

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

### COMMITTEE MEETING

8:15am, Thursday, 30/7/2026

Green Industries SA Boardroom, Waymouth St, Adelaide

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

**Attendees:** Tiana Nairn, Brian Johnston, Fiona Chambers, Wendy Bevan, Geoff Webster, Marina Wagner, Lisa Lepore (WMRR), Kristian LeGallou, Toby Terlet, Leonard Leyland, Melisa Bailie, Grace Barila, Rob Gregory, Anthony Brazzale, Adam Gray, Danny Mitroussidis, Kat Heinrich, Amandine Johnson (EPA), Matt Scales (GISA), John Phillips, Cameron O'Malley, Brianna McGee (LGA), Gayle Sloan (WMRR), Leah Maxwell, Josh Hull, Steve Sergi (EPA), Gabriella Carvalho, John McArthur (LGA), Georgie Cornish (PIRSA)

**Apologies:** Phil Hitchcock, Andrew Smith, Fraser Bell, Michelle Jones (EPA), Don Richardson, Paul Lightbody, Melissa Salt, Sarah Bruns, Mitchell Bacon, Mark Rawson, Lacey Webb, Ben Leonello (EPA), Michel Diratani, Lachlan Jeffries, Serena Yang (GISA), Michael Richardson, Henry Bowesman, Ali Roush, Amy Henshaw, Jessica Wundke (GISA), Maria Madsen,

The meeting was opened at 8:15am.

#### 2. Previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes of the branch meeting held on 28/6/2026 were accepted. Moved: Grace Seconded: Marina. Actions arising addressed throughout the meeting.

#### 3. Committee Discussion

##### 3.1 Bird Flu Update – Georgie Cornish (Executive Director, Biosecurity, PIRSA)

- The H5 N1 Bird Flu was first detected having reached Australia on the 14th of June and currently (at 29 July) there have been 27 confirmed cases in wild seabirds (14 in SA). There are more suspect cases.
- No evidence of wider infections or mass mortality events in agriculture in SA as yet
- Expect it to run here as it has around the world
- People are using the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 to report
- Disease Overview
  - Highly contagious among birds and can impact some other animals but very low human health risk
  - Emerged globally around 2020 and now predominantly seasonal in Northern Hemisphere
  - Significant impact on US poultry
  - Some bird populations showing recovery
  - Wild birds are primary carriers – which has resulted in free-range poultry systems being reduced in Europe
  - SA dairy farms being monitored for symptoms

- SA Health recommends standard flu vaccine (no bird flu vaccine is available), with the main reason for this being to avoid the risks of concurrently having 'regular' flu and bird flu
- Mass wildlife deaths expected
- Poultry, wildlife tourism and veterinary sectors affected
- Supply chain and cost-of-living pressures can be affected since chicken and eggs typically provide cost effective protein
- Mental health impacts are included in response planning
- PIRSA is lead control agency; DEW and SA Health supporting
- Incident teams receiving ~100 calls/day; triage and collections underway.
- National coordination meetings occurring
- Surveillance is important for early detection to plan large-scale collections
- Disposal method (AUSVET Plan) options include:
  - Composting (on/off site)
  - Burial (including shallow, deep, mass, landfill (limited by water table))
  - Rendering (viable but small industry)
  - BiobiN (small volumes)
  - Leave in situ (OK for individual birds; not mass mortality)
  - Not viable: refeeding, alkaline hydrolysis, anaerobic digestion, mobile incinerators
- Operational Notes
  - Poultry farms could use initial on-site composting to reduce viral load before off-site movement
  - Rendering has logistical constraints
  - Leave in situ acceptable for individual birds but not mass mortality events (deep ocean disposal safe for pinnipeds)
- Precautions for handling impacted or suspected impacted animals include P2 mask, gloves, closed washable shoes, long sleeves/pants
- It is being proposed that urban dead birds can be disposed of in household waste bin
- PIRSA may update guidance if infection risk increases
- Wildlife access at transfer stations and worker exposure needs more consideration
- Waste Stream
  - Red bin preferred to avoid plastic bag contamination issues in organics bin
  - It was raised by the SA Branch Committee that some red-bin systems mechanically separate organics before landfill, need discussion on organics processing (Steve Sergi & Georgie Cornish will catch up to discuss)
- What PIRSA want to know if waste industry staff are aware of procedures and human health risk
- The waste levy has been lifted from avian flu waste and landfills/composters have been notified
- Wildlife clusters are a government responsibility
- Transport & Logistics
  - Safety protocols for contaminated loads
  - Assess contamination impacts on transport vehicles
- Other Notes

- Viral load cycles: ~7 days (poultry), shorter for small birds; some up to 15 days
- Herd immunity emerging globally; petrels notable long-distance vectors
- John from the LGA emergency support team commented that councils are seeking guidance need documented waste-handling guide and supporting information delivery
- Sector-specific and community information required

**Action:** PIRSA and WMRR to establish a sub-group/reference group

### 3.2 Batteries update

#### EPA – Amandine Johnson

- Circular battery reform focus group last met on the 6th of July, topics discussed include: product stewardship, battery bans from landfill, GISA household hazardous waste disposal EOI, and State government education funding. The Terms of Reference and meeting minutes have been shared with the group, and the next meeting will take place in September 2026
- Product stewardship legislation framework continues to progress, seeking ministerial approval to formally prepare and consult on draft legislation. Subject to approval timing, consultation on exposure draft could occur in October, working towards a May 2027 roll out
- The Gazettal process is underway for the Battery landfill ban, and subject to ministerial approval, targeted stakeholder consultation is planned for September followed by implementation from late October 2026
- Confirmed EPA and GISA are working closely together for aligned timing of law changes, safe management and communications
- Interstate battery transport was raised (and approved) with HEPA last week to ensure the transport classification and coding framework is appropriate
- National waste working group reviewing the end-of-life lithium guideline, with specific guidance for entities that unintentionally receive lithium batteries

#### GISA – Matt Scales

- The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) are running the battery education campaign as mentioned earlier this meeting and in previous meetings. GISA (and others) are having input to the campaign
- It is expected that the campaign will be ready to commence mid-November, aligned with beginning of the bushfire season, and will also time up with the expansion of hazardous waste collection sites.
- Tiana advised she had been informed that following the EOI process up to 4 additional metro sites and up to 10 regional sites (well spread) may be pursued. GISA will be in contact with those who made EOIs in the near future
- GISA can fund additional campaign collateral but not TV, Radio or online advertising
- A question came from the Committee querying the best way for WMRR to engage with DPC around the campaign? Matt commented that the document provided by the SA Branch around key points of consideration for education has been very helpful and DPC have this to help inform the campaign

#### 4. Working Group Reports

##### 4.1 Resource Recovery & Market Development Group – Leah Maxwell

- A site tour of ResourceCo has been planned for the 26th of August
- A presentation from Sally-Anne Kasner is being planned for the 24th September (after the SA Branch meeting). Brian J to send an invite to the group

##### 4.2 Waste Educators Group – Cam O'Malley

- The last meeting of the education group was held approximately two weeks ago and included a presentation about the SA Container Deposit Scheme from the EPA
- The Education group has welcomed several new members over recent months which is pleasing to see

##### 4.3 Landfill SA – No Rep

- No Report

##### 4.4 Young Professionals Group – Kristian Legallou

- No update

##### 4.5 Carbon Group – Tiana Nairn

- The National Carbon group met this week. The group is working on a Climate Change Authority annual update submission. The safeguard mechanism consultation mentioned in previous updates is also anticipated to commence soon.

#### 5. Government Business

##### 5.1 EPA – Amandine Johnson

- No further report

##### 5.2 Green Industries SA – Matt Scales

- No further update

##### 5.3 LGA SA – No Rep

- Hosting a showcase for councils on low carbon concrete and asphalt in practice as a part of Adelaide Climate Action Week on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July
- A Breakfast event will be hosted Friday morning (combination of LGA Communications network/ACAW with a theme of storytelling can bring about a shift in attitudes. Craig Reucassel (ABC's War on Waste) is the guest speaker. Members were encouraged to reach out to Bree if interested in attending
- Batteries and bird flu continue to be priority issues

#### 6. Board Reports

##### 6.1 National Update – Gayle Sloan

- The call for abstract for the Australia Landfill and Transfer Stations Conference 2026 closed with over 80 abstracts being submitted. The conference is scheduled to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Brisbane. Members were encouraged to put forward any suggestions for workshop topics
- Thanks to all for nominations for Branch president and vice president positions. An EDM with the contested positions will be circulated next week. Thanks to Tiana and Anthony for their work as president and vice president of the SA Branch
- A review of the Strategic plan is being planned for September 2026
- Upcoming webinars include one focusing on a recent court case in Melbourne highlighting the definition of waste, and another webinar on the Seamless product stewardship scheme
- The deployment of the new membership and website system is expected to take place in August 2026
- The WMRR State of the Industry report is expected to be released in late August / early September

## 6.2 President's Report – Tiana Nairn

- Batteries remain a strong focus as covered earlier in the meeting
- Pleased to see the SA Branch in such a healthy condition as term as president concludes and thank you to all who have conversations during the nominations phase, look forward to the transition
- Thanks to Gayle for organising the strategic plan exercise after election

## 7. Other Business

- Nil

## 9. Next meeting date

The meeting closed at 9:39am. Next meeting is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of August at Green Industries SA.

## Tasks Arising from Branch Meetings

| Date Raised  | Issue                                    | Action                                                                                                         | Responsibility |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| October 2025 | Ban solution finder information accuracy | Review data for accuracy                                                                                       | MS, GS         |
| May 2026     | CDS model clarification                  | Gayle to follow up with Minister Bourke on Qld CDS model issues and SA's intended legislative reform direction | GS             |
| July 2026    | H5N1 Reference Group                     | Tiana and Georgie to Liase about forming a waste reference group                                               | TN             |

## Schedule of Activities 2026

| Month/Year | Date | Event Detail |
|------------|------|--------------|
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**WMRR NATIONAL OFFICE**  
 57 ST JOHNS ROAD  
 GLEBE NSW 2037  
 (02) 8746 5000  
 INFO@WMRR.ASN.AU



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|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| August 2026    | 27/8/2026  | SA Branch Meeting             |
| September 2026 | 17/9/2026  | Waste Educators Group Meeting |
| September 2026 | 24/9/2026  | SA Branch Meeting             |
| October 2026   | 29/10/2026 | SA Branch Meeting             |
| November 2026  | 26/11/2026 | SA Branch Meeting             |