitly included at this stage. A key challenge remains determining appropriate values using the existing PFAS framework and identifying a defensible basis for those limits.

ii. Submissions/consultations (NSW/National) – for noting

Recent submissions

- [Climate Change Authority - 2026 Annual Progress Advice](#) (9 August 2026)
- [Expanding Australia's Right to Repair Framework](#) (3 July 2026)
- [Inquiry into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging \(No Time to Waste\) Bill 2026 \(15 June 2026\)](#)
- [Carbon Credits and Other Legislation Amendment \(Integrity and Transparency\) Bill Consultation \(25 May 2026\)](#)
- [Guideline for safe management of end-of-life lithium ion batteries \(15 May 2026\)](#)
- [2026 NGER Scheme Updates \(8 May 2026\)](#)

iii. Consideration of NSW Priorities for 2027-2030

The Committee is invited to comment on what the branch initiatives should be for the upcoming three-year period, bearing in mind WMRR Strategic Business Plan will be reviewed by State Branch Presidents and the Board at the end of September.

Action arising:

Member feedback on state priorities to be part of the next meeting agenda.

5. Working group updates

i. C&D - Jason Sweeney

Looking to get kick off meeting with EPA regarding asbestos.

ii. Landfill – (Hossein Ghiasinejad) Gayle Sloan

- Focus is on shaping up ALTS program.
- Awaiting on NSW Guidelines – Emma Whale is now leading this project, transitioning from Steve Beaman. Awaiting clarity on the new OPD approval process – guidance was to be issued that would be in the same way as other OPDs. Construction purposes changes are straight forward but WARRP has not been updated for the 20% annualisation.
- EPA have mentioned they are also looking at building contingency around residual waste management – particular in regional areas. Recognition that areas are under pressure, and this is being incorporated into the development of the second phase of the *Waste and Circular Infrastructure Plan* (discussed above).

iii. RRMD – Nicole Greenwood

- Meeting held yesterday with Justin from Tidal Circular from Soft Plastics –the initiative is a software platform for councils to source and procure recycled soft plastics projects, with demand pooling for market signals to drive economies of scale. It cannot commit councils to purchase, but signals to market and councils to increase market demand. The challenge to getting council departments to procure in that way.
 - Noted that SA did some community engagement which flagged the loss of confidence in soft plastics. Coles have pulled back because of price uncertainty of gate fees – the reality is that processing fees are not certain and may be too cost prohibitive.
 - WMRR pointing to CEFLEX standard in advocacy efforts.
 - There are some trials at MRFS to get an understanding of what it takes to get it through the MRF in Queensland with Re.Group and others. SPSA looking to start in regional areas and are taking on

the costs – has to be in a specific presentation so that it is easily identifiable at a MRF i.e. Curby bag.

- Rix Smith from lithium recycling plant on the central coast and how they are looking at markets for next meeting.

iv. EfW – Miles Mason

- Meeting on 21 July 2026 – update on the Parkes Energy Recovery Project, next meeting in September 2026.
- ARRC process EOI papers released.
- IBAA and APCr still identified as the key challenges - with the IBAA code from DETSI open
- TOPA back in for PFAS, and levels are stricter than UK interim guide.
- WMRR is getting EnRiskS to review for the national meeting next week. Topline view is that the Code should not have additional restrictions than other products used for the same purpose.
- WMRR intention is to get a favourable outcome from DETSI that can lead to national acceptance.
 - If the bottom ash is generated from waste – the potential PFAS contamination is a concern.
 - Uncertain if the PFAS levels are achievable at this stage – The organics soil PFAS levels in Queensland likely to hold until another level is put forward out of HEPA for compost.
- Noted that Miles now at KVI and looking to get support with other office bearers for the Working Group.

v. YPs – (Alarik Wong)

No update at this meeting.

vi. Waste Educators - Claire Mahendradatta

- Looking to engage with BlockTexx for a site visit in coming months and potential web presentation

6. Events & Training

i. [Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference](#) 21 - 23 October 2026 (Brisbane).

- Program being finalized in coming weeks.
- WMRR is also looking to get regulators meeting adjunct to the Conference – ie focused on design rules.

ii. Webinars

- [Definition of Waste](#), Tuesday 18 August 2026
- Seamless webinar held last week.
- May do an EfW focused webinar in early September to respond to the Smart Energy Report and the Vic Inquiry into Waste-to-Energy (report to be tabled on 25 August 2026).
 - The Vic Opposition have committed to more rates, less recycling with weekly red bin collections. WMRR meeting with VIC opposition next month.
- Suggestion received to have Omer Soker from Charitable Reuse Australia to talk about Charitable Reuse before he retires.

iii. [NSW Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast](#) (Friday 28 August 2026) with Kate Moonen, Katherine Dodd and the Hon. Justice Nicola Pain.

- Resource Hub's sponsorships are available – for regional based women to attend.

iv. Save the Date (for noting)

- NSW Forum (Thursday 24 September 2026)
- NSW End of Year Drinks (Thursday 26 November 2026)

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

7. Other business

i. **ALDI Funding for emissions reduction projects**

- Claire raised that ALDI looking to fund co-fund projects up to \$1M available for GhG reductions – looking into partnering with regional councils and water stewardship in particular. Priority areas are for beef, dairy, fruit and veg, cocoa and coffee related industries.

ii. *WMRR Website and CRM*

- The Association will be changing IT and website before September.
- Members are to keep an eye out for communications from WMRR, noting there will be instructions to o log in to the new portal.

iii. [State Branch Elections](#)

- [Voting](#) for the Vice President closes at 11.59 pm Tuesday 18 August 2026.

8. Next meeting date

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Meeting closed 8.55am.

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Status
Branch Priorities	Member discussion on state priorities to be part of the next meeting agenda.	To be added to September Agenda