

NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS DIVISION

DIVISION MEETING

1-2p.m. AEST, Tuesday, 27 July 2021

Zoom teleconference

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Libby Eustance, Claire Mahendradatta, Christine Blanchard, Gayle Sloan, Teresa Belcher, Jacqueline Ong

Apologies: Grace Barila, Alix Baltais

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

- 23 June 2021: adopted as a true record

Move: Libby Eustance **Second:** Christine Blanchard

Actions arising:

- WMRR will lock in date, schemes, and speakers for next national forum. (**Discussed below**).

3. Issues for discussion

- National waste educators forum
 - To look at initiatives that will reduce materials to landfills; materials that will make a difference.
 - Product stewardship part of the solution however, the conversation for this forum should focus on how waste educators can influence and shift the dial as opposed to design schemes.
 - Focus of forum: how can we help educators do their jobs better and impact day-to-day operations as well as assist with influencing management.
 - E-waste – a challenge nationally; WMRR will invite Rachel Burgess from the federal government to provide an update on ongoing NTCRS work at a national forum.
 - Division agreed on theme: Avoidance, repair, and reuse through social enterprises. Aim: increase waste reduction while building the community; programs that can be replicated
 - Proposed organisations:
 - Inner West Tool Library: batteries – sharing and keeping battery packs in the system.
 - Resource Recovery Australia: Waste to Wages – social enterprise that trains and employs regional/rural aboriginal youth to collect and repair recyclable items that are then sold.
 - Dismantle (Fremantle, Perth): training local community members to strip and rebuild bikes.
 - Men's sheds (Kimbriki or Fremantle): WMRR will see if Kimbriki has a relevant program; the Fremantle Men's Shed builds recycling hubs for libraries.
 - Next national forum presentation and format proposal:
 - Waste to Wages (20 minutes)
 - Inner West Tool Library (20 minutes)
 - Q&A (20 minutes)
 - The remaining proposed organisations will be approached for the following forum.

Action: WMRR will lock in date and speakers and promote.

- Yellow bin plastics:

- CEO met with states this week, which are all at different stages; a number of jurisdictions moving to/having moved to only accepting plastics 1,2,3 and 5 in the yellow bin; EPS banned in national plastics plan. Working towards getting national agreement on what's being recycled, what can be recycled, communications etc.; export bans driving some of this because we have no onshore capacity.
- This week, Cleanaway and Pact Group announced the development of a new facility that will grow capacity for 1,3 and 5 processing capacity.
- Jurisdictions pushing back on Curby program (soft plastics collected at kerbside in the yellow bin); IQ Renew has only one small MRF and can take it out of the stream; all other MRFs with bigger footprints do not support this – Curby will result in greater contamination of recyclables which will cost LG and will undo all the positive recycling education efforts over the decades.

4. State reports

- NSW: chair will meet with members this week to talk about next NSW working group presentation; likely to focus on understanding the fundamentals of a circular economy for waste educators.
- QLD: group hasn't invited speakers as members only starting to get their feet on the ground post-COVID; meetings used to share information and network through roundtables; good engagement to-date. Chair will look at presentations for forthcoming meetings.
- WA: group meets once every couple of months; last meeting had presentations on education in schools. Waste & Recycle is the next big WA event.

5. Other business

-

6. Next meeting date

7 August 2021