

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WMRR
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, honours the ancestors and the Elders past and present and emerging, we extend that respect to all Aboriginal people, who continue to care for Country.

We recognise that our National Office is located on Gadigal Land of the people of the Eora Nation. WMRR recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' spiritual and cultural connection and inherent right to protect the land, waters, sky and natural resources of Australia. This connection goes deep and has since the Dreaming.



| OUR VISION

**WMRR IS THE
NATIONAL PEAK BODY
THAT LEADS THE
SUCCESS OF THE
WASTE MANAGEMENT
AND RESOURCE
RECOVERY INDUSTRY
IN AUSTRALIA**

OUR SECTOR

WMRR's diverse membership spans the breadth and depth of the Australian waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry, representing all stakeholders in Australia's essential WARR sector, which contributes \$17 billion to the economy annually and creates in excess of 50,000 jobs.

In 2023 WMRR had 2,144 financial members from over 400 organisations that operate across the three (3) levels of government, private sector, universities, and non-government organisations (NGOs), including research bodies.

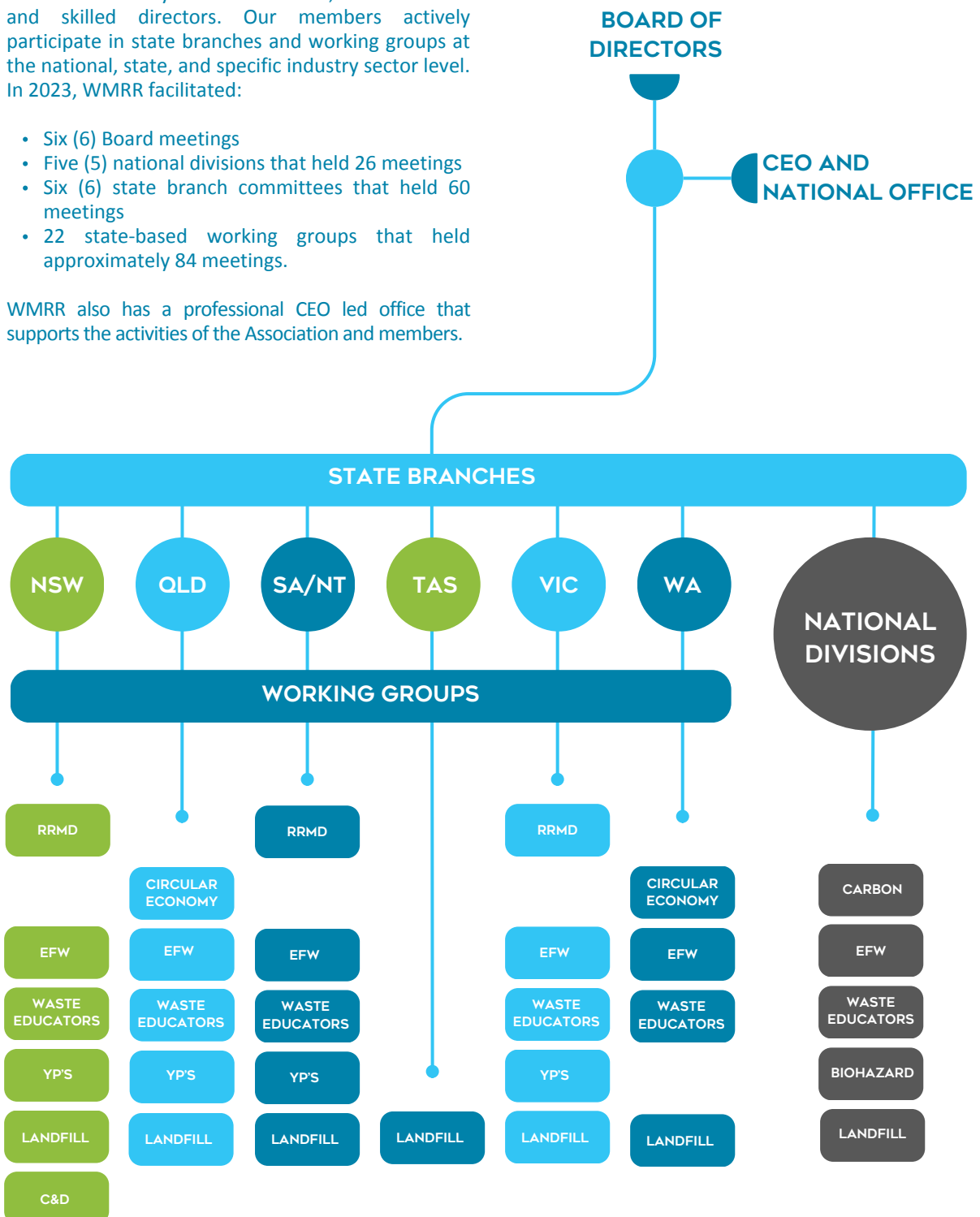
WMRR's members are involved in a range of activities in the Australian economy including infrastructure investment and operations, collection, remanufacturing of valuable products from resource recovered materials, carbon management and mitigation, energy recovery, responsible management of residual materials and community engagement and education.

WMRR STRUCTURE

WMRR has a governance Board of Directors, which consists of directly elected members, Peak members and skilled directors. Our members actively participate in state branches and working groups at the national, state, and specific industry sector level. In 2023, WMRR facilitated:

- Six (6) Board meetings
- Five (5) national divisions that held 26 meetings
- Six (6) state branch committees that held 60 meetings
- 22 state-based working groups that held approximately 84 meetings.

WMRR also has a professional CEO led office that supports the activities of the Association and members.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Circular economy principles and the waste management hierarchy are consistently adopted and pursued nationally across the supply chain to ensure nationally consistent strong policy settings and well designed, safe, and appropriate use of materials, including managing carbon impacts.

WARR infrastructure is professionally managed and strategically planned, supported, and protected to reflect its role as both an essential community service and an economically viable producer of high value secondary raw materials for use across the productive Australian economy.

The WARR industry's engagement with the entire supply chain, the community and government are always evidence-led, informed, professional and responsible.

PRIORITY ADVOCACY AREAS

- The national policy framework places a positive obligation across the entire supply chain to create a circular economy in Australia by 2030, reinforcing a systems-based approach to managing materials across the entire waste management hierarchy, resource efficiency and carbon mitigation.
- A nationally consistent and certain regulatory and planning framework ensures a level playing field for high quality professional WARR facilities across the entire hierarchy.
- The correct mix of regulatory and market based economic levers are utilised nationally to ensure that public and private investment occurs to maximise material value and mitigate carbon. This requires strong and certain levy settings, with at least 50% of levy collected reinvested in the WARR industry by government, producer responsibility for safe products and materials, as well as incentives to reduce reliance on virgin materials.
- Sustainable procurement is adopted across the entire economy to ensure markets for the increased replacement of virgin products and materials by Australian resource recovered materials produced by lawful Australian WARR industry participants.
- The quality and collection of WARR data is improved nationally to enhance and support consistent and transparent classification and management of materials, as well as build knowledge, and enable the development of informed, high-quality evidence-led policy responses for industry.

CONTENTS

■ PRESIDENT’S REPORT	8	
■ SUMMARY OF MEMBER SERVICES	10	
• Industry advocacy - WMRR submissions to government		
• WMRR member information and media releases		
• WMRR member networks and working groups		
• WMRR events and conferences		
■ NATIONAL DIVISION REPORTS	20	• • • •
• Biohazard Waste Industry (BWI)		• • • •
• Carbon		• • • •
• Energy from Waste (EfW)		• • • •
• Landfill		• • • •
• Waste Educators		
■ STATE BRANCH REPORTS	32	
• New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory		
• Queensland		
• South Australia/Northern Territory		
• Tasmania		
• Victoria		
• Western Australia		
■ FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE	46	
• Governance		
• Board committee reports		
• Financial information		



| PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Each year as National President I have been asked to write a report to talk about the previous year and highlight the activities that the WMRR team have been involved with. Each year I sit down and think about where to start but shortly thereafter start to think about where I should stop! I know no one in the waste and resource recovery sectors who isn't busy - challenged by workload levels and the need to continue to support clients, customers and the community in the best manner they can.

We continue to face many challenges such as my personal bug bear of the fire risks presented by lithium batteries within our feedstock streams. Where once hot loads within collection or transport vehicles were a rarity, now barely a day goes by without hearing about someone either losing a truck or having to dump their load on the side of the road. Even worse is when you see a major facility reduced to rubble due to the incorrect disposal of a battery into their waste stream.

Another key issue is the overall progress towards the national target of 80% diversion by 2030. There has been some good momentum building in the drive to achieve this goal, but I am concerned that the regulatory and policy settings simply are not moving fast enough in the right direction, meaning too little investment is happening now to establish the infrastructure that will be needed to manage the volume of materials required over the next five (5) years. We all know the reality is that developing a new resource recovery facility often takes several years and if you are talking about an energy from waste (EfW) plant, 10 years is a more accurate reality.

That being said, there are lots of other positives to look at with the polluter pays principle of the Container Deposit Scheme being rolled out in Victoria during the year, massive progress on the two (2) EfW plants in WA and the Environment Ministers Meeting announcement around increased regulation of products in particular waste from solar panels, but of most note was finally seeing progress towards mandated obligations for packaging design as part of a new packaging regulatory scheme based on international best practice, as well as making industry responsible for the packaging they place on the market.

One of the recent positives has been the Federal Government's mixed paper and cardboard exports rules which went from a possible allowable 2% contamination level to 5%.

While it may not be the level everyone would like, it was a balanced outcome and far better than the originally proposed amount which most facilities would have had significant difficulty in achieving. There are still concerns about the fees that will apply from 1 July 2024 particularly the impact on plastics, given that this will have real impact on council contracts, whilst we still have a shortfall of local demand for this material, as well as the lengthy delays in export approvals, but at least it shows that government is listening (a bit).

WMRR has been and will continue to be active in dealing with all issues that face our industry and of course, doing all the other things that drive the delivery of value to our members. For example, this year we were busy with two (2) major conferences - EfW and the Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations along with the regular webinars and other state-based events and forums. These had great attendance and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. These were in addition to the countless pieces of engagement and representations made on behalf of the industry nationally and across every State and Territory.

I would like to once again recognise Gayle's tremendous efforts in continuing to drive WMRR forward as the Peak Industry body. Tireless is just one adjective of many that I can use to describe the determination and endeavour Gayle displays day in and day out in the engagement with all parts of the country around key issues at both national and local levels. Gayle is then backed up by her dedicated team who support and facilitate the delivery of so many great initiatives. It is these efforts that see the level of satisfaction within our membership base sitting at what I believe to be our highest levels ever and ensuring WMRR's offering to these members is appreciated as a highly valued resource.

It is also important to recognise and say thank you to the members who are engaged and support WMRR both financially as well as through the provision of their time, skills, and experience to help ensure WMRR provides valuable levels of engagement. For me this is what truly makes the association - for we are nothing without our members.

As a final note, I also take this opportunity to thank the WMRR board for their leadership and commitment to the sector and look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

GEOFFREY WEBSTER
WMRR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SUMMARY OF 2023 MEMBER SERVICES

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

In 2023, engagement in working groups, state branch committees and national divisions continued to remain high with over 1,469 participants across WMRR, with working groups leading a number of projects locally and nationally on behalf of industry and the Association.

MEMBERSHIP		
2,144 MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE WARR INDUSTRY	1,469 REGISTRATIONS ACROSS WORKING GROUPS, BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS	403 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS

ADVOCACY & NEWS		
42 POLICY AND REGULATORY SUBMISSIONS	84 MEDIA RELEASES AND APPEARANCES	13 THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

EVENTS		
15 STATE-BASED EVENTS	2 CONFERENCES ACROSS AUSTRALIA	11 WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL EVENTS

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY

WMRR has strongly advocated that the WARR sector is an essential service that requires a fit for purpose regulatory approach that creates a level playing field, whilst managing risk and driving a systems-based approach to both material management and market development.

WMRR continues to be the trusted and respected voice representing the entire industry and this resulted in many positive impacts in 2023, including:

- Greater understanding of the need for safe products to be placed on the market (producer and design obligations) in order that the WARR sector can safely recover them and create safe products from them, ideally with a consistent national approach. To date, this has resulted in the removal of packaging from food and garden organics systems in NSW and Queensland, due to the concerns around PFAS and other contaminants, as well as increased activity in NSW to improve classification of asbestos containing material to ensure that it is not delivered to recycling facilities.
- Improved understanding of the need for a nationally consistent regulatory approach to recover recycled materials and place back in the productive economy, resulting in reviews of definition of waste and regulatory pathways in NSW, Queensland and WA.
- Enhanced development of product stewardship/extended producer responsibility schemes in Australia to achieve improved resource recovery rates, including active participation in textiles and national e-waste stewardship schemes and advocated for increased scope of container deposit schemes and the batteries scheme to cover all embedded products. Finally, also a commitment by all Ministers to reviewing the regulations and scheme for packaging in Australia.
- Both at a national and state level increased recognition and linkages created between waste (material) policy and carbon policy, with commitment to review the National Waste Policy to include carbon as well as Net Zero Industry Plan.
- Increased levy rate in WA for the first time in five (5) years with active discussions about levy rate, operational purpose deductions and proximity principle currently occurring nationally.



WMRR SUBMISSIONS & CORRESPONDENCE TO GOVERNMENT

SUBMISSIONS

FEDERAL

- ACCC - Lithium-ion batteries Issues paper (3 February 2023)
- Designing ReMade in Australia (14 February 2023)
- PFAS National Environmental Management Plan 3.0 (28 February 2023)
- NGER Scheme 2023 Proposed Amendments (5 May 2023)
- Regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste (23 July 2023)
- A national framework for recycled content traceability (31 August 2023)
- IChEMS PFAS and PeCB decisions (1 September 2023)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export—Waste Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 (20 September 2023)
- ACCU Review Discussion Paper (16 October 2023)
- IChEMS Brominated flame retardants decisions (25 October 2023)
- IChEMS Short chain chlorinated paraffins decisions (8 November 2023)
- Climate Active Program Direction Consultation 2023 (20 December 2023)

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Asbestos Management Review (13 December 2023)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- ACT Container Deposit Scheme expansion (22 August 2023)

VICTORIA

- Draft EPA separation and landfill buffer guidelines (17 February 2023)
- Victoria's 30 year Infrastructure Plan (1 June 2023)
- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Risk, Consequence and Contingency) Regulations 2023 (19 September 2023)
- Classifying waste and waste soils containing PFAS (21 December 2023)

TASMANIA

- Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2025 (24 February 2023)
- Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025 (6 April 2023)
- Container Refund Scheme Regulations (14 June 2023)
- Tasmanian Positive Our state's sustainability strategy Discussion Paper (6 October 2023)
- Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan – Waste (20 December 2023)

QUEENSLAND

- Review of the landfill guideline - preliminary consultation (17 February 2023)
- Expanding the scope of eligible containers in Queensland (20 February 2023)
- Waste reduction and recycling amendment bill 2023 (14 March 2023)
- Draft QLD e-Product Action Plan (17 April 2023)
- Draft review report Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy (19 May 2023)
- Improving the powers and penalties provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (10 November 2023)

CORRESPONDENCE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY

- 2023 Single use plastic amendment regulations *(28 February 2023)*
- Draft PFAS waste guidelines *(1 March 2023)*
- Improving the Container Deposit Scheme *(14 April 2023)*
- Phasing out single-use plastics in the Northern Territory *(14 April 2023)*
- Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material *(8 September 2023)*
- Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper *(6 November 2023)*
- South Australia's 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper *(13 November 2023)*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- E-waste to landfill ban in Western Australia *(30 March 2023)*
- Review of the waste levy in WA *(3 April 2023)*
- Expanding the scope of eligible beverage containers *(1 May 2023)*
- Draft WA State Waste Infrastructure Plan *(26 June 2023)*
- Review of WA's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 *(11 July 2023)*
- *Improving the powers and penalties provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994* *(10 November 2023)*

FEDERAL

- Call for comprehensive mandated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for soft plastics in Australia *(5 June 2023)*
- Call for urgent government action on the safe disposal of vapes *(11 October 2023)*

NEW SOUTH WALES

- NSW Election Letter - Perrottet *(9 March 2023)*
- Recovery of Organics and creating a high-quality compost product - letter *(29 September 2023)*

QUEENSLAND

- PFAS limits in Queensland *(30 October 2023)*

TASMANIA

- Recovery of Organics in Tasmania and creating a high-quality compost product *(23 August 2023)*

| MEMBER INFORMATION



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Association members are kept up to date and informed of industry and Association news through WMRR's regular electronic correspondence, including:

- Weekly Resource Bulletins that provide a comprehensive round-up of weekly policy and regulatory changes, grants, commercial, and funding announcements, industry and government reports, and current consultations from around Australia.
- Specific issue updates as required.
- 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 forthcoming events and conferences. WMRR CEO's bi-monthly Inside Waste CEO column and National President's Board communiqué are also featured in these.

MEDIA RELEASES

- An opportunity to create a resourceful and net-zero NSW (*10 March 2023*)
- Victoria's CDS path hailed a win for community and the environment (*14 April 2023*)
- On World Environment Day, WMRR Calls for a Comprehensive Mandated EPR Scheme for Soft Plastics (*6 June 2023*)
- WMRR welcomes Environment Ministers agreement to act on packaging (*9 June 2023*)
- End 'bin it if it's broken' ways or miss circular economy target: WARR industry (*11 August 2023*)
- Clothing Waste in the Spotlight on National Thrift Shop Day (*16 August 2023*)
- WARR industry welcomes Fed and Vic Govt investment but warns more must be done (*24 August 2023*)
- One-off State-based Plastic Bans Not the Best Answer to Waste Challenge (*5 September 2023*)
- Australia's Food Waste Crisis: It's Costing Households \$1,500 a Year (*29 September 2023*)
- Producer Responsibility Needed for Vape Disposal: Clean Up Australia and WMRR (*4 October 2023*)
- Australia must fast-track and expand PFAS ban (*6 October 2023*)
- International E-Waste Day: Australia needs a comprehensive regime (*13 October 2023*)
- Victorian Minister must step in to end bureaucracy's plan for more fees (*17 October 2023*)
- WMRR Welcomes NSW Plastics Plan as Practical, Achievable and Certain (*29 October 2023*)
- WMRR Congratulates Container Deposit Schemes Expanding (*31 October 2023*)
- WMRR Welcomes Ministers Stronger Action on Packaging but Timeframes for Implementation are Urgent (*10 November 2023*)
- Brisbane City Council 'Towards Zero Waste' Policy A Step in the Right Direction (*13 November 2023*)
- WMRR Welcomes Tasmanian Government's WARR Strategy (*15 November 2023*)
- Vape Reforms Must Include End-of-Life Disposal Scheme to Protect WARR Industry (*29 November 2023*)
- If Queensland Can Do It... Call on States to Expand 10 Cent Refunds for Wine and Spirits (*29 November 2023*)
- Christmas Safety Warning: Don't Bin Your Batteries (*22 December 2023*)

| EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



As part of WMRR's commitment to providing value to members ensuring they are informed, knowledgeable and engaged, the Association continued to deliver its program of high quality events, conferences and on-line webinars, including interactive training sessions nationally in 2023.

WMRR held

- Two (2) national conferences
- Four (4) state based one-day forums
- Ten (10) webinars and
- Twelve (12) events including workshops, leadership breakfasts and our annual general meeting

In 2023 WMRR's combined attendance at all these activities was 3,799 delegates.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

2023 AUSTRALIAN LANDFILL AND TRANSFER STATIONS (ALTS) CONFERENCE

Held in Melbourne under the theme 'Essential infrastructure for Australia's future.' The three (3) day program consisted of two (2) one (1) day pre-conference workshops, a two (2) day conference and exhibition and two (2) networking functions. The workshops and day one (1) of the conference were sold out. This year's event, attracted over 300 registrations and also saw the successful return of the conference awards program at the Event Dinner.



2023 ENERGY FROM WASTE (EFW) CONFERENCE

Due to popular demand the Energy from Waste (EfW) Conference returned just 18 months after the previous one. This year's event was held at the Sydney Cricket Ground with more than 200 registrations, under the theme 'EfW – The missing piece in Australia's sustainable future'. New to this year's program was a well-attended pre-conference workshop assisting councils in understanding the role that EFW can play in residual management and how to progress such projects/tenders.

2023 WASTE AND RECYCLE CONFERENCE (WMRR SUPPORTED)

The Waste & Recycle Conference was held in Perth for its annual two (2) day conference, also celebrating its 30-year anniversary under the theme 'Towards 2030'. For the first time, the conference combined with the WasteSorted Awards. The conference was well attended by over 400 delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors.



| 2023 EVENTS



EVENTS

NATIONAL

- WMRR 2023 Annual General Meeting (20 June 2023)

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Women of WARR leadership breakfast (31 August 2023)
- Christmas Drinks (30 November 2023)

QUEENSLAND

- Women of WARR leadership breakfast (20 July 2023)
- Queensland WARR Forum (5 October 2023)
- Christmas Drinks (23 November 2023)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Women of WARR leadership breakfast (2 May 2023)
- Lunch with GISA Board (29 August 2023)
- SA golf day I (24 November 2023)

TASMANIA

- Tasmanian WARR Forum I (17 May 2023)
- Tasmanian WARR Forum II and Christmas drinks (15 November 2023)

VICTORIA

- Victoria WARR Forum (29 March 2023)
- Social License to Operate (SLO) (30 March 2023)
- Women of WARR leadership breakfast (7 September 2023)
- Christmas dinner (7 December 2023)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- 2023 Waste & Recycle Conference (13-14 September 2023)
- Christmas Drinks (29 November 2023)



WEBINARS

- National Waste Report 2022 (7 February 2023)
- YP Debate (15 March 2023)
- Grafil Case Industry Briefing (28 March 2023)
- The Consumers' Role in a Circular Economy (4 April 2023)
- Carbon 101 (18 April 2023)
- Activating Design for a Circular Economy (23 May 2023)
- Fighting Household Food Waste (8 August 2023)
- A Snapshot on Tyres (10 August 2023)
- An Introduction to Biochar (26 September 2023)
- Online briefing ACCU review discussion paper (29 September 2023)
- The Great Wall of Sydney (9 November 2023)



NATIONAL DIVISION REPORTS



BIOHAZARD WASTE INDUSTRY

With COVID-19 now largely in the rear-view mirror, 2023 was a year to take stock for the Biohazard Waste Industry (BWI) and the National Division. It allowed industry to take a clear-eyed look back and assess the management of the pandemic from our sector's point of view.

In the fog of war – and it literally felt like that at times – we just got on with it any way we could dealing with what was immediately in front of us. I am particularly proud of this group – our agility, our cohesiveness, and our collaboration to deliver safe outcomes for our sector and our country during those extraordinary times.

The Division has taken some learnings, particularly around the importance of a nationally consistent approach to the management of biowaste, and encouragingly, I think the various government departments now have a better understanding of its importance – both from a practical point of view but also from an efficiency perspective. The recognition that there is no need to reinvent the wheel in each state and territory is a welcome one.

Throughout the year, the Division continued to work actively with Standards Australia to provide advice on safe disposal methods for items related to the clinical waste management sector.

BWI members also remained working with EPA Victoria on its waste tracker system for hazardous materials throughout 2023. It has had some teething problems but we remain hopeful these will be addressed.

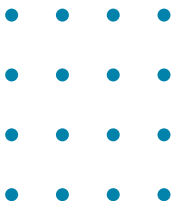
NSW and Queensland also continued to advance their tracker systems – albeit slowly. NSW is hopeful of implementing its version sometime in 2024 and we are confident they have taken on board some of the learnings from the Victorian experience.

I thank all members of the Division for their time and support for BWI throughout 2023.

GAYLE SLOAN
CEO WMRR



| NATIONAL CARBON



Australia's emissions for the year to December 2023 are estimated to be 432.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e), a decrease of 0.5% (2.4 Mt CO₂-e) compared with the previous year, with waste emissions for the year staying flat at 13.9 Mt, accounting for an increasing share (3.2%) of Australia's total CO₂- emissions as a result.

After decades of leading the pack alongside the renewable energy and land use sector, the WARR industry is losing pace.

This is despite the fact that our industry can not only significantly reduce our direct emissions, but also assist others in the economy in reducing their carbon footprint.

Last year was time for a bit of a reset which has been taking longer than any of us in the carbon industry would have liked, but the long expected reforms are finally underway – most notably with the start of the updated 'Safeguard Mechanism' which will drive more private/compliance demand to the carbon markets, and a review of the Landfill Gas and other WARR methodologies which WMRR hopes will lead to reinvigoration of supply to meet that demand.

One of the key learnings from 2023 is that our industry needs ongoing support, attention and care to truly unlock its potential. We do not control what our inputs materials are, and therefore, we need the price of externalities, like carbon emissions, to be clearly and simply priced in and available to all operators across the hierarchy given the integral role that we can play in carbon abatement across the economy.

WMRR believes that our industry could double the number of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) generated by leveraging current and future regulation and policies to address organic waste collections and circular economy approaches that both extend the life of materials and reduces demand on virgin material diverting from disposal and reducing emissions.

CHUBB REVIEW

WMRR contributed to the Chubb review into the integrity of the ACCU scheme within Australia. Ultimately, the scheme has been determined to be 'fundamentally well-designed' and investors and the broader community in Australia can be confident that the scheme is fit-for-purpose and capable of delivering significant emissions reductions.

A number of changes were recommended to clarify governance, improve transparency, facilitate positive project outcomes and co-benefits, and enhance confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the scheme, which the government has accepted.

WMRR is working with the government to implement the review recommendations. We look forward to developing and evolving methodologies to progress the opportunity for Australia to be a world-leader in carbon abatement innovation.

WMRR has also advocated strongly that there is an urgent need for better interaction and complementarity between different WARR and carbon management schemes and policy both at and within the state and federal levels in Australia. This harmonisation, clear vision and guidance are required to enable long-term investment decisions and continuous improvement. Investments in WARR management may be significantly hampered without an effective ACCU scheme.

COP28

Several members of the National Carbon committee headed to Dubai to the pivotal 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the major highlight in the global climate event calendar. The event showcased the incredible innovation and opportunities available for carbon removal technology around the world. For the first time, COP tackled the need to reduce fossil fuel emissions. The contentious debate around the exact process for this (phase down vs. phase out) against the backdrop of Dubai itself clearly highlights the immense challenge of shifting to renewable energy sources.





OTHER INITIATIVES

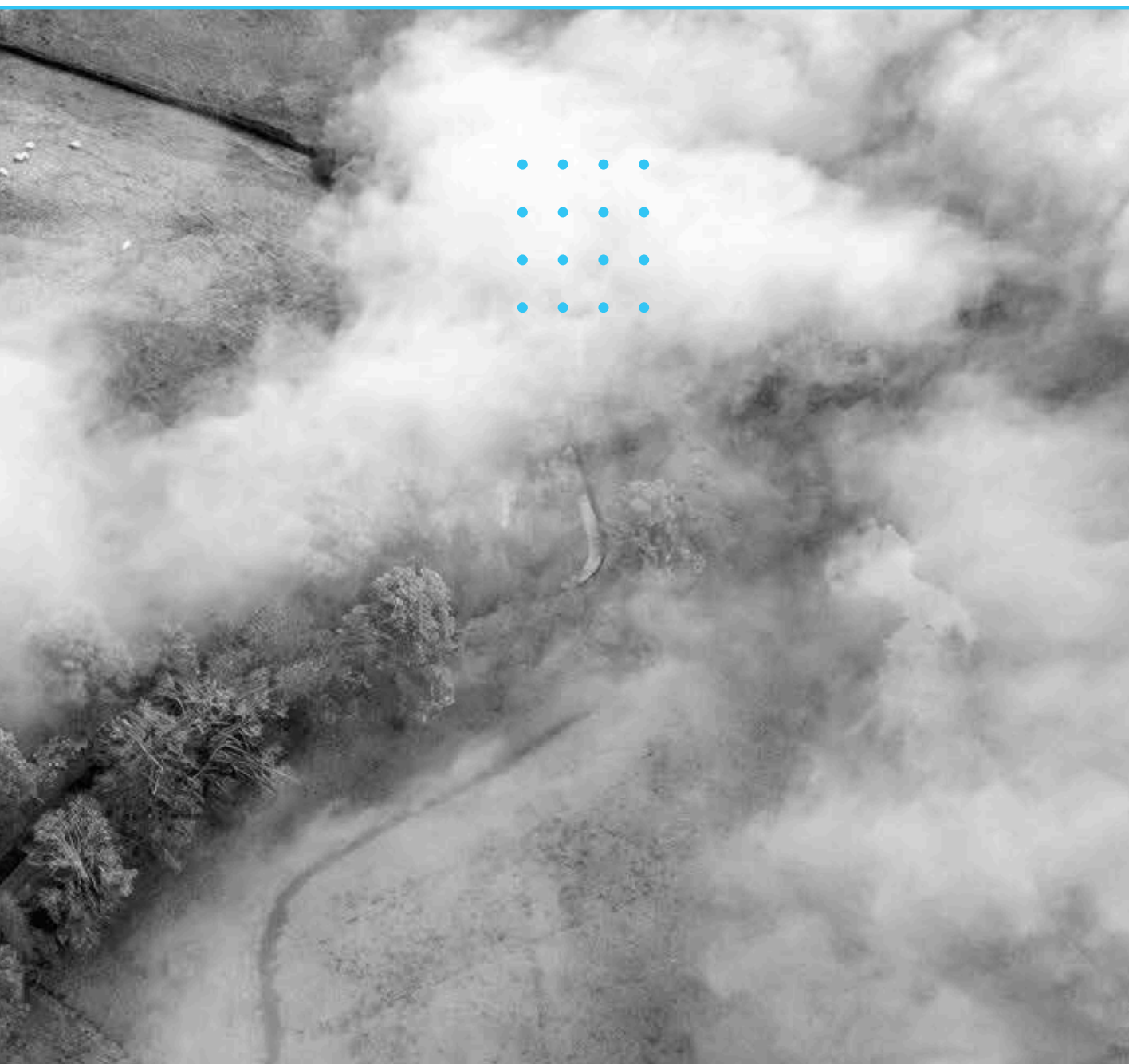
The National Carbon Division has continued to support WMRR's vision for delivering net zero emissions through the circular economy.

Whilst the Federal government prepares a framework for a circular economy, the links with carbon are as yet not readily apparent, with the policy focus seemingly elsewhere, such as on the development of the Nature Repair Market or the Hydrogen industry. In June 2023, the Climate Change Authority consulted with industry and the broader public on setting, tracking and achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets.

We took this as an opportunity to make suggested improvements to broader policy areas designed to accelerate progress on Australia's climate action.

The Climate Change Authority is reviewing the potential technology transition and emission pathways that will best support Australia's transition to net zero emissions by 2050 for six (6) different sectors – including waste which was lumped in with 'industry'.

In 2024, WMRR will continue to advocate for a robust and practical framework for our industry through a dedicated approach that recognises the unique challenges and opportunities that we are faced with.



For the first time ever, the WARR industry is looking at becoming a net source of increased emissions. The latest emissions projections from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water show waste emissions are expected to remain flat at 13MtCO₂e/yr, which is higher than in previous projections, reflecting updated advice on progress towards federal, state and territory food waste, recovery and diversion targets, as well as advice on methane capture under the ACCU Scheme.

This trend is driven by the landfill sector as the largest contributor to waste emissions. It produced 10.5 Mt CO₂-e in 2023, which is projected to decline

by 1 Mt CO₂-e to a low in 2027, before increasing slightly between 2028 and 2035. This trend is mainly driven by population growth partially offsetting improvements in waste diversion, as well as declining abatement from waste ACCU projects.

The National Carbon Committee team looks forward to your collaboration and extends its most heartfelt thanks to its active membership and WMRR's national office's unwavering support. It certainly has been a busy year - so thank you all.

JULIEN GASTALDI
DIVISION CHAIR

NATIONAL ENERGY FROM WASTE (EFW)



The highlight of the year for the Energy from Waste sector was the EfW Conference held at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground in October/November 2023.

For the first time it included a pre-conference workshop, with a clear focus on assisting council in understanding and utilising EFW as part of their residual management. The workshop brought councils together from across Australia and provided them with an opportunity to share issues unique to their sector and local government areas. It also provided them with an opportunity to have those issues addressed by a range of subject matter experts, as well as colleagues who had already undertaken master planning and/or tendering processes that included this approach. Attendees reported very positive feedback on the practical insights and learnings offered from both domestic and overseas presenters.

The Conference itself was another colligate affair with plenty of networking and discussions, as well as a strong array of high-quality presentations. Among the highlights was the CEO panel including ResourceCo's Henry Anning, Veolia's Richard Kirkman, Cleanaway's Mark Schubert and East Rockingham's Jason Pugh.

Jason was very much the 'rockstar' at the conference as the head of Australia's first large scale EfW facility south of Perth – which is now within reach - due to open in 2024.

If he felt the weight of the sector's expectations on his shoulders, he didn't show it. His openness and willingness to take delegates through the good (and the learnings) from his journey was greatly appreciated by all, especially in relation to social licence to operate issues.

In many respects, 'seeing is believing' and the opening of the East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility and the Kwinana Waste to Energy Project could be a watershed moment for the EfW sector in Australia. There is hope this 'lived experience out of Western Australia could create a

a domino effect across the country as governments scramble to increase resource recovery rates.

I thank the National EfW Division for its active role and participation in making the conference another success.

In Victoria, the Division has been working with the State Government and EPA on its Waste to Energy Framework which was given royal assent in September 2023. Part of this framework includes a cap of one million tonnes each year on the amount of permitted waste to be treated by EfW facilities. The Australian Paper facility moved to the next stage of development, and all four (4) existing facilities lodged their applications for existing operator license before Christmas.

In NSW we look forward to the outcome of the Parkes proposal, and we note that the Woodland proposal has been lodged by Veolia. This is integral to the ongoing management of residual material in the Sydney Metropolitan Region. In Queensland we note that ResourceCo has received approval to progress its facility at Hemmant, with a number of other facilities being considered including an expression of interest (EOI) process conducted by COMSEQ for a possible facility. In SA we have seen the North Adelaide Waste Management Association (NAWMA) also progress an EFW facility for northern Adelaide.

Whilst it is a challenging space to operate in, it is also a rewarding one. There is a lot of activity that as a sector we are very proud of.

Finally, I want to thank my predecessor and EfW Godfather in Australia, Ron Wainberg, for his leadership, advocacy and contribution to the EfW National Division, WMRR and the broader sector.

EDWARD NICHOLAS
DIVISION CHAIR

| NATIONAL LANDFILL



2023 was a year of challenges for the landfill sector. We faced natural disasters including severe flooding across multiple states, coupled with manmade challenges like the increasing incidence of fire sparked by lithium-ion batteries in all residual streams and the lack of appropriate safe disposal for these items nationally. All this meant extreme vigilance and resilience was required by all.

It is unfortunate that it is often at times of natural disaster that the vital role landfill plays in the waste management hierarchy comes to the fore.

This is a role landfill will continue to fulfil well into the future as the essential waste and resource recovery sector evolves. As further consolidation of sites occurs, planning for resilience will become more important in order to maintain low levels of risk to human health and the environment.

State working groups remain strongly engaged, driving jurisdictionally relevant activities and submissions associated with proposed regulatory changes, information-sharing, and industry feedback, as well as contributing nationally to a review of operational purpose deductions in an attempt to drive national consistency and best practice management of these.

Nationally these groups contribute to submissions, responses and following up issues such as:

- Changes following the Chubb review into ACCU's to baselines for new projects and the landfill method; and
- Development of PFAS NEMP 3.0 and inconsistencies in state regulation of PFAS and continuing leakage of PFAS from consumer products to residuals at end of life.

Other matters being responded to included updates and changes to regulatory and enforcement approaches, buffer distance reviews and changes to guidelines. It was particularly pleasing to see the increased active engagement of the NSW EPA with the state working group, which finally resulted in updated design guidance to align with existing regulations. Still lots to do in all states but it is clear the working groups are being effective in keeping best practice landfill management firmly on state agendas.

A successful Australian Landfill and Transfer Station (ALTS) Conference in Melbourne in June 2023 saw record attendance. We are very grateful to all those that participated in the program development - we cannot deliver such events without this participation. Keynote speakers provided thought provoking and insightful presentations on the future of landfill and monitoring of fugitive landfill gas (LFG) emissions from aerial and satellite-based platforms.

Feedback from the workshop and the desire to do more of these has led to formation of a small group to assist WMRR develop and offer more structured program of training.

Thank you to all members who have participated in and supported the activities of the Division.

PAUL LIGHTBODY
DIVISION CHAIR



NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS



It's been a year of rebuilding for the National Waste Educators Division after a few personnel changes but the Division's commitment to improve our environment remains unchanged, as do the challenges and opportunities that we continue to highlight and address.

Among the top three (3) focuses for waste educators nationally in 2023 was the continued rollout of food and garden organics (FOGO) across various states as we work to achieve the national target of reducing organics to landfill by 50% by 2030, whether a new service or transitioning to a weekly service. As with any change, this caused upset in some quarters as people adjusted to a new service, prompting a range of questions and concerns but overall, the community has adjusted well thanks largely to the army of waste educators across the various local government and operators implementing FOGO. Credit to them all.

It goes without saying that national consistency in approach to this service would greatly assist in eliminating confusion, as well as strong support and investment in behavioural change further up the hierarchy (ie avoidance), which WMRR continues to focus strongly on.

As such, the second and third focuses are linked - behaviour change and avoidance. We are constantly balancing the usual discussions about 'what goes in which bin' - core business for us - but also weaving in the higher level messages about consumption, production and design.

As a group, we continue to discuss how to move the conversation from the end of the supply chain to the start where so much of an item's recoverability is determined. We also seek to encourage individuals, companies and society has a whole to take responsibility for avoiding and/or reducing the waste material they generate.

WMRR remains committed to educating in not only what we do at the bin, but what we do at consumption, in the kitchen and in the office - in order that we really can commit to using less for longer, and reduce emissions. It is vital we keep having these conversations with the community and empower them to make these decisions - saving not only money but reducing carbon.

To this end, the division held two (2) webinars throughout the year. The first in April with the University of Adelaide's Jodie Conduit looking at consumption in a circular economy and BehaviourWorks Australia's Jenni Macklin who shared work she was undertaking on consumer measuring waste prevention in a circular economy.

The second, in September 2023 which was initiated by the NSW Division and shared nationally, was on preparing a good grant application with Kate Dryden from Sphere and the NSW EPA's Kathy Giunta.

Both webinars were well attended and received plenty of positive feedback.

As the incidence of battery fires continues to spiral out of control, many local government areas have undertaken extensive education programs to ensure batteries do not end up in bins, but key to this success will be identifying locations for embedded batteries so items like vapes and toys have a safe collection and disposal pathway.

In Western Australia, there has been a particular focus on preparing the community for the introduction of the two (2) energy from waste facilities opening there in 2024, which will take residual, non-recyclable material from more than a dozen local council areas. WMRR looks forward to sharing the learnings of these councils with the group at some stage in the coming 12 months.

Thank you to all involved in the Waste Educators divisions across WMRR for your ongoing contributions.

GRACE BARILLA
DIVISION CHAIR

STATE BRANCH REPORTS





NEW SOUTH WALES STATE BRANCH (NSW)



The NSW Government election in 2023 provided the state with a new direction and a new Environment Minister, although the key issues facing the waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry remained unchanged.

We saw several new policies and plans introduced in NSW that interplay with the WARR industry, including 'Climate Change Policy and Action Plan 2023-2026' and 'Carbon Abatement Opportunities for a Circular Economy'. The criticality of our industry is being observed, however, joining the dots across these various policy objectives remains a challenge for the government and industry.

The Construction and Demolition (C&D) working group remained focused on the impact of asbestos and the quality of recovered fines by reactivating a working group with the NSW EPA. This work resulted in draft interim guidelines and a co-designed education package. Throughout the year further developments included clarification of 'the Grafil case' and the appointment of the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer to undertake a review of Asbestos Management in Recovered Fines and Recovered Material.

The Landfill working group has actively addressed ongoing challenges, including operational purpose deductions and alignment of guidelines and regulations through closer engagement with the EPA.

The NSW Young Professionals and Waste Educators working groups successfully delivered a number of webinars and debates throughout the year with a focus on the circular economy.

The EPA's recent engagement with the industry on FOGO and the upcoming organic separation mandates, as well as the necessity for FOGO processing and transfer infrastructure is welcomed.

Linked to this, the Resource Recovery and Market Development working group delivered webinars on organics, the practicalities of quality FOGO and compostable plastic. In the meantime, mixed waste organic outputs (MWOO) is still with us, supporting diversion from landfill.

The NSW EPA continues to focus on the resource recovery framework review implementation, whilst commencing the detailed analysis of the WARR infrastructure needs including the organics processing capacity to support the forthcoming FOGO mandates. We are also aware that a review of the waste levy will be undertaken in 2024, which will be critical to the ongoing success of resource recovery and the drive to a circular economy in NSW.

The success for the year is the acknowledgement of the complexity of our industry and the many linkages with other government policies. It is pleasing to see the government recognise the interplay between landfill capacity, FOGO rollout, MWOO contracts and the future role that EFW will play in NSW.

Amongst the many events and webinars held throughout the year, two (2) memorable events were the sold-out Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast, and the Energy from Waste conference held at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

It has been an exciting and rewarding year. With the support of the NSW Branch members, Working Group Chairs and the WMRR team, we have collaborated and responded to multiple policy reviews and critical challenges, and I thank them for their support.

PHIL CARBINS
NEW SOUTH WALES
BRANCH PRESIDENT

QUEENSLAND STATE BRANCH



The pace of change for Waste, Resource Recovery and Circular Economy issues in Queensland was highly variable in 2023. The WARR industry and our members continue to participate across a wide range of topic areas, consulting on new policy and guidelines, as well as legislation. Working groups continue to be active and focussed on the needs of our members, helping to shape the future. In 2023 we had working groups for Landfill, Energy from Waste, Young Professionals, Waste Educators, and we launched a new working group for Circular Economy, replacing the previous resource recovery group. Aside from the work of the Queensland Branch, there were three (3) notable events held by WMRR in Queensland in 2023. These were the Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast in July 2023, the Queensland Waste and Recovery Forum in October, and the Christmas networking drinks (and meeting) in November.

Recycling and recovery performance as a state remained subdued. The recovery rate for Queensland was 54% from a total of 9.3 million tonnes generated. Across headline waste streams, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste streams remain well below the 2025 targets at just 26.5% and 53% respectively recovered. The Construction and Demolition (C&D) stream continues to do the heavy lifting operating at 81% (and above the 2025 target). It is apparent that the 2025 targets will generally not be met, with Queensland currently tracking at behind on seven (7) out of nine (9) targets under its strategy at present. As such the 2030 targets should be considered “at risk” without significant enabling policy, levy reform and investment in the sector.

As we stepped through 2023 there were a series of announcements and significant events. New facilities for C&D waste processing and the new Sunshine Coast MRF were constructed. Plans for the 2032 Olympics continue to gather place, presenting a real opportunity for the use of existing, or establishment of new WARR industry facilities to support the sustainable delivery through construction, operation, and legacy.

During 2023 the South East Queensland Council of Mayors also progressed implementation of their regional plan, focussing on upcoming work on identifying the preferred assemblage of organic waste processing infrastructure in SEQ, and also releasing an Expression of Interest (EOI) for residual waste processing. We saw the approval of the Resource Co EFW facility and towards the end of the year, we also saw the proposed Cleanaway Bromelton Energy Recovery Centre and the City of Gold Coast Council Advanced Resource Recovery Centre energy from waste

projects announced, signalling a serious intent to support the state in meeting its resource recovery targets.

There was a high degree of promise and interaction with the Queensland Government. Wine and spirit bottles were successfully introduced under the Queensland Container Refund Scheme, leading the way for the rest of Australia to follow. Government worked with Councils to complete the remainder of their regional plans, and funding to start supporting the implementation was announced, but more work is required. The Queensland Government also consulted on its review of the state’s Waste Strategy; however, this is yet to be finalised. Likewise, we await the outcomes and response to a review of the End of Waste Framework completed in 2023. A significant investment was announced to support the roll out of new food and garden organic collection services through the GROW FOGO grants program. We still await the outcome of the investigation into the creation of a separate EPA in Queensland.

Working with Government, WMRR, through our working groups, have provided significant consultation feedback around legislation and guidelines. There is real value to the Queensland Government from getting feedback from industry operators in how their proposed legislative or policy changes may impact real operations. Consultation has included changes to operational exemptions, data and reporting, landfill guidance and waste stockpile guidance, as well as changes to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 around general environmental duty.

There remains several ongoing areas where the pace of change and clarity could be improved. Notably industry still awaits certainty from the Queensland Government on product quality expectations for compost, particularly with regard to emerging contaminants. This issue has the potential to limit investment in recovery technology for organic waste, which are critical to meeting state targets.

Looking forward to 2024, it promises to be an exciting and transforming year with Queensland hosting the ENVIRO Circular Economy conference in June, Breakfast with the Minister, the Women of WARR Breakfast, and another Queensland WARR forum later proposed for November 2024.

CHRIS HAMBLING
QUEENSLAND
BRANCH PRESIDENT

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE BRANCH



In 2023, the WARR industry responded to continuing PFAS concerns, the need for increased market demand for recovered products, the commencement of the third tranche of single use plastic bans, the challenge of soft plastics, pursuit of weekly food organics and garden organic (FOGO) trials, battery fires, carbon policy reform proposals, export bans and the early development phases of new SA waste and resource recovery legislation and planning policies.

Green Industries SA (GISA) continued to invest for a more circular economy, including through a continued focus on the built environment and organics. It released a Circular Economy in South Australia Built Environment Action Plan and, with the EPA and Local Government Association of South Australia, the SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services. GISA launched the Circular Procurement Knowledge Hub, including a register of circular products, in August to help procurement officers adopt circular economy principles.

The third tranche of single use plastic bans took effect on 1 September 2023, applying to single-use plastic bowls, plastic trays and serving platters. Throughout the year, GISA also had a strong, continuing focus on the clean-up from the massive flooding in late 2022 along River Murray communities, that affected up to 4,000 residences and 1,200 kms of roads. In addition, the EPA undertook early engagement activities for the review of the Waste to Resources Environment Protection Policy to promote a circular economy and targeted consultation on two (2) draft guidelines for managing PFAS in SA – the Draft Reuse Guideline and the Draft Siting Guideline. Interim guidance on PFAS in soils was subsequently released mid-year.

The South Australian (SA) Branch met eleven times across the year as well as convening additional subgroup discussions to assist with submissions. Through this, WMRR has helped guide understanding of key issues across the WARR industry, including highlighting areas that will benefit from additional regulatory reform, and identifying upcoming opportunities.

In early 2023, Anthony Brazzale was elected as Vice President of the branch following Warren Stone stepping down from the role in November 2022 due to commencing employment outside of the industry.

WMRR made submissions on SA proposals relating to single use plastic amendment regulations, draft PFAS guidelines, improving container deposit scheme, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and State Infrastructure Strategy planning. In addition, WMRR SA members' participation across 2023 saw a continued focus on building market demand through the Sustainable Procurement Working Group and promoting a circular

economy and key WARR sector needs through meetings of the Waste to Resources EPP Review Reference Group via determination of key reform needs and priorities.

The Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast was held in May 2023 and a WMRR lunch with the GISA Board was held in August 2023. The Young Professionals and friends enjoyed informal drinks regularly across 2023, including opportunities to network with more senior members. The social calendar would not be complete without the fantastic SA Golf Day and the year wrapped up with well-attended informal drinks in December following consecutive working group and Committee meetings.

WORKING GROUPS

SA retained four (4) active working groups - Waste Educators, RRMD, Young Professionals and Landfill - as well as actively participating in various national Divisions. The Waste Education Group Vice Chair position was filled by Cameron O'Malley from Bin Thinking and Leah Maxwell succeeded Marina Wagner as RRMD Chair. The efforts of chairs and active members for continuing group success is commended. A range of meetings and presentations were held amongst the groups, including presentations on the River Murray clean up, the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS), BioBin in Qatar, Which Bin program, Sunset Lover on sustainability in fashion design, Department of Education on waste services roll out, an update on the Garage Sale Trail program, food waste reduction tool 'Kitchen Hand', NAWMA on waste textiles and reducing yellow bin contamination, and the Charles Stuart weekly FOGO trial.

The Young Professionals went on a site tour to NAWMA and Mastec while the RRMD went to IWS Wingfield and Dublin Eco hub.

The Branch Committee and Working Groups continued to be well supported by our Branch Support Officer, Brian Johnston. His efforts to help our work and achievements are greatly appreciated. WMRR maintains strong collaborative relationships, including with the EPA, the Local Government Association and GISA, who continues in a special partnership as our sponsor. These important relationships aid a strong, shared understanding of key regulatory focus areas and the issues affecting sector participants, assisting us all in working together for the betterment of our essential industry.

TIANA NAIRN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND
NORTHERN TERRITORY
BRANCH PRESIDENT

TASMANIA STATE BRANCH



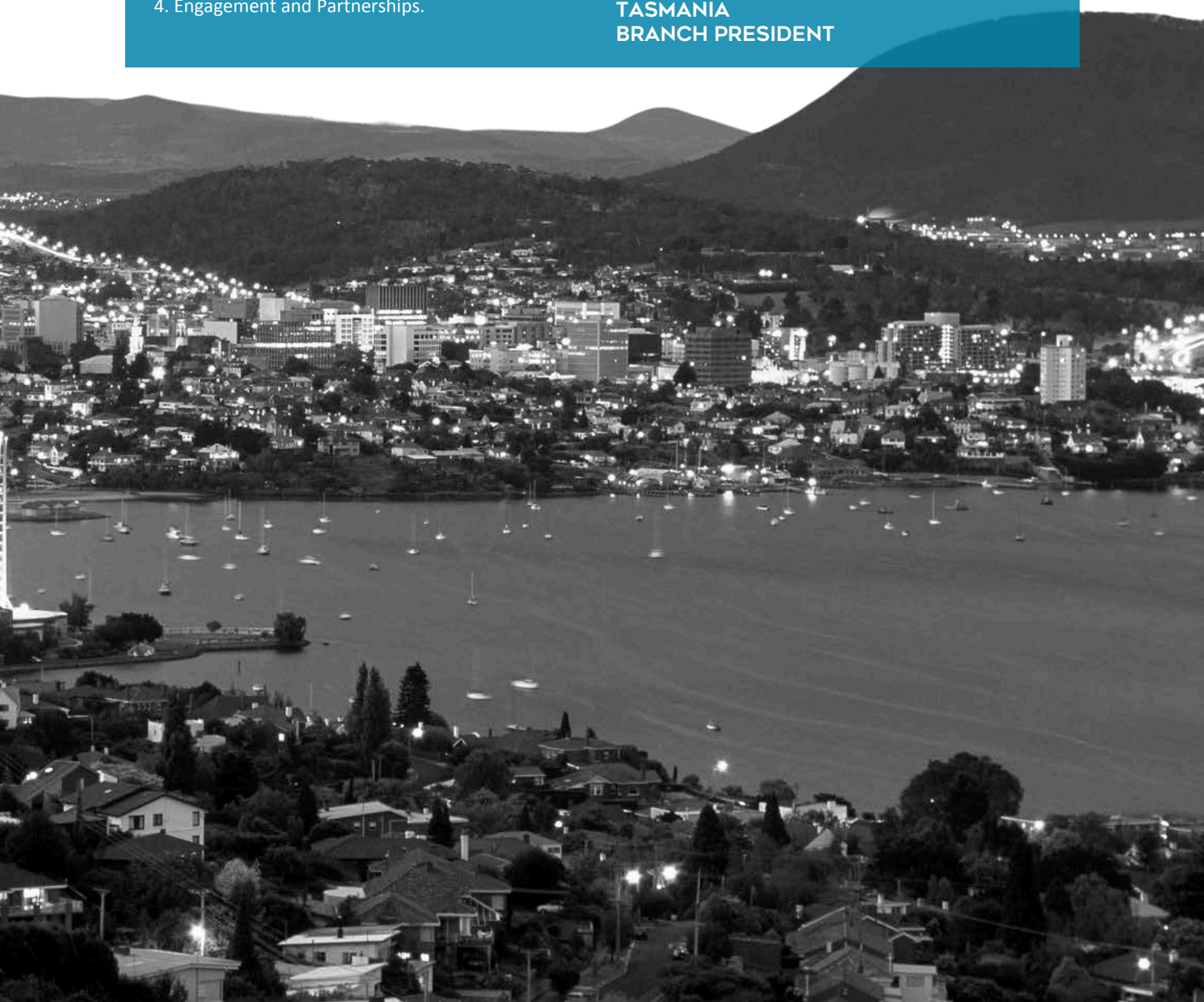
In November 2023 the first ever legislated waste strategy for Tasmania was released by the Waste and Recovery Board, called the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2026. The strategy establishes a framework to reduce generational waste, boost recycling and resource recovery, and to position Tasmania to move towards a circular economy. The central vision of the strategy is 'Tasmania: a place where nothing is wasted' and to achieve the visions four (4) focus areas (the Pillars) have been established:

1. Integrated Planning and Action,
2. Strategic Investment,
3. Prioritise Circularity, and
4. Engagement and Partnerships.

The Container Refund Scheme (CRS) continues to be developed with the draft Regulations going through a stakeholder consultation process being conducted in mid-2023. This process has also included the draft planning amendments public consultation and the draft MRF protocol public consultation. The CRS is a program that all of Tasmania is waiting for and we as an industry and community we look forward to the eventual start.

The WARR Forums, held twice a year between Launceston and Hobart are always a highlight for all involved. These events were very well attended with a high calibre of speakers. Sessions included the state of play with public sector leadership, investment, driving resource recovery and local issues.

JUSTIN JONES
TASMANIA
BRANCH PRESIDENT



VICTORIA STATE BRANCH



It was another busy year for the Victorian Branch with the highlight coming with the successful launch of the container deposit scheme (CDS Vic) on 1 November 2023 with 100 million containers collected in its first two (2) months of operation meaning all mainland states in Australia now have such a scheme.

CDS Vic brings together three (3) operators – Visy, Return-It and TOMRA Cleanaway – each responsible for a geographic zone and like other states, each complying container receiving a ten-cent refund.

Another year saw another change of Minister for the waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry with Ingrid Stitt making way for Steve Dimopoulos in October 2023 following the reshuffle caused by the retirement of Premier Daniel Andrews.

There was also more change at the bureaucratic level, with the sector planning team transferred from Sustainability Victoria (SV) to Recycling Victoria (RV) in February 2023 where it continued to work on the Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan. These movements highlighted the continuing lack of clarity between the respective roles and responsibilities of RV, SV and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for industry.

All these changes meant much of the year was devoted to relationship building, growing knowledge of our industry, its complex nature, and the important role the WARR industry can play in assisting Victoria meet its environmental and carbon reduction targets under its circular economy plan - Recycling Victoria: A new economy.

The year also saw the state progress the energy from waste framework (slightly), including the one (1) million tonnes per year cap, with the four (4) existing EfW facilities in Victoria having applied for existing operator licences under the framework. The Australian Paper facility moved to the next stage of its development process, whilst we await the outcome of the Regulatory Impact Statement process to finalise the process for new facilities applying for cap allocation.

The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plans and Other Matters) Regulations 2023 came into effect in the final quarter of 2023 with RV expected to release the State's first Circular Economy Risk, Consequence and Contingency Plan for consultation in 2024.

The next tranche of single use plastic bans were introduced in February 2023 with items no longer permitted including plastic straws, plates, cotton bud sticks and cutlery, as well as expanded polystyrene takeaway containers.

The year also saw WMRR host its inaugural Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Forum in March 2023 with nearly 100 attendees hearing from all the key government representatives, including the opening address from the then Minister Stitt, as well as updates from the heads of the EPA, SV and RV. The fact the forum could attract such a stellar lineup of speakers in its first year is a testament to strong reputation WMRR has in the state and I am confident the event will continue to grow and become a must-attend for all in the Victorian industry and beyond.

Melbourne was proud to host the Australian Landfill and Transfer Station Conference (ALTS) in June 2023, while the Victorian Women of WARR Leadership Breakfast in September 2023 at the State Library, with speakers Preet Brar from Cleanaway, Sze-Fei Peng from Tonkin and Taylor and Suzy Neilan from EPA Victoria, was another highlight with 130 guests.

The year was rounded off in the usual good-spirited fashion at the Victorian Industry Dinner at Cargo Hall in December 2023.

Thank you to all involved in the Victorian Branch for your time, advice and involvement in driving the success of our essential industry throughout 2023.

ANTHONY SPITERI
VICTORIA
BRANCH PRESIDENT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA STATE BRANCH



2023 was another active year for WMRR in Western Australia. The status of the peak industry body was reinforced through interactions with the Minister, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Waste Authority.

The WA Branch remained focused on the three (3) objectives we had set at the beginning of the year, which were:

- Advocate for the finalisation of the levy review, including legislative changes to enable proposed allocation of levy monies.
- 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.
- Advocate for the procurement of secondary raw materials content at all levels of government and market development.

OBJECTIVE 1 :

In May the Minister announced an increase to the Landfill Levy rate from \$75 to \$85 tonnes from 1 July 2024.

The levy will then rise over the future five (5) years.

Although we are pleased that the levy has finally increased after a hiatus of five (5) years, the quantum of the increases was somewhat underwhelming. The levy remains at around half of NSW and other States have shown strong signals to increase their respective levies to that of NSW.

The WA Sub-branch has resolved to keep pursuing advocacy around the quantum and allocation of the waste levy in Western Australia. Ideally the levy generates resource recovery infrastructure investment as landfill becomes more expensive and investors can see certainty through a long-term levy projection. WA has not seen significant investment in the waste and resource recovery space, proving the market conditions still favour a landfill disposal option.

OBJECTIVE 2 :

Significant effort was undertaken in 2023 to progress a legislated Resource Recovery Framework that supports the circular economy. A sub-committee worked collectively to provide a response to the formal consultation process initiated by DWER. The consultation delivered a draft framework that provides hope to our members that a risk based regulatory framework is not too far away. The work needs to pass through state government legislative processes, which has long been a significant barrier to actual action in our industry. Advocacy will continue in 2024 to ensure the government progresses the resource recovery framework into legislation.

OBJECTIVE 3 :

The Sub-branch formed a Circular Economy Working Group in 2023 to provide additional focus on this core objective. Led by Hayley Rolfe, the working group is focussing on sustainable procurement across local and state government as well as the private sector. The branch acknowledges that recovered materials need to be pulled into the circular economy by end users of the products as opposed to pushed into the market by resource recovery operators. The WA Branch also collaborated to lodge industry consultations on behalf of WMRR in 2023. Those submissions include:

- Draft WA State Infrastructure Plan
- Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030
- E-Waste Ban to Landfill
- Expanding on the scope of the Containers for Change program.

The Waste and Recycle Conference in September 2023 was a success and was for the first time combined with the WasteSorted Awards. I was particularly inspired by the Individual Waste Champion Award which went to Sam Thomas from Sam's Spares. Sam is a 19-year-old autistic man who also suffers from Tourette's Syndrome. Around 1,500 items of electronic equipment were repaired and given back to the community. In our fast-paced linear society, repairs constantly get overlooked and this is such an inspirational story for us all.

JASON PUGH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
BRANCH PRESIDENT

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE





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.

THE BOARD

Geoffrey Webster (*President, appointed 8 June 2021*)
Bjoern Becker (*appointed 16 January 2019*)
Christine Wardle (*appointed 10 June 2020*)
Garth Lamb (*appointed 17 August 2021*)
Henry Anning (*appointed 28 April 2021*)
Isabel Axiö (*appointed 7 June 2022*)
Justin Bonsey (*appointed 7 June 2022*)
Mark Biddulph (*appointed 19 February 2020*)
Mark Rawson (*Vice President, appointed 10 June 2020*)
Phil Carbins (*appointed 7 July 2022*)
Toby Terlet (*appointed 10 June 2020*)

The Association's projects and programs would not be possible without the hard work of the WMRR national team.

WMRR STAFF

WMRR staff employed for the year 2023 included:

Gayle Sloan
Romany Maunder
Justine Foster
Julie Gavrilovic
James Pereira
Samira Haddad (*till June 2023*)
Bradley Burden (*from August 2023*)

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

THE WMRR BOARD IS SUPPORTED BY THREE (3) COMMITTEES:

AUDIT AND RISK

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
- 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, Justin Bonsey, Bjoern Borg (or when overseas his alternate Alex Hatherly), Gayle Sloan and Mark Rawson (Chair), supported by Romany Maunder. During the year the committee has:

- Reviewed and updated the risk register for WMRR which was approved by the board
- Reviewed and approved the new facility tour disclaimer for members undertaking WMRR coordinated site visits
- Assisted with both the preparation of the draft budget for 2024 and approved the audited statements for 2022
- Updated the Association's Key Performance Measures for the next Annual Financial Report.

The committee is pleased with the way the Association is operating from a risk and financial perspective. The Association's membership continues to grow driven by both in-person events/conferences and online options for webinars and other branch activities. A solid financial profit was recorded in the 2023 calendar year, mainly due WMRR delivering the Australian Landfill and Transfer Station and Energy from Waste conferences in this year.

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

MARK RAWSON
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR

HUMAN RESOURCES AND REMUNERATION

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

At the 2023 AGM, it was time for the National President to be up for re-election. Following a nomination and election process held in earlier in the year, I was honoured to be re-elected to the position for a further two (2) year term. There were no other changes to the Board at this time.

The President and Vice President elections are deliberately held on alternate years, to support continuity for the Board. The current Vice-President's second term ends at the 2024 AGM, along with several other Board members. Given the profile and activity of WMRR, we expect a strong field of candidates to apply when the call goes out for nominations.

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.

GEOFFREY WEBSTER
HUMAN RESOURCES AND
REMUNERATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

NOMINATIONS

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

The major item for the Committee in 2023 was to undertake the annual review of the CEO's performance. The committee recognised the challenges and opportunities 2023 presented to the Association and noted the effort and delivery by Gayle against defined and agreed upon Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Based on this performance, Gayle was awarded a portion of the bonus component of her salary.

In addition to this, the Committee also reviewed the annual adjustment for CPI and made an appropriate modification to the base salary.

GEOFFREY WEBSTER
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME

The total income for the year was \$1,692,368 which was an increase on 2022 of \$304,624.

This can be explained by the increase in membership income of \$83,300 to \$733,271 in 2023 (an increase of 255 in headcount and 36 Corporate/Government memberships) and an increase in registration revenue for conferences of \$246,855, which was bolstered by the inclusion of workshops, and conference exhibitors \$26,359. Conference sponsorships were down on the prior year by \$48,200.

As part of WMRR's commitment to provide greater value to its members, in part through learning and networking opportunities, we have sought to continue to increase our face-to-face events and conference offerings with 2 (2) additional forums.

The two (2) in-person conferences were Energy from Waste (EfW) in Sydney and Australian Landfill and Transfer Stations (ALTS) in Melbourne, as well as one (1) Victorian Forum, one (1) Queensland Forum and two (2) Tasmanian Forums in 2023. There were also two (2) state-based events and eleven (11) webinars. Total conference and event income was \$875,924, a significant increase from 2022 by \$208,087.

EXPENSES

For the year 2023, WMRR's total expenses were \$1,502,743 compared to \$1,357,042 in 2022.

SURPLUS

The net surplus for the 2023 year was \$189,625 which is a significant increase from the surplus of \$30,703 in 2022.



	2023	2022
INCOME	\$	\$
Advertising revenue	31,082	32,414
Conference income	723,424	467,156
Sponsorship	152,500	200,700
Interest received	8,253	2,609
Subscription income	733,271	649,971
Sundry income	43,839	34,894
TOTAL INCOME	1,692,368	1,387,744
EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees	818	810
Auditors remuneration	8,804	10,200
Bank & merchant fees and charges	7,984	4,801
Computer expenses	30,417	38,023
Conference costs	415,661	374,320
Depreciation & amortisation	84,047	88,490
Employment & contractor expenses	842,305	696,489
Insurance	14,530	12,913
Interest	9,053	14,010
Consulting fees	4,560	52,548
Office amenities	4,828	4,647
Printing and stationary	3,928	3,510
Rent and outgoings	6,860	4,635
Subscriptions	5,792	6,621
Branch administration	8,371	10,465
Telephone and internet	14,752	12,680
Training and development	25,194	-
Travelling expenses	14,037	21,608
Sundry expenses	803	251
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,502,743	1,357,042
Operating surplus/(deficit)	189,625	30,703
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year	634,566	603,864
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year	824,191	634,566

WMRR PEAK MEMBERS

WMRR THANKS OUR PEAK MEMBERS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT

