

WA BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

11.30 am - 12.30 pm (WST)

Thursday 11 June 2026

via zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Rachel Irvine-Marshall, Janelle Osenton, Jason Pugh, Jill Lethlean, Emma Baker, Julie Baughan, Emily Tomsett, Kelly Levisohn, Mitchell White, Scott Reynolds, Adam Johnson, Gayle Sloan (joined at 12pm) and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Paul Molony, Giles Perryman, Hayley Rolfe, Conor Macgill, Libby Eustance, Daniel van Veen, Julie Brockman and Donovan Farrell.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

i. Previous minutes

The minutes of 14 May 2026 WA Branch Committee meeting that were circulated with the invite were confirmed as a true and accurate record apart from:

- the spelling of Teresa incorrectly as "Theresa", and
- the wording around funding context for Threadup's relocation from WA to Queensland to denote that businesses may choose to locate in jurisdictions with higher levies where market opportunities, funding, and feedstock access are stronger

These changes will be made to the draft minutes.

Moved: Jason Pugh *Seconded:* Janelle Osenton

ii. Actions arising from previous meeting

The status of the actions arising from the previous meeting are denoted in the table below:

Item	Action	Status
RMF funding analysis - 2020-2025	WMRR to issue letter to Minister following up the investment in WA from RMF and highlighting concerns with the structure and tracking of the RMF program.	This action is with the Branch President and WMRR CEO who are looking to issue the letter following the release of the Strategy. • The letter is in draft highlighting levy inadequacy and infrastructure funding gaps and noting that there have been a lot of grant announcements without the infrastructure ever progressing to being built. • Analysis shows the levy is not keeping pace with CPI, and construction costs (Perth Construction Index) have risen sharply.

		President also discussed that the Resource Recovery Framework progress has stalled with no substantive progress beyond a rebranding announcement in January 2026. <i>(In progress)</i>	
Circular Economy Working Group	Find a Chair and committee, if possible to steer the group moving forward.	WMRR National Office has yet to secure a Chair from the working group poll, however preferred meeting times have been established as Thursday or Friday lunchtime for the respondents to the Working Group poll. Adam Johnson (Re:Group) volunteered to step as Chair. This will be progressed offline to formalize a new meeting date for July / August. <i>(Closed)</i>	

3. National advocacy (CEO)

Fuel impacts on supply chains

- WMRR attended the national roundtable for fuel supply discussions with Ministers Watts, Ayers and Collins

Packaging

- NSW Minister Sharpe mentioned intergovernmental agreement on packaging reform. Stewardship IGA in progress but no one has seen anything on the drafting.
- EMM is scheduled for September 2026.

Solar

- NSW undertaking stewardship RIS for solar PV – acknowledged although not idea to go on state based level, it may be the only way forward.

Batteries

- NSW PSO October battery regulations kick off.
- SA is moving with Cabinet paper and has put aside \$1M campaign on batteries.
- TAS are discussing the batteries regulation adoption from NSW.

EfW

- HEPA are looking at consistent approach for APCR/IBAA – with EOW Code for IBAA on 20 July 2026.
- Two inquiries in NSW and VIC keeping EfW progressing on the East Coast.
- Scott noted the technical working group with DWER has stalled.
- The work of the technical group should be supported by legislation – and the resource recovery framework.

Landfill

- Landfill guidelines in development for NSW and VIC – which may have impact in WA.

Right to Repair consultation

- WMRR submission in progress which will focus on what is excluded (everyday household products) rather than what is included in the proposal (motor vehicle and extended to agricultural machinery), and push for a

concrete national timeline along with the suggested improvements to how the existing Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme (MVIS) operates (which can be more broadly applied).

- Janelle stressed that it will be important to note which other items should be included, as discussions have been ongoing for circa 10 years. A timeline and an initial focus on the electronics end of life focus needs attention as these high value products should be kept in circulation.

WMRR Foundations of WARR Training Program

- Pilot of full-day training program ran successfully in Melbourne with strong engagement across government, operations, and consulting attendees.
- Content covers metrics, legislation, facility types, EfW, landfill, recycling, carbon, and systems thinking.
- WMRR plans to run another training day in WA before the Perth conference in September ahead of the Waste and Recycle Conference.

7.30 Report EfW story on 8 June 20260

- The news item focused predominantly on the Victorian experience with approved EfW facilities under the cap licencing scheme and the public discontent with facility proposals in Sunbury and Lara.
- The article was not helpful in highlighting 11 facilities (that will not all progress) as a 'ring of fire' around Melbourne.
In Victoria there are 4 approval processes – not sequential. Cap licence alone means very little. The challenge in Victoria is to keep the conversation calm.
- Noted that the narrative is going back to talk about the dioxins in eggs in France, rather than alluding to evidence of no cancer clusters in the UK (with over 62 facilities).
- The group discussed how landfill neighbours are not supporting the EfW proposals on the same existing sites on the basis of 'amenity' seems unreasonable.
- The gap in publicly available data / knowledge for the operating Kwinana facility is not helpful - For Acciona , who are keen to share the data, how can they move forward without crossing the regulatory line, noting that DWER have not yet released the data?
- Kwinana lithium put their hand up as the cause for the burning plastic smell in the area, however, that 'burning plastic smell' from neighbours of the EfW facility was quoted in the article.
- President noted that when EfW was being considered, WA clearly articulated the reasons for EfW – "being a mining state, the state looks for the benefits". Unfortunately, the same rationale does not apply to other jurisdictions.

4. WA Issues

i. Strategy Update

- The strategy is due for imminent release. Understood to be with the Ministers Office expected to be endorsed by Cabinet by the end of this month.
- Concern raised that the strategy may arrive without an accompanying business plan, repeating prior delays.
- Waste Levy & Infrastructure will be important considerations, as per previous comments that the levy is not keeping pace with CPI, and construction costs (Perth Construction Index) have risen sharply.
- Noted that Resource Recovery Framework stalled progress with no substantive progress beyond a rebranding announcement.

ii. Local WA infrastructure

- Announcement for Cyber at Canning Vale for 'solar and embedded batteries' – this aligns with our third Branch objective, and has been noted as a positive development.
- Discussed that it handles selected e-waste, not the full embedded battery product range.

- \$17.8M funding [announced](#) by Minister for additional PV/embedded battery facilities and local government collection support.

iii. Organics

- The draft approved list for organics inputs is being circulated and looking to restrict inputs for the FOGO . The draft approved materials circulated are for organics only; no fibres, paper, dog waste etc. Re-education collateral being developed; changes expected from August.
- Focus still seems to be on getting FOGO council collections but not much being done to drive market development of outputs.
- WMRR have sought to have inputs and outputs put on the national agenda at HEPA
- The branch noted that getting the resource recovery framework up and running is vital.

iv. Submissions/consultation

Open for consultation:

- [Inquiry into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging \(No Time to Waste\) Bill 2026](#) (15 June 2026)
- [Enhancing Australia's first right to repair laws](#) (3 July 2026)

Recently submitted:

- [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 \(26 April 2026\)](#)
- [Inquiry into the Australian tyre industry \(23 January 2026\) – WMRR giving evidence at the Sydney hearing on 15 July 2026.](#)

[Submissions](#)

5. Working group updates

i. Landfill – On HOLD

- Note that Chris Stannard has moved to WSP and the group is currently without a lead.

ii. EfW – Jason Pugh / Scott Reynolds

- East Rockingham should begin processing in next few months.
- EfW concerns regarding the media coverage discussed in item 3.

iii. Circular Economy

Noted in item 1 that Adam Johnson will take on the Chair role for the group moving forward and look to recommence meetings in coming weeks.

iv. Waste Educators – Emily Tomsett

- WA CoEX soft launch with the July 1 expansion.
- Plastic Free July is the focus of the July meeting.
- City of Kwinana / Acciona EfW site tour on 23 June 2026 including an oncologist guest – seen as a positive public engagement move to encourage better understanding of EfW technology.

6. Events and Training

i. **WMRR AGM**

- a. 22 June 2026 (Adelaide). Registrations close 4 pm on Monday 15 June 2026.

ii. **Conferences for 2026**

- a. [ENVIRO Conference](#) – 23 & 24 June 2026 (Adelaide)
- b. [WA Waste & Resource Recovery Conference](#) (Perth, 9 & 10 September 2026)
Foundations of the Waste and Resource Recovery Training will be delivered the day before the conference.
The pilot was launched in Melbourne yesterday.
The training focuses on data, metrics, policy, legislation, carbon and economy. The full day training is supported with reference material for participants to keep.
- c. *Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference* - 21-23 October 2026 (Brisbane)
[Abstracts open](#) until Friday 17 July 2026.

[Confirmed WMRR events](#)

7. Other business

- i. *Branch priorities (standing item)* -
These are provided at [Annexure A](#) and will be reviewed further following the release of the Waste Strategy.
- ii. *Change of WA President in 2026-2028*
- Noted that Jason Pugh will be commencing as WMRR Vice President in July.
 - The call for nominations for State Presidents and Vice-Presidents will open in coming weeks. New Branch President nominations expected in July, with elections resolved by August–September.

8. Next meeting date

Thursday 9 July 2026

Actions arising from meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible	Timeline / Notes
2(i)	Amend the 14 May 2026 minutes to correct Teresa's name and revise the wording about the funding context for Threadup's relocation.	LL	Completed
2(ii)	Finalise and issue the letter to the Minister on Resource Recovery and Recovery Account funding, landfill levy inadequacy and infrastructure funding gaps following the release of the Waste Strategy	WMRR/State President	On hold - Awaiting Strategy
7(i)	Review and, if necessary, revise the WA Branch priorities following release of the WA Waste Strategy	President and Branch	Next Meeting

Branch Priorities (Working Document) – April 2026

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
1	Advocate for a comprehensive review of waste levy to ensure it is utilised as the economic lever to place a price on material and divert it from landfill to return to the productive economy and create green jobs. A levy must reflect the real opportunity cost of building and operating infrastructure to resource recover, as well as mitigate carbon, in a more resource effective net zero economy. As part of the review industry requires greater certainty and transparent hypothecation of at least 50% to industry, to ensure a viable WARR sector in WA.	The levy increased by \$15 in 2024-25 (the first increase since 2018) and now moves with CPI, hitting \$88 in 2025-26. WMRR continues to advocate for a greater increase.	- Targets and waste strategy not moving – needs higher levy, move waste out of landfill, create infrastructure to process. - There is a need for an increase in landfill levy and improved regulation and enforcement of it including incorporating portability and addressing zones; - Opportunity for revenue - although there is a lot of pressure for no levy. - Ideal is to give us (industry) more back and raise less government revenue – WMRR will put at least 50% back to industry. - Extending the regulated area should be encouraged.	PRIORITY REMAINS Infrastructure investment, clarification levy zones and levy hypothecation will be the key to driving industry success in achieving targets.
2	Accelerate Regulation to create markets for circular products. <i>(This was updated in the March 2025 branch meeting with a view to merge regulation and procurement thresholds driving circular markets into one goal or look to legislate for a framework)</i>	Advocate for the progression and finalisation of a consistent and certain resource recovery framework to ensure policy and regulatory pathways enable the circulation of secondary raw materials. DWER shared a draft recovered materials framework with WMRR in	- The development of sustainable end markets for products and materials made from recycled materials needs to be prioritised; particularly recovered materials and end markets for FOGO. - Controlling contamination front end needs to be prioritised. The branch discussed burdening organic streams with packaging waste,	PRIORITY REMAINS AND SHOULD BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE WORD “ACCELERATE” Suggested priority rewording: “Accelerate regulation to create markets for circular products” Regulation to create markets for circular products needs to be accelerated. Absence of clear standards and specifications is undermining quality. Development of the RRF is crucial and needs to be a mandatory (not voluntary) framework.

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
		late July 2023 who have advised they wish to work with industry to finalise and implement. This will be a voluntary framework. Advocate for the procurement of secondary raw materials content at all levels of government and market development. Activate discussions with DWER and encouraged connection with EcologiQ. ○ Install recycled content targets. <i>(This could be assigned to the CE Working Group)</i> ○ Noted that we need a risk-based framework (i.e. IBAA) rather than prescriptive standards like <i>Roads to Rehab</i> ● Risk of recycled material being taken on by the government needs to be considered - i.e. can they be warranted to last 50-80 years?	noting it will limit markets for FOGO derived products. ▪ Move away from wish-cycling and understand impact of policies throughout the entire system – i.e.: SUP bans impact on FOGO inputs. ● Clarity is needed on whether the Resource Recovery Framework will be voluntary or mandatory. ● Strong and informed, evidence-led policy development is needed, including real EPR (not simply collection schemes and bans); ▪ BAU approach to achieving goals is not working. ▪ Minister's office does not seem keen to take responsibility for compostables contaminating the FOGO stream (i.e.: they did not explicitly tell people to put them in the compostable bin) ▪ Opportunities to leverage advocacy through the Consistent Communications Collective and FOGO Reference Group Meetings with WALGA and DWER.	○ Currently, WA not looking at bulk (general) orders and exemptions, with these mostly applied to road and infrastructure building projects. ○ There is a missed opportunity for organics. ○ Developing markets is crucial ○ Looking for beneficial reuse that is safe and widely accepted to get the level of recovery needed to meet targets. ● Shifting focus to developing markets for circular products (rather than trying to find uses for end products) is integral.

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
			- Mandatory sustainable circular procurement at all levels of government is needed. - WMRR understands that DWER may be supportive of a national approach to consistency for PFAS in organics. WA was hoping to push for national consistency on testing at HEPA (but did not yet progress) – Minister is still being onboarded so may stall progress.	
3	Accelerate Strategic investment on WARR infrastructure by government, focusing on priority materials;	Systems approach – all aspects matter to get a quality product. Needed in the WA market, particularly around FOGO processing. What can we be doing to advocate for this – using the data to show why we're not hitting the targets? Noting the contamination management for FOGO particularly an issue – quality is the make or break with FOGO. Eg: Current issue that 7% FOGO contamination - half of which is packaging. Noted that WA Government has brought the FOGO reference group back	- Need for LGs to tender for long-term contracts to warrant investment. No one will tender to build and invest for a short-term contract. Creating additional capacity requires long contract terms. - Grants can sometimes distort the market rather than accelerate the market by preferencing specific facilities/operators with large. There is not enough due diligence done on viability and end markets) – the state's Infrastructure Strategy should address this. - Waste tracking and investment in the supporting infrastructure is needed (including IT and weighbridges). - Approval processes are lengthy – health check on development applications/approvals. Greater emphasis on priority inputs – especially for FOGO (letter issued to Minister Swinbourn in June 2025)	PRIORITY REMAINS BUT MAY NEED REVISION POST STRATEGY RELEASE Priority materials may not be in the revised strategy and this priority should clearly articulate that infrastructure investment extends to weighbridges which are needed to manage and track material flows, This priority is closely tied to Priority #1 which calls for clarified levy hypothecation. Organics are still top of with FOGO, along with: - Batteries and solar panels - Emerging contaminants - Tracking C&I <i>*Noted that in other states, the Retailers Association is looking at standardizing collection at supermarkets to get standardised communications in bin rooms etc. to promote clean streams.</i>

Western Australia Initiatives		Progress	2025 Comments	Feb 2026 comments
		Importance of linking data over weighbridge by stream before taking next steps: ○ What does best Practice look like – what examples do you have in Australia – do we want to? ○ May be worth considering WMRR's submission on infrastructure plan – link waste flows etc may assist in shaping this priority. ○ Consider <i>Circular Cities</i> waste flow analysis (Emily Tomsett can connect) ○ Waste infrastructure plan – data should be shared as an appendix to any government correspondence.		

