

NATIONAL WASTE EDUCATORS DIVISION

DIVISION MEETING

1-2p.m. AEDT, Tuesday, 9 February

Zoom teleconference

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Trevor Thornton, Libby Eustance, Alix Baltais, Libby Eustance, Olivia O'Neill, Reyhaneh Behboudi, Gayle Sloan, Claire Mahendradatta, Christine Blanchard

Apologies: Grace Barila, Teresa Belcher

Division members introduced themselves.

2. Previous minutes and actions arising

NA

3. Issues for discussion

- Terms of reference
 - Terms of reference were distributed to the Division, providing an overview of how WMRR's national divisions operate.
- Chair and vice chair: division informed that Grace Barila has been appointed chair of the inaugural National Waste Educators Division and Libby Eustance vice chair.
- National Waste Educators forum #2 (27 April)
 - Part 2 of an ongoing national series where each state will have a turn at hosting. Same template and format as the first session, i.e. a brief will be sent to chairs for them to distribute to working group members and call for case study submissions. Chairs will then convene to discuss case studies and pick 2 to be presented at the webinar. Session will comprise 2-3 presenters (WMRR to invite) + 2 case studies (from working groups).
 - Part 2 will be chaired by the WA working group.
 - Topic: plastic waste avoidance and how to build and roll-out a systems-based approach. The session will cover best practice avoidance campaigns, reuse models, and other genuine alternatives.
 - Speaker suggestions: Rebecca Prince-Ruiz (Plastic-free July founder), Alana Potts or Vaughan Levitzke from GISA, Green Caffeen – keep cups commercial model, Boomerang Alliance on plastic-free precincts.
 - A separate session to be discussed about state-wide campaigns and regulation, and how all these fit in each state.
 - A suggestion that COVID impacts on the take-up and use of plastic alternatives may be of interest though these changes are a pandemic response and unlikely to be a singular, long-term issue.

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Action: WMRR office to develop brief and send to chairs for distribution to working groups.

4. State reports

- NSW: last meeting – discussed FOGO strategies, issues, challenges, and opportunities; aligned to focus on reuse and education.
- VIC: first meeting held mid-December – discussed national forum, potential speakers for working group meetings including presentations on behaviour change. Planning commenced for a March meeting. An issue raised by the group around community confusion around what can and cannot be recycled; recycling symbol does not help.
 - ARL presently in the remit of APCO so may not get traction there. However, nationally, the state and federal governments are looking at national standardisation of materials that can go into the yellow bin; this is an action within the National Waste Action Plan and WMRR CEO is leading a sub-group to progress this work. DELWP currently also looking at standardisation which may drive standard contracts in the state. MRFs bale single streams – this is not unique to any one state/country – so the paradigm needs to shift earlier in the process.
- QLD: meeting held late last year – a guest speaker from local government presented on communication and marketing campaigns. Next meeting to be held on the 25th of March – roundtable session. Moving meetings online has encouraged regional educators to attend.
- WA: alongside the WMRR working group, there’s also an informal networking group that meets bi-monthly, as well as a communications group set up in 2018 that meets 4 times a year. Issue in WA is that waste education is not valued – proven in the WARR Act review where waste education did not get a mention. Members are working out ways to help CEO understand the value of waste education.
 - Waste educators encouraged to look at councils’ landfill disposal budgets against national targets; look for savings that can be channelled to education and ensure there are tools that can measure the impact of these campaigns.
 - EfW a potential issue in the future – need to get education strategies clear so that the focus continues to be on avoidance, reuse, and recovery.

5. Other business

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6. Next meeting date

23 March 2021.