

NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS DIVISION

DIVISION MEETING

1-2p.m. AEST, Tuesday, 9 May 2023

Zoom teleconference

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Claire Mahendradatta, Gayle Sloan, Libby Eustance, Cecilia Wu, Karlie Proctor and Romany Maunder.

Apologies: Trevor Thornton, Grace Barila, Alix Baltais, Maria Anselmo.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

Minutes of the 14 April 2023 meeting were approved.

Moved: Karlie Proctor **Second:** Claire Mahendradatta

3. Issues for discussion

- 2023 WE webinar ideas:

Food

- What do we want to do next? Looking higher up the hierarchy. Need to avoid 4 million tonnes to hit the 2030 target.
- Should look to the Fight Food Waste [Toolkit](#) All states were to have signed up to the Love Food Hate Waste program by now.

Action: Gayle to ask Love Food Hate Waste if NSW is being rolling out.

Hard rubbish

- Want to avoid another 'the bins' conversations. Hard waste has nothing to do with bins.
 - Tie into Garage Sale Trail's clean-up. Councils avoid paying the levy on items going over the weigh bridge as part of collection/clean ups, although items can be sold at tip shops. If collected early they do not attract the levy and save councils from collecting.
 - WMRR is not pushing one be all solution. Garage sale can talk about this idea and buy-nothing/ pay it forward groups (very localised, grass roots action).
 - Could include textiles in a panel. Wardrobe refresher an initiative Eastern Metro regional council is working on and will have half decent data.
 - Revolve Recycling could cover TBL and social needs.
 - Councils and business are also looking for ways to build and demonstrate sustainability.
- Show councils the Garage Sale Trail model and the food waste model along with 2-3 other groups under each heading.
- Option to run a third webinar on C&I later in the year.
- The webinars will hopefully provide some answers to:
- How can we help councils save money, through reuse and reduce.
 - How can councils support these small businesses?

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- How can small businesses buy the right packaging?

Action: National Office to confirm webinar dates with Justine, before the next meeting and share with the group (webinars will not be in June).

- Cleanaway has hosted talks with schools about compostable products going into red bins as they move away from single use plastics. Schools are missing the avoidance piece. They have replaced single use plastics with another single use item (fibre/compostable packaging) when the collection infrastructure is not available for these items.

Action: 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.

4. State reports

QLD – Meeting regularly and trying to link in with the QLD Dept. of Education.

VIC – Needing a re-invigoration. Gayle to talk with Sustainability Victoria in June about leading/filling the role MAV previously played.

NSW – Writing up a plan for events for 2023-24. Will organize speakers at the next planning session. To add Gayle Seddon and Lisa Coffs to NSW meeting invites.

WA – Getting traction with non-WMRR members to join. Gayle to work with DWER on membership for Teresa.

SA – Planning a meeting with Cleanaway as they have recently won the Dept. of Education contract.

5. Other business

- Potentially food waste avoidance will be in the budget.

6. Next meeting date

1 August 2023

WMRR will share possible webinar dates before the next meeting.