



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 9 July 2026

11.00 am – 12.00 pm AEST

via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Michael Attard, Morag Anderson, Paul Jackson, Steve Jordan and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Mollie Hill, Nick Simmons, Gayle Sloan.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of 11 June 2026 TAS Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Second:* Steve Jordan

ii. Actions arising:

- End of Year Event – date to be confirmed and discussed proposed itinerary. This item was discussed at Item 5 (*closed*)

3. National advocacy (CEO) – Updated by Lisa Lepore

Federal Government Update

- It appears that not much has yet been done much on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to enable state-based action, particularly for packaging. The Environment Ministers' Meeting is in September.
- John Bradley leading the National EPA, which will impact the sector in terms of national stewardship frameworks, EPBC and export approvals.
- DCCEEW staff have been significantly refreshed with a new Branch head for Circular Economy, so progress may slow down on key WARR reforms such as packaging.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – No Time to Waste Bill

- The Bill is scheduled for debate in the Senate on 13 August 2026.
- WMRR provided evidence to the Senate inquiry in Canberra.
- The Bill, introduced by Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, is based on rolling out federal framework akin to the *NSW Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act*.

Solar PV Stewardship

- NSW continues to lead the development of the national Solar PV product stewardship scheme and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), with the proposal expected to be considered by Environment Ministers at the EMM in September 2026.

PFAS and packaging

- APCO is seeking stakeholder feedback on proposals to phase out PFAS in packaging. There is concern that this consultation appears disconnected from the existing IChEMS regulatory framework already in place for contaminant (including PFAS) management.

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. Regulatory and policy updates:

High Priority Infrastructure Grants Program [recipients](#) announced

- Noted that some projects capture repair and circularity, such as Sticky Joes –who undertake the resoling of shoes; the TasWaste South sponsored Darklab which seeks to reuse and repair shipping containers to be used for events by them and others (i.e. for hire), and VTR and Rubber Recyclers who undertake tyre reprocessing. There are still some large events that are in need of waste assistance.

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy Consultation closing Friday 10 July 2026

The Committee discussed the WMRR response noting key considerations being:

- Exclusion of glass as a priority material – noting that anecdotally in the north, there are some stockpiles of ~6000 tonnes that have been sent to landfill at around \$100/T. For glass, the priority exists, the data exists and the pathways exist. MRF has next step capacity for glass. It could be used for sand blasting, etc.
- The importance of “next step” processing capacity needs to be emphasised – efforts to ensure material can be appropriately dealt with in the first instance in an accessible way so that further re-processing/recycling can eventuate may be as simple as funding shredders and equipment in strategic locations to enable transport/bulking to another relocation.
- Improved metrics should be incorporated to chart progress against the strategy – in particular, consider how the price of recycled against virgin material use can be monitored to show value and give the government an economic metric. Similar circular metrics in line with the national Circular Economy Framework should be incorporated. What are recovery rates worth? Show this value. We often talk about tonnes but not dollars.
- Funding timeframes against each action should be communicated in advance so that the market and local government can be prepared. Similarly, information about forecasted funding and any metrics need to be in the public domain to inform investment decisions.

Bird flu - biosecurity

- NRE have not given much guidance.
- There was a workshop in Campbell Town 18 months ago (emergency plan and protocols)
- Domestic – double bag ; commercial poultry – different requirements.
- Noted that EPA SA has guidance on their website.

ii. Other Submissions/consultation (for reference)

Open for consultation:

- Climate Change Authority [2026 Annual Progress Advice](#) (9 August 2026)
Noted that this consultation will provide WMRR with an opportunity to reinforce the current advocacy position that landfills should be considered independently of other industrial facilities within the safeguard Mechanism – given that operators have no control over the inputs into landfills, which determine the emissions profile and abatement opportunities are limited to improved capture at the end of the process, whereas industrial facilities have multiple opportunities to reduce emissions through altering manufacturing and operational processes.

Recently submitted:

- [Expanding Australia's Right to Repair Framework](#) (3 July 2026)

- [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)
- [Guarantee of Origin Scheme Amendment \(biogas, biomethane and iron ore\)](#) (27 April 2026)
- [Asbestos Framework Review](#) (26 April 2026)

5. WMRR Events

i. End of Year Event

- The Tasmanian End of Year Event is currently scheduled for 10 December 2026. A poll was issued to the branch committee, which determined that this date was the preferred date with all participants likely to be able to attend.
- The Committee identified the Westbury Bio Hub as a site visit location.
 - Polyfoam was mentioned.
 - Tefco pipes and the City of Launceston organics facility could be visited ahead of drinks in Launceston.
- St Johns Craft Beer and Du Cane brewery were suggested locations.

- ii. [Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference](#) - 21-23 October 2026 (Brisbane)
Abstracts open until Friday 17 July 2026.

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

6. Other business

i. Branch elections

WMRR Branch Nominations currently underway – closing at the end of July.

7. Next meeting date

Thursday 13 August 2026 (TBC)

Meeting closed 11.40 am.

WMRR Strategic Plan –2023-2026 TAS Initiatives

Tasmania		Comments
1	Ensure that WMRR is the first port of call for the state government as it finalises policy and regulatory initiatives, including the state waste minimisation and resource recovery strategy, in order to build a robust strategic framework to leverage plans, including the education and communications to drive and support the growth of the Tasmanian WARR sector.	Ongoing- strong positive relationships developed with government, and WARR Board as evidenced by their commitment and participation in the TAS Forums and separate meetings. Comprehensive submission provided on the draft state WARR strategy. <i>Advocacy around the need for education round WARR and carbon included in Climate Change Act review submission in September 2025.</i>
2	Advocate for the development of diversion and recovery facilities, as well as the expansion of organics diversion and processing across Tasmania.	Included in the comprehensive submission provided on the draft state WARR strategy. <i>WMRR looking to meet with Minister Ogilvie to put organics strategy and Infrastructure Plan at top of government agenda.</i>
3	Tasmanian wide education and communications plan developed and delivered.	WMRR is promoting Fight Food Waste CRC's toolkit to assist. <i>WMRR is open creating an Educators' Working Group noting the establishment of ReThink Waste and appointment of regional coordinators may not overlap with WMRR outside branch updates.</i> <i>Advocacy around the need for education round WARR and carbon included in Climate Change Act review submission in September 2025.</i>
National initiative	Expansion of organics diversion and processing nationally.	.