



TASMANIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday 17 September 2026

11.00 am – 12.00 pm AEST

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Michael Attard, Gayle Sloan, Nick Gifford, Veronica Shilling, Jeff Holes, Allard Bernhofen and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Mollie Hill, Morag Anderson, Paul Jackson, Nick Simmons, Tegan Lovell, and Oscar Gallagher. Kylie Roberts Frost.

2. Previous minutes

i. Previous minutes

The Minutes of the 9 July 2026 TAS Branch Committee Meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Attard *Seconded:* Gayle Sloan

ii. Actions arising: N/A

3. National advocacy (CEO)

- Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM) being held tomorrow (18 September 2026).
 - The Commonwealth Minister had confirmed that national packaging reform would not progress during the current term, and packaging was not expected to appear on the EMM agenda. However, WMRR understands that the federal government may be considering stronger requirements under the existing co-regulatory model, recycled-content requirements and detailed economic modelling of long-term impacts.
 - RPA Adelaide entered administration approximately three weeks earlier. Creditors were advised that the facility would continue trading until the end of the month, despite receiving materials from across Australia, including PET and other lower-value materials. WMRR had written to the Commonwealth regarding waste export approvals, noting previous indications that approvals had been reduced in anticipation of packaging reform.
 - Noted that the draft Circular Economy Framework proposed moving the 8% reduction target from 2030 to 2035.
 - NSW had circulated a draft intergovernmental agreement and regulatory impact assessment for batteries, together with the regulatory impact statement for solar photovoltaic panels, which should be on the agenda.
- Submissions to the Safeguard Mechanism consultation are due this week.
 - WMRR's advocacy will continue to emphasise that landfills should not be safeguard facilities and also look to address issues related to the direction of tonnes from landfill to AWT, modernised NGER waste-composition data and Class 3 measurement arrangements.

4. TAS Issues for discussion

i. Regulatory and policy updates

H5 avian influenza

- The Branch discussed current arrangements for managing bird mortalities associated with H5 avian influenza.
 - South Australia had recorded the greatest number of incidents and undertaken the most preparedness work, although incidents appeared to be isolated rather than involving mass mortalities.

- State biosecurity agencies were generally recommending COVID-style precautions, including PPE, double-bagging and deep burial at landfill; however, there was no consistent national guidance.
- It was noted that placing double-bagged birds in household red-lid bins could create risks for collection and processing facilities.
 - In Tasmania, biosecurity bins had been established at selected transfer stations and southern landfills, including near Lutana, in response to significant bird numbers.
 - Nick explained that biosecurity bins had been deployed by choice at SWS depots.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. (NRE Tas) was documenting incidents and holding weekly coordination meetings, with Wes Ford acting as Incident Controller.

Action arising:

WMRR to consider preparing a national bird-flu update outlining reported locations and the safe management advice issued in each jurisdiction, and seek invitations to relevant NRE Tas briefings.

Waste and Resource Recovery Board update

- No formal strategy update was available.
 - The new Minister was reportedly engaged and reviewing previous grant allocations and their effectiveness, while further action on single-use plastics appeared to have been deferred.
- WMRR was discussing with the Waste and Resource Recovery Board the possibility of holding a joint government and industry roundtable before the end of 2026, potentially alongside the release of the strategy.
 - The roundtable should consider funding priorities, infrastructure needs and priority materials, particularly organics.
 - It was noted that the Board had delivered infrastructure funding, supported Dulverton's expansion, implemented the container refund scheme and introduced the waste levy. However, further work was required on infrastructure planning, organics recovery and commercial and industrial waste.
 - The Branch considered that the Board's focus had largely been on local government and should be broadened to include commercial operators and other industry participants.
- Future planning should consider whole material streams and supply chains rather than household waste alone, recognising that municipal waste represents less than half of Tasmania's material flows.
- Priority should be given to infrastructure, organics and investment serving the commercial and industrial sector.
- The Branch also supported bringing local government and industry together as one sector, rather than engaging with them separately. This would create greater opportunities for collaboration and help demonstrate the value of the Board as an advocate for the sector within government.
- It was acknowledged that full hypothecation of levy revenue might not continue, with WMRR maintaining its position that at least 50% should be reinvested in waste and resource recovery.

Action arising:

Gayle to provide an update following WMRR's discussion with the Waste and Resource Recovery Board about progressing a joint roundtable.

ii. Regional updates

- The group did not discuss each region but held a general discussion about the complexity of Tasmania's regional waste governance arrangements.
 - The three regional bodies operate under different governance structures, focus areas and accountabilities, limiting coordination and consistent delivery across the state.
 - TasWaste South's plan had not yet been released, while Circular North and TasWaste South had been considering joint material-flow and infrastructure planning.
- The current fragmentation was viewed as contributing to a difficult investment environment.

- Tasmania's limited scale and material volumes require statewide aggregation and planning rather than fragmented regional approaches.
- Greater direction from the Waste and Resource Recovery Board may be needed to establish common deliverables and clarify how the Board and the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act* interact with existing regional and local-government structures.
- It was also noted that additional levy funding was now available but was not well consolidated or coordinated, creating a risk that it could be redirected to other portfolios.
- Measures of success should include reduced reliance on landfill and declining levy revenue over time, supported by stronger data on employment and economic activity generated by the sector.

iii. Branch priorities

The Branch agreed to continue with and develop three clear, time-bound priorities for 2027 - these priorities should also inform WMRR's national Strategic Plan for 2027–2030.

- Infrastructure planning
 - Progress a coordinated statewide infrastructure plan that supports investment and recognises Tasmania's scale and material-flow requirements.
- Organics recovery
 - Develop processing capacity and markets for organics across municipal and commercial sources.
- Resource recovery framework
 - Establish clearer statewide governance, material-flow pathways and common deliverables across the Board and regional bodies.

iv. Submissions

Open for consultation:

- [2026-2027 Safeguard Mechanism Review](#) (18 September 2026)
- [National Renewable Gas Policy](#) (25 September 2026)
- [National EPA Stakeholder Sentiment Survey](#) (30 September 2026)
- [NSW draft organics processing facility guidelines](#) (2 October 2026)
- [NSW draft contaminant limits](#) (8 October 2026)

Recent submissions

- [Draft End of Waste Code for Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate - EOWC010004246](#) (31 August 2026)
- [Climate Change Authority](#) - 2026 Annual Progress Advice (9 August 2026)
- [Expanding Australia's Right to Repair Framework](#) (3 July 2026)
- [Inquiry into the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging \(No Time to Waste\) Bill 2026](#) (15 June 2026)

5. WMRR Events

v. Women of WARR

The branch noted that the National Office will plan Women of WARR Tasmanian event in 2027.

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

vii. **Save the Date - Tas End of Year Event 10 December 2026 (program in development)** Launceston location with site tour to Westbury Biohub.

6. Next meeting date

Thursday 8 October 2026
Meeting closed 12.07pm



Actions arising:

Item	Action
3(i)	WMRR to consider preparing a national bird-flu update outlining reported locations and the safe management advice issued in each jurisdiction, and seek invitations to relevant NRE Tas briefings.
4(i)	Gayle to provide an update following WMRR's discussion with the Waste and Resource Recovery Board about progressing a joint roundtable.

WMRR Strategic Plan –2023-2026 TAS Initiatives

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