

NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS DIVISION

DIVISION MEETING

1-2p.m. AEST, Tuesday, 1 August 2023

Zoom teleconference

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Grace Barila, Gayle Sloan, Libby Eustance, Claire Mahendradatta and Romany Maunder.

Apologies: Cecilia Wu, Alix Baltais.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

Minutes of the 9 May 2023 meeting were approved.

Actions:

- National Office to confirm webinar dates with Justine, before the next meeting and share with the group (webinars will not be in June). **Completed.**
- National Office to write a letter to the Department of Education and NSW schools highlighting importance of avoidance and prioritizing recyclable packaging (yellow bin collection systems already exist) over compostable. Refer them to FOGO rules on the EPA website and encourage them to discuss this with their contract providers. **Progressing.**

3. Issues for discussion

Take aways War on Waste (ABC)

- Target audience are community members. They're trying to provide a simplified 'what is recyclable and what isn't' message. A balance between the yellow bin, other options (community led, CDS etc) and green washing. The community want to recycle everything without realising that items stockpiled.
- Behaviour change is needed.
- Craig took a while to get to EPR and left out the piece on what options are available in the absence of EPR.
- Tonight's episode will likely increase confusion on soft plastics.

How do we respond to War on Waste misinformation?

- FAQs on WMRR website?
- Problem items: Blister packs not recyclable at scale, neither are tetra packs, bread tags are too small, Cottee's PVC handle etc.
- Do not take on War on Waste but clear up myths.
- Could only be talking to ourselves but could also be pitched towards council educators.
- Webinar option specifically for council educators.

Action: Clarification on what can go in your MRF and why – release a "Update on Recycling in Australia". Members to send dot points through to the office.

4. State reports

WMRR NATIONAL OFFICE
57 ST JOHNS ROAD
GLEBE NSW 2037

(02) 8746 5000
INFO@WMRR.ASN.AU

WMRR.ASN.AU

QLD –

- Alix is on parental leave.
- Ongoing conversation on a statewide education scheme. However nothing as yet has come out of DES.
- FOGO is being rolled out across the state.

VIC –

- Still unclear between departments and internal teams as to where education sits.
- 4 bins roll out.
- As the VIC working group is paused, they have been invited to NSW events Zoom.

NSW –

- Planning a social drinks event combined with YPs.
- Technical skills presenter: Kate Dryden or an EPA officer to lead a workshop on technical writing and grants team to provide advice on what good grant applications look like.
- Will organise another drinks event for September.

WA –

- Membership for Teresa has not progressed.
- Landfill diversion is still the main aim.
- FOGO roll out has tended to go to smaller councils. Bigger councils are delaying due to ‘processing capacity’.
- Initially the FOGO councils had higher contamination due to looser education. As time has gone on messaging has gotten tighter and contamination has decreased. Most of the rollout has been to SUDs not MUDs.
- Would be good to get information on how difficult it is to get FO into MUDs. Systems are separated to reduce pathogens and the final product produced is better quality (FO is good for AD while GO is better for compost).

SA –

- Trying to invite dept. of Education to WG meetings.
- 18 months ago the dept. put out a tender for one provider to service all schools.
- Information to educators has not been clear.
- It was assumed that schools would replicate the kerbside system, with food organics, dry recycles and unsure of paper and cardboard collections. Waiting on advice from dept. before seeking clarification to share with educators.
- EPP plan – maximising resource collection however need C&I to be separated rather than it all being sent to Resource Co.
- Gayle will attend the next WG meeting.

5. Other business

- FOGO contamination by weight is 3% in WA and this message hasn’t been conveyed to community. Physical contamination however the chemical contamination is the bigger issue.

Action: National Office to share NSW RRMD FOGO presentation invites

6. Next meeting date

24 October 2023