



7 December 2023

Tony Khoury
Executive Director
Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW
Sent via email: tony@wcra.com.au

Dear Tony Khoury

Section 269 application for certificate stating financial affairs of reporting unit are encompassed by financial affairs of associated State body for year ended 30 June 2023 (FR2023/174)

I refer to the application lodged pursuant to section 269 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the RO Act) in respect of the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW (the reporting unit) for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. The application was lodged with the Fair Work Commission on 14 November 2023.

I have granted the application. The certificate is attached.

I note that the auditor's report states that the financial report of the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW (the associated State body) presents in accordance with the requirements imposed by both the *Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW)* and the RO Act. Please note that an application pursuant to section 269 of the RO Act does not require the associated State body to prepare its financial reports in accordance with the RO Act.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please call 1300 341 665 or email regorgs@fwc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Chris Enright
Executive Director
Fair Work Commission



CERTIFICATE

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009

s.269(2)(a)—Reporting unit's financial affairs encompassed by associated State body

Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW

FR2023/174

MR ENRIGHT

MELBOURNE, 7 DECEMBER 2023

Reporting unit's financial affairs encompassed by associated State body

[1] On 14 November 2023 an application was made under section 269(2)(a) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the Act) by the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW (the reporting unit) for a certificate stating that the financial affairs of the reporting unit are encompassed by the financial affairs of The Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of New South Wales (the Association), an associated State body, in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

[2] On 14 November 2023, the reporting unit lodged a copy of the audited accounts of the Association with the Fair Work Commission.

[3] I am satisfied that the Association:

- is registered under the *Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW)*, a prescribed State Act; and
- is, or purports to be, composed of substantially the same members as the reporting unit; and
- has, or purports to have, officers who are substantially the same as designated officers in relation to the reporting unit; and
- is an associated State body.

[4] I am further satisfied that:

- the Association has in accordance with prescribed State legislation, prepared accounts, had those accounts audited, provided a copy of the audited accounts to its members and lodged the accounts with the relevant State authority;
- any members of the reporting unit who are not also members of the Association have been provided with copies of the accounts at substantially the same time as the members of the reporting unit who are members of the Association; and
- a report under section 254 of the Act has been prepared in respect of those activities of the reporting unit and has been provided to the members of the reporting unit with copies of the accounts.

[5] I am satisfied that the financial affairs of the reporting unit in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2023, are encompassed by the financial affairs of the Association and I certify accordingly under section 269(2)(a) of the Act.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Printed by authority of the Commonwealth Government Printer



WASTE CONTRACTORS &
RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION
OF N.S.W

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14th November 2023

Fair Work Commission

By email regorgs@fwc.gov.au

Copy to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission

Dear FWC Staff

Application pursuant to s269 Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009

Financial, audit & operating reports 2022/2023

The Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of New South Wales (the reporting unit) hereby makes application pursuant to s269 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* to be taken to have satisfied the requirements of the Act.

Relief Sought

That the General Manager issue a certificate stating that the financial affairs of the reporting unit are encompassed by the financial affairs of the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of New South Wales registered under the Industrial Relations Act 1996 (the associated state body) for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

Grounds and Reasons

Section 269 applies to the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of New South Wales (hereinafter referred to as the "Reporting Unit") on the following basis:

1. Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of New South Wales (hereinafter referred to as the "associated State body") is registered as an Industrial Association of Employers under the New South Wales

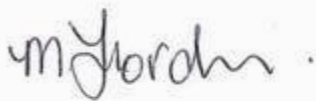
Industrial Relations Act 1996, a prescribed State Act.

2. The associated State body is composed of the same Members as the Reporting Unit. There are no members of the Reporting Unit who are not also members of the associated State body.
3. The associated State body has the same officers as the Reporting unit.
4. The financial affairs of the reporting unit are encompassed by the financial affairs of the associated State body for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
5. The associated NSW State body has, in accordance with prescribed State legislation, prepared accounts, had those accounts audited, provided a copy of the audited accounts to its members and lodged the accounts with the NSW Industrial Registrar.
6. The Reporting unit attaches a copy of the audited accounts and operating reports via two attachments; and
7. A report under s254 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* has been prepared in respect of the activities of the Reporting unit and has been provided to members of the Reporting unit with the copies of the accounts. A compliant copy of this "Operating Report" is attached in your preferred format.

Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (as the Reporting unit) submits that based on the grounds and reasons stated herein it has satisfied s269 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and consequently seeks relief as sought in this application.

Should you require further information, please contact our Executive Director, Mr Tony Khoury at the Association's office.

Yours faithfully



Michelle Ford
Secretary

Attach.

Hany Abdel-Sayed & Co. Pty. Ltd.

ABN 11 096 976 304

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WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS

ASSOCIATION OF NSW

ABN 72 805 135 472

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2023



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**WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS
ASSOCIATION OF NSW**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW as at 30 June 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date in accordance with:

- a) the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- b) any other requirements imposed by the *Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW)* and the reporting of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the RO Act).

I declare that management's use of the going concern basis in the preparation of the financial statements of the Association is appropriate.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Committee of Management is responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is in the Operating Report accompanying the financial report.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Committee of Management for the Financial Report

The Committee of Management of the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW)*, and for such internal control as the Committee of Management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee of Management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee of Management either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Committee of Management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Association's audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion. I communicate with the Committee of Management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of section 257(7) of the RO Act, I am required to describe any deficiency, failure or shortcoming in respect of the matters referred to in section 252 and 257(2) of the RO Act.

My opinion on the financial report is not modified in respect of the above sections because, in my opinion, it has been appropriately addressed by the reporting unit and is not considered material in the context of the audit of the financial report as a whole.

I declare that I am a registered company auditor with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), registration number 4285 and under the Registered Organisation Act, registration number AA2023/9

Hany Abdel-Sayed & Co.



Hany Abdel-Sayed

Dated this 30th August, 2023

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Operating Report
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The Committee of Management presents its operating report on Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Harry Wilson	President
Susie McBurney	Vice President (Resigned 08/11/2022)
David Gater	Vice President (Elected 08/11/2022)
Bijal Dixit	Treasurer (Elected 08/11/2022)
Gregory Turner	Treasurer (Resigned 08/11/2022)
Michelle Ford	Secretary (Elected 08/11/2022)
Jeffrey Brandstater	Secretary (Resigned 08/11/2022)
Mark Falanga	Committee member
David Johnston	Committee member
David Harrison	Committee member
Ros Dent	Committee member
Graham Knowles	Committee member
Damien Vella	Committee member
Stuart Baird	Committee member (Elected 08/11/2022)
Joe Richards	Committee member (Elected 08/11/2022)

Review of principal activities, the results of those activities and any significant changes in the nature of those activities during the year

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to provide support and services to members of the Association. There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Association during the year.

The surplus for the year amounted to \$49,800 (2022 surplus of \$32,833).

Please refer to the 2023 Executive Report for further information.

Right of members to resign

All new Members are advised of the rules of the Association via the Membership Application form and a full current copy of the Rules is available on the WCRA website. Further, Members are reminded that the provisions of Rule 7 must be complied with in relation to the cessation of Membership.

Officers or members who are superannuation fund trustee(s) (include position details) or director of a company that is a superannuation fund trustee where being a member or officer of a registered organisation is a criterion for them holding such position

Not applicable.

Number of Members

The number of members at 30 June 2023 was 207 – (208 members in 2022).

Number of employees

Not applicable. The Association engages contractors only.


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Harry Wilson - President

Dated: 14/11/23

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers			
Membership subscriptions		450,721	493,590
Sponsorship income		124,727	112,864
Levies		-	-
Total revenue from contracts with customers		<u>575,448</u>	<u>606,454</u>
Income for furthering objectives			
Grants – NHVR	3(a)	28,344	14,856
Functions and events		90,624	59,379
Training fees		114,411	43,655
Total income for furthering objectives		<u>233,379</u>	<u>117,890</u>
Other Income			
Revenue from recovery of wages activity		-	-
EPA C& I Food waste Project		14,500	10,000
Investment income		28,189	5,925
Other income		27,800	9,120
Total other Income		<u>70,489</u>	<u>25,045</u>
Total Income		<u>879,316</u>	<u>749,389</u>
Expenses			
Administration expenses	4(a)	52,408	55,101
Audit fees	4(b)	5,850	5,850
Bad and doubtful debts		-	-
Contracting fees		446,639	427,819
Depreciation	4(c)	22,208	62,557
EPA C& I Food waste Project		11,906	4,795
Project – Energy from Waste Report		35,000	-
Functions and events		92,866	51,015
Grants - NHVR Training		28,177	14,572
Legal fees	4(d)	31,200	31,200
Property expenses		23,402	25,450
Training expenses		79,860	38,197
Total Expenses		<u>829,516</u>	<u>716,556</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		49,800	32,833
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss		-	-
Items that will be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year		<u>49,800</u>	<u>32,833</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5(a)	1,468,391	1,298,521
Trade and other receivables	5(b)	460,131	433,406
Total Current Assets		<u>1,928,522</u>	<u>1,731,927</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Strata Property	6(a)	561,186	581,186
Plant and equipment	6(b)	4,042	6,250
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>565,228</u>	<u>587,436</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,493,750</u>	<u>2,319,363</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables	7(a)	105,274	87,478
Other payables	7(b)	761,113	596,266
Total Current Liabilities		<u>866,387</u>	<u>683,744</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision	8(a)	-	58,056
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>58,056</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>866,387</u>	<u>741,800</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,627,363</u>	<u>1,577,563</u>
EQUITY			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		29,112	29,112
Retained Earnings	9	1,598,251	1,548,451
Total Equity		<u>1,627,363</u>	<u>1,577,563</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Earnings \$	Total Equity \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	1,515,618	1,515,618
Comprehensive income		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	32,833	32,833
Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	29,112
Total comprehensive income	<u>32,833</u>	<u>61,945</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2022	<u>1,548,451</u>	<u>1,577,563</u>
Balance as at 1 July 2022	1,548,451	1,577,563
Comprehensive income		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	49,800	49,800
Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-
Total comprehensive income	<u>49,800</u>	<u>49,800</u>
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023	<u>1,598,251</u>	<u>1,627,363</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Membership fees		449,804	517,073
Sponsorship income		121,136	89,727
Other income		245,577	258,374
Grants received		28,344	14,856
Interest		28,189	5,925
Cash used			
Payments to suppliers and other customers		(703,180)	(752,485)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	10	169,870	133,470
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Payment for plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		169,870	133,470
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		1,298,521	1,165,051
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	5(a)	1,468,391	1,298,521

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.

WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Notes to the financial statements

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Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period, and the *Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW)*. For the purpose of preparing the general-purpose financial statements, the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW is a not-for-profit entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost, except for certain assets and liabilities measured at fair value, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

1.2 Comparative amounts

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

1.3 Significant accounting judgements and estimates

There were no accounting assumptions or estimates that have been identified which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.4 New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The entity has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted

1.5 Revenue

The Association enters into various arrangements where it receives consideration from another party. These arrangements include consideration in the form of membership subscriptions, sponsorship, grants, and donations.

The timing of recognition of these amounts as either revenue or income depends on the rights and obligations in those arrangements.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Where the Association has a contract with a customer, the Association recognises revenue when or as it transfers control of services to the customer. The Association accounts for an arrangement as a contract with a customer if the following criteria are met:

- the arrangement is enforceable; and
- the arrangement contains promises (that are also known as performance obligations) to transfer goods or services to the customer (or to other parties on behalf of the customer) that are sufficiently specific so that it can be determined when the performance obligation has been satisfied.

Membership subscriptions

For membership subscription arrangements that meet the criteria to be contracts with customers, revenue is recognised when the promised services transfer to the customer as a member of the Association.

If there is only one distinct membership service promised in the arrangement, the Association recognises revenue as the membership service is provided, which is typically based on the passage of time over the subscription period to reflect the Association's promise to stand ready to provide assistance and support to the member as required.

If there is more than one distinct service promised in the membership subscription, the Association allocates the transaction price to each performance obligation based on the relative standalone selling prices of each promised service. In performing this allocation, standalone selling prices are estimated if there is no observable evidence of the price that the Association charges for that service in a standalone sale. When a performance obligation is satisfied, which is when the service transfers to the customer (for example, member services or training course) the Association recognises revenue at the amount of the transaction price that was allocated to that performance obligation.

For member subscriptions paid annually in advance, the Association has elected to apply the practical expedient to not adjust the transaction price for the effects of a significant financing component because the period from when the customer pays and the good or services will transfer to the customer will be one year or less.

When a member subsequently purchases additional services from the Association at their standalone selling price, the Association accounts for those sales as a separate contract with a customer.

Levies

Levies paid by a member (or other party) in an arrangement that meets the criteria to be a contract with a customer is recognised as revenue when or as the Association transfers the services.

In circumstances where the criteria for a contract with a customer are not met, the Association will recognise levies as income upon receipt.

Income of the Association as a Not-for-Profit Entity

Consideration is received by the Association to enable the entity to further its objectives. The Association recognises each of these amounts of consideration as income when the consideration is received (which is when the Association obtains control of the cash) because, based on the rights and obligations in each arrangement:

- the arrangements do not meet the criteria to be contracts with customers because either the arrangement is unenforceable or lacks sufficiently specific promises to transfer services to the customer; and
- the Association's recognition of the cash contribution does not give to any related liabilities.

From time to time, the Association received cash consideration from the following arrangements whereby that consideration will be recognised as income upon receipt:

- donations and voluntary contribution from members; and
- government grants.

Volunteer services

During the year, the Association did not receive volunteer services.

Interest income

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method.

1.6 Current versus non-current classification

The Association presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification.

An asset is current when it is:

- Expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle;
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- Expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle;
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

The terms of the liability that could, at the option of the counterparty, result in its settlement by the issue of equity instruments do not affect its classification.

The Association classifies all other liabilities as non-current.

1.7 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with bank, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

1.8 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

1.9 Financial assets

Contract assets and receivables

A contract asset is recognised when the Association's right to consideration in exchange of services that has transferred to the customer when that right is conditioned on the Association's future performance or some other condition.

A receivable is recognised if an amount of consideration that is unconditional is due from the customer (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due).

Contract assets and receivables are subject to impairment assessment.

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, and subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI), or fair value through profit or loss.

The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Association's business model for managing them. With the exception of trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component, the Association's initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs.

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost or fair value through OCI, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are 'solely payments of principal and interest' (SPPI) on the principal amount outstanding. This assessment is referred to as the SPPI test and is performed at an instrument level

The Association's business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both.

Purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within a time frame established by regulation or convention in the marketplace (regular way trades) are recognised on the trade date, i.e., the date that the Association commits to purchase or sell the asset.

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified in five categories:

- (Other) financial assets at amortised cost
- (Other) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income
- Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income
- (Other) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
- (Other) financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at amortised cost

The Association measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest rate (EIR) method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

The Association's financial assets at amortised cost includes trade receivables.

Derecognition

A financial asset is derecognised when:

- The rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or
- The Association has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement; and either:
 - a) the Association has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or
 - b) the Association has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

When the Association has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, it evaluates if, and to what extent, it has retained the risks and rewards of ownership.

When it has neither transferred nor retained substantially all of the risks and rewards of the asset, nor transferred control of the asset, the [reporting unit] continues to recognise the transferred asset to the extent of its continuing involvement together with associated liability.

Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset, and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position if there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

Impairment

Expected credit losses (ECLs)

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30-day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any loss allowance due to expected credit losses at each reporting date. A provision matrix that is based on historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment has been established.

(i) Trade receivables

For trade receivables that do not have a significant financing component, the Association applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses (ECLs) which requires lifetime expected credit losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables.

Therefore, the Association does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Association has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

1.10 Liabilities relating to contracts with customers

Contract liabilities

A contract liability is recognised if a payment is received, or a payment is due (whichever is earlier) from a customer before the Association transfers the related goods or services. Contract liabilities include deferred income. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Association performs under the contract (i.e., transfers control of the related goods or services to the customer).

Refund liabilities

A refund liability is recognised for the obligation to refund some, or all of the consideration received (or receivable) from a customer. The Association's refund liabilities arise from customers' right of return. The liability is measured at the amount the Association ultimately expects it will have to return to the customer. The Association updates its estimates of refund liabilities (and the corresponding change in the transaction price) at the end of each reporting period.

1.11 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the relevant notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an existing liability or asset in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain, and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.12 Property, plant and equipment

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of, buildings, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost plus cost of installation in the statement of financial position. The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful life using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2023	2022
Strata building	2.5%	2.5%
Plant and equipment	15%-33.33%	15%-33.33%

Derecognition

An item of buildings, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the profit and loss.

1.13 Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Section 23(h) of the Income Tax Assessment Act however still has obligation for the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- b) for receivables and payables.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified within operating cash flows.

Note 2 Events after the reporting period

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Judgement has been exercised in considering the impacts that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had, or may have, on the Association based on known information. This consideration extends to the nature of the products and services offered, customers, supply chain, staffing and geographic regions in which the association operates. Other than as addressed in specific notes, there does not currently appear to be either any significant impact upon the financial statements or any significant uncertainties with respect to events or conditions which may impact the Association unfavourably as at the reporting date or subsequently as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Note 3 Revenue and Income

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

A disaggregation of the Association's revenue by type of arrangements is provided on the face of the Statement of comprehensive income. The table below also sets out a disaggregation of revenue by type of customer.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Type of customer		
Members	575,448	606,454
Total revenue from contracts with customers	<u>575,448</u>	<u>606,454</u>

Disaggregation of income for furthering activities

A disaggregation of the reporting unit's revenue by type of arrangement is provided on the face of the ateme Statement of Comprehensive Income. The table below also sets out a disaggregation of income by fundir source:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Type of customer		
Members	205,035	103,034
Total income for furthering activities	<u>205,035</u>	<u>103,034</u>

Note 3(a) Grants and other donations

Grants – NHVR	28,344	14,856
Total grants and donations	<u>28,344</u>	<u>14,856</u>

Note 4 Expenses

Note 4(a): Administration expenses

Advertising fees	2,529	600
Bank Charges	2,450	2,197
Computer Support	5,151	4,813
Consulting	0	13,386
Insurances	10,568	13,677
Other	8,394	7,978
Printing, postage and stationery	11,225	4,741
Travel and meeting expenses	12,091	7,709
Total administration expenses	<u>52,408</u>	<u>55,101</u>

Note 4(b) Audit Fees

Financial Statements audit services	5,850	5,850
Other services Grants – NHVR	-	-
Total grants and donations	<u>5,850</u>	<u>5,850</u>

Note 4(c): Depreciation

Strata property	20,000	59,381
Plant and equipment	2,208	3,176
Total depreciation	<u>22,208</u>	<u>62,557</u>

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 4(d) Legal costs		
Litigation	-	-
Other legal costs	31,200	31,200
Total legal costs	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,200</u>
Note 5: Current Assets		
Note 5(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand	500	500
Cash at bank	347,451	302,063
Funds held in Trust	68,569	58,056
Short term deposits	1,051,871	937,902
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,468,391</u>	<u>1,298,521</u>
Note 5(b) Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade debtors	432,275	425,339
Provision for doubtful debts	(5,000)	(5,000)
Interest receivable	23,554	859
Prepayments	9,302	12,208
	<u>460,131</u>	<u>433,406</u>
Note 6 Non-Current Assets		
Note 6(a) Strata Property		
Strata property at cost	639,941	639,941
Improvement costs	130,947	130,947
Revaluation 30/6/2022	29,112	29,112
	800,000	800,000
Less accumulated depreciation	(238,814)	(218,814)
Net book value of strata property	<u>561,186</u>	<u>581,186</u>
Note 6(b) Plant and Equipment		
Furniture and fittings	8,532	8,532
Less accumulated depreciation	(8,532)	(8,532)
	-	-
Office equipment	32,558	32,558
Less accumulated depreciation	(28,516)	(26,308)
	4,042	6,250
Net book value of plant and equipment	<u>4,042</u>	<u>6,250</u>
Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances		
Strata Property as at 1 July 2022	800,000	770,888
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(218,814)	(159,434)
Net book value 1 July 2022	581,186	611,454
Additions by purchase	-	-
Revaluation 30/6/2022	-	29,112
Depreciation expense	(20,000)	(59,380)
Net book value 30 June 2023	<u>561,186</u>	<u>581,186</u>

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Plant and Equipment at 1 July 2022		
Gross book value	41,090	41,090
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(34,840)	(31,664)
Net book value 1 July 2022	6,250	9,425
Additions by purchase	-	-
Depreciation expense	(2,208)	(3,176)
Net book value at 30 June 2023	4,042	6,250

Note 7 Current Liabilities

Note 7(a) Trade Payables

Trade creditors	43,504	13,135
Accrued expenses	61,770	74,343
	<u>105,274</u>	<u>87,478</u>

Note (7b) Other Payables

GST payable	16,134	9,990
Subscriptions in advance	541,419	468,512
Sponsorships in advance	55,409	38,182
Income in advance – Recovered Fines	55,057	55,057
Industrial Exercise Asbestos	24,525	24,525
Loyalty Agreement	68,569	-
	<u>761,113</u>	<u>596,266</u>

Note 8 Non-Current Liabilities

Note 8(a) Provision

Loyalty Agreement	-	58,056
	-	<u>58,056</u>

Note 9 Equity

Retained Earnings		
Balance as at start of the year	1,548,451	1,515,618
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	49,800	32,833
Balance as at end of the year	<u>1,598,251</u>	<u>1,548,451</u>

Note 10: Cash Flow

Cash Flow Reconciliation

10(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per the balance sheet to cash flow statement:

Cash and cash equivalent as per:

Cash flow statement	1,468,391	1,298,521
Balance sheet	1,468,391	1,298,521
Difference	-	-

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
10(b) Reconciliation of (deficit)/surplus to net cash from operating activities		
Surplus for the year	49,800	32,833
Adjustments for non-cash items: -		
Depreciation	22,208	62,557
Cash flow in operating activities not in operating surplus: -		
Recovered Fines Project	-	55,057
Industry exercise Asbestos income	-	-
Changes in assets/liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	(26,725)	(13,212)
Increase/(decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	23,940	12,760
Increase/(decrease) in subscriptions in advance	72,907	(27,072)
Increase/(decrease) in sponsorship in advance	17,227	546
Increase in other liability	10,513	10,001
Net cash (used by)/provided by operating activities	<u>169,870</u>	<u>133,470</u>

Note 11 Contingent liabilities, assets and commitments

The company had no contingent assets, liabilities and commitments as at 30 June 2023 and 2022.

Note 12: Related Party Disclosure

Related party transactions for the reporting period

Terms and conditions of transactions with related parties

Transector Pty Ltd (Transector) and the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA) have an existing agreement dated 6 May 2005 which commenced on 1 June 2005, providing Transector a yearly loyalty agreement of \$10,000, the express purpose of which is to ensure that WCRA retains the services of Tony Khoury via Transector Pty Ltd until at least 30 June 2022.

Since 1 June 2005 the Executive Members of WCRA have reviewed and authorised variations to this agreement. The Executive is satisfied that Transector has met its obligations in relation to the Agreement and these Deeds. The Executive of WCRA have confirmed that they seek to again vary clause 18 of this existing agreement and that WCRA formally offers Transector the following. A further year by year loyalty agreement, whereby each year commencing with the 2020/2021 year, an amount of \$10,000 be set aside by WCRA for the benefit of Transector.

In the 2023 financial year, \$236,130 was paid to Transector Pty Ltd.

Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW has no employees

The following table provides the total amount of transactions that have been entered into with related parties for the relevant year.

Expenses paid to Transector includes the following:

The provision of management and administration of the Association, including payments to sub-contractors performing these services.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Contractor fee	236,130	254,165
Administration fee	89,959	83,829
Training and Research	75,615	62,005
	<u>401,704</u>	<u>399,999</u>
Amounts owed to Transector include the following:		
Loyalty fee per agreement	<u>68,569</u>	<u>58,056</u>



WASTE CONTRACTORS &
RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION
OF N.S.W.

ANNUAL REPORT
2022/2023 Year
14th November 2023

Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW
Suite 2, 12-16 Daniel Street, Wetherill Park. NSW 2164
Tel: (02) 9604 7206
www.wcra.com.au
ABN 72 805 135 472

President's Report, Mr Harry Wilson, Life Member



In May 2023 WCRA celebrated 75-years of continuous industrial registration and assisting our Members. Throughout this period, we have been able to unite various small waste and recycling groups into one strong industry association. In doing so, we have been able to provide our Members with access to professional advisors who can address issues related to legal, industrial, environmental, training and WHS matters. We are constantly looking to expand our partnerships and resources to better serve the needs of our Members as the industry evolves so that we continue to maintain high levels of service and support for WCRA's Members.

Throughout 2022/2023 the waste management industry continued to be at the frontline of providing an essential service to householders and businesses. Without the efforts of our

Members and their many wonderful, authorised workers, we would be faced with some very major health, hygiene, and sanitation issues.

The waste management & resource recovery sector continues to face a range of major issues and challenges, including:-

- The inability to access skilled and experienced workers, along with an ageing workforce.
- Educating the workforce to come to terms with their role in chain of responsibility, WHS and the environment and the potential ramifications for non-compliance.
- A greater focus on work/life balance, leading to an increased preference for working from home that is affecting both small and large businesses, as we see a breakdown in workplace team collaboration.
- Further increased regulations leading to complexity and higher compliance costs.
- Increasing insurance premiums (compounded by the impacts of fires caused by batteries).
- The federal ban on the export of unprocessed recyclables and changing specifications and demand.
- The major organisations who are tendering and increasing emphasis in reuse, recycling, and diversion of waste materials and in some cases many materials that are not designed for recycling.
- Decreasing revenues for commodities due to oversupply in addition to increased shipping costs and supply chain issues
- A resource recovery order and exemption system that allows the NSW EPA to make material changes without undergoing a proper regulatory impact study.
- The absence of a well-thought-out, implementable waste management infrastructure plan for NSW
- The absence of a practical & well-thought-out disaster waste management plan for NSW
- The inability of the NSW EPA to deal with waste & recycling businesses operating without an environmental protection license.
- C&D recycling and the on-going issues with asbestos (detection, zero tolerance & the absence of a due diligence defence)
- A newly appointed Minister for the Environment in the Hon. Penny Sharpe who has a long list of portfolios under her control.

Despite these issues and challenges, the simple fact is that recycling has never been as important to the Australian community as it is today. For most householders the practice of recycling via the bin with the yellow lid is their single biggest regular environmental contribution or initiative. And what drives many basic recycling programs is the need to conserve our finite, precious natural resources, to save limited landfill space and to save on costly disposal bills. As a result, it has never been more important for Australia's governments, at all levels, together with the waste and recycling sector to co-operatively solve these issues.

We continue to face a number of unique regulatory challenges including a dysfunctional NSW resource recovery order system that provides investors with little or no certainty, the lack of a regulatory procedure to deal with unexpected asbestos finds in a C&D recycling facility, the highest waste levy in Australia (most of which goes to Treasury) and major question marks over whether our regulators (EPA, SafeWork and Sydney Water are suitably resourced). Whilst these issues remain unresolved from previous years, we look forward to the implementation of recommendations by the EPA from the independent review of the NSW resource recovery framework undertaken by Dr Cathy Wilkinson.

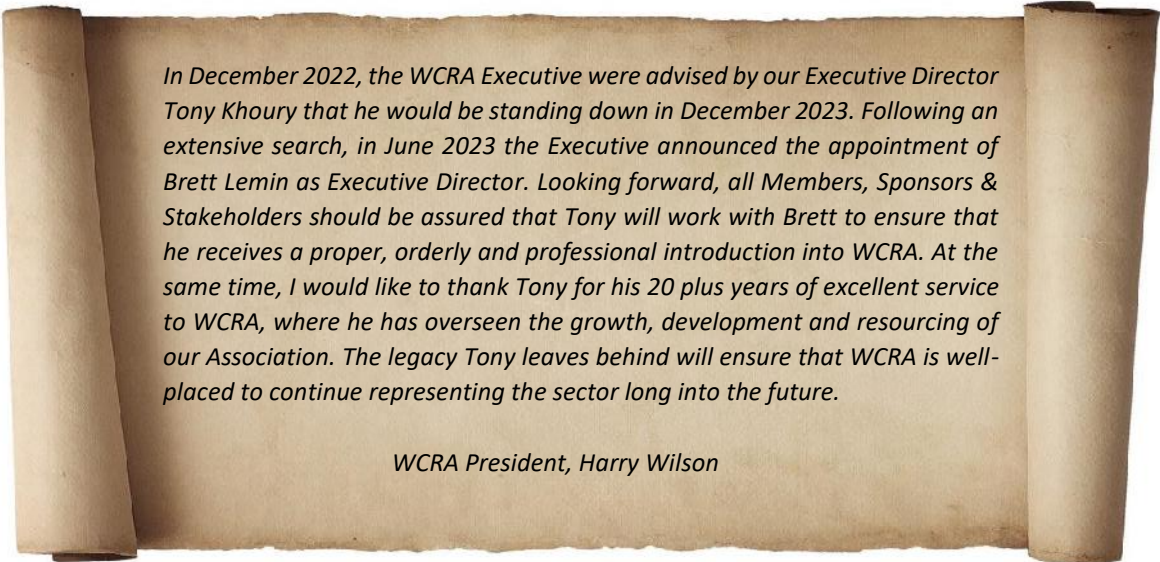
Waste disposal infrastructure continues to be significantly lacking in NSW, with many transporters unable to tip-off during periods with high-waste-volumes, heavy rain, bushfire and other emergency events. It is still evident to all stakeholders, including the government and regulators, that NSW has limited disposal options for Sydney's waste, and we are lacking an infrastructure network to safely address our essential waste management disposal needs. In light of these ongoing challenges, it is critical that EPA and the NSW government support the NSW waste management and resource recovery sector by ensuring that the regulatory framework does not hinder legitimate and sustainable resource recovery operations.

As we move towards a circular economy, energy-from-waste, FOGO and a focus on a better quality of recycling materials, the waste management industry and the key regulators are in a very interesting place. WCRA is proud of our many Members and Sponsors who through their dedicated workers, day-in, day-out provide for the safe, reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective containerisation, collection, processing, transfer and disposal of the full range of waste and recyclable materials.

As we move into a new year, the Association continues to play a significant role in highlighting the issues which impact our Members' businesses. We are well-placed to continue to ensure that the position of the industry is delivered and understood by other stakeholders and in bringing the key parties together in search of solutions.

I thank our WCRA staff and Executive Members for their dedicated service and commend the 2023 WCRA Annual Report to you.

Harry Wilson, President
14th November 2023



In December 2022, the WCRA Executive were advised by our Executive Director Tony Khoury that he would be standing down in December 2023. Following an extensive search, in June 2023 the Executive announced the appointment of Brett Lemin as Executive Director. Looking forward, all Members, Sponsors & Stakeholders should be assured that Tony will work with Brett to ensure that he receives a proper, orderly and professional introduction into WCRA. At the same time, I would like to thank Tony for his 20 plus years of excellent service to WCRA, where he has overseen the growth, development and resourcing of our Association. The legacy Tony leaves behind will ensure that WCRA is well-placed to continue representing the sector long into the future.

WCRA President, Harry Wilson



Hot loads are a major issue for our industry with the increase of lithium-ion batteries being disposed of incorrectly.

Message to Government

In June 2023 it was announced that the waste levy would increase by 8% from 1 July. The NSW Government now collects an estimated \$830 million pa in waste levies. And by 2027 it is estimated that they will collect more than \$1 billion pa.

Less than 15% of these funds are hypothecated back to the waste management sector (local government and business combined). In coming years, we will face a critical shortage of infrastructure and in recent times during periods of heavy rain and extreme bushfires, we have not been able to deal with the additional waste from these events and still process our daily waste and recycling collection volumes.

With uncertainty about planning timeframes and the risk that new projects won't proceed due to the lack of social license, it is imperative that the bulk of our waste levies are directed into NSW Government supported waste management infrastructure.

Tony Khoury, Executive Director

Finance & Administration

WCRA exists to provide information, advice and support to its Members on a broad range of technical, regulatory, employment and industrial matters. The WCRA membership represents the majority of the waste and recycling transport and processing operators in NSW and ACT.

WCRA funds the services it provides to its Members through:

- Annual fees paid by the Members
- Charges for the provision of training services
- Profits from hosting industry events
- Government grants
- Commercial arrangements with corporate partners and sponsors

WCRA continues to be recognised as a well-managed industry association with a secure financial position.

Hany Abdel-Sayed & Co Pty Ltd provides financial auditing services to WCRA and has approved the 2022/23 financial statements. The surplus of \$49,800 reflects a marginally better result compared to the previous year, whilst supporting Members (compliance material, standards, research into training, online communications, etc.).

Five-year historical comparison

Table 1

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Net Surplus / Deficit	\$4,747	\$48,866	-\$32,431	\$32,833	\$49,800
Balance Sheet Net Assets	\$1,499,183	\$1,548,049	\$1,515,618	\$1,577,563	\$1,627,363

Key Ratios

Table 2

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)	2.72	2.47	2.47	2.53	2.23
Total Asset Turnover Revenue/Total Assets	0.37	0.32	0.25	0.32	0.35
Return on Assets Net Surplus/Net Assets*100	0.32	3.16	-2.14	2.08	3.06

WCRA's 2022 AGM was held on 8th November at Dooleys, Silverwater. Members were presented with an overview of the years activities by Mr Harry Wilson (President) along with the audited accounts by Mr Glenn Caffyn on behalf of Hany Abdel-Sayed & Co Pty Ltd.

Financial statements for year ending 30 June 2022 were lodged with the Registered Organisations Commission and NSW Industrial Relations Commission in November. The S269 certificate was issued. The Annual return for year ending 31 December 2022 was signed by WCRA's secretary Ms Ford and lodged with the Registered Organisations Commission.

WCRA is the oldest waste management industry association in Australia and the oldest waste and recycling employer body in the world. Since 1948, WCRA has represented the NSW & ACT waste and recycling transporters and processing facility operators. WCRA is an independent association registered with the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW and under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

Our People

Members, Partners & Sponsors

There was minimal change to the structure of the industry over the last twelve months. As in previous years, WCRA continues to represent the majority of waste and recycling operators across NSW and the ACT.

Table 3

Members	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
>40 Revenue Earning Vehicles	8	11	11	9	9
7-40 Revenue Earning Vehicles	42	40	42	45	48
Up to 6 Revenue Earning Vehicles	104	114	112	111	112
Associate Members	38	40	44	43	39
Total	192	205	209	208	208
Change on Prior year	5.5%	6.8%	2.0%	-0.5%	0%

Staff & Support Services

WCRA's offices and services are available to Members via phone or in person Monday to Friday during business hours.

WCRA's current agreement with Transector Pty Ltd expires on 20 December 2023. Transector currently provides the services of Executive Director, Tony Khoury plus the support staff needed to operate the Association.

Mr Khoury, is supported by the following staff and specialist advisors:

Administration, Invoicing, Debtors, Creditors and Bookkeeping	Ann Maree Kopos
Reception, Marketing, Events & Office Management	Jamal Alameddine
Environmental Planning & Regulatory Affairs	Ross Fox (Fishburn Watson O'Brien)
Employment & Industrial Relations	Jay Clowes (Fishburn Watson O'Brien)
Projects	Glenn Caffyn
Training Delivery	Tony Khoury Glenn Caffyn Scott Bayliss
IT and Maintenance Support	Peter Cochrane
Exclusive Member Service Offer	Scott Bayliss

WCRA Executive

The Members of the Executive on 30 June 2023 were:-

Harry Wilson	SMS Municipal Services	President
David Gater	Veolia	Vice President
Bijal Dixit	JR Richards & Sons	Treasurer
Michelle Ford	Brandster Services	Secretary
David Johnston	United Resource Management	Executive Member
Graham Knowles	iQRenew	Executive Member
Mark Falanga	Kollect Group	Executive Member
David Harrison	Viscount Plastics (Australia) Pty Ltd	Executive Member
Ros Dent	Bingo Industries	Executive Member
Joe Richards	JJ's Waste & Recycling	Executive Member
Damien Vella	Breen Resources	Executive Member
Stuart Baird	Cleanaway	Executive Member

The following movements of the Executive took place in 2022/2023:-

- Susie McBurney did not seek re-election from 2 November 2022
- Jeff Brandstater did not seek re-election from 2 November 2022
- Gregory Turner did not seek re-election from 2 November 2022
- Joe Richards elected to the Executive on 2 November 2022
- Bijal Dixit elected to the Executive on 2 November 2022
- Michelle Ford elected to the Executive on 2 November 2022
- Stuart Baird elected to the Executive on 2 November 2022

We acknowledge and thank Ms McBurney, Mr Brandstater and Mr Turner for their many years of service to the Executive and WCRA.

Executive meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for January. The purpose and function of the Executive is particularised in the registered rules of the association. Executive meetings are open to all Members of the Association. Members can contribute to discussion and debate and raise points of general business. Voting is restricted to Executive Members.

Executive Members are drawn from the ranks and are the nominated representatives of Members. All are practising industry professionals with many years of experience and subject to heavy demands for their time. Sponsors are also invited to speak at meetings on matters of interest.

Meetings in the reporting year were well attended with a broad range of matters discussed and actioned. The overall attendance at Executive meetings stood at 81% for the financial year ending in June 2023 (this compares favourably with the minimum provision of 50% in the Rules).

Elections for positions on the Executive Committee are conducted every four years according to the Associations rules. Nominations for committee members were invited in October 2022. The Australian Electoral Commission supervised the process where 12 Members nominated for the 12 available positions. As a result, no election was required. The Australian Electoral Commission then supervised an election for senior positions on the Executive on 8th November 2022. Mr Wilson was nominated for the role of President with Mr Gater nominated for Vice President. Ms Dixit & Ms Ford were nominated for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Australian Electoral commission noted that nominees were not opposed, and each was awarded the role that they were nominated for. Election results were posted on the Association's website in November and the Registered Organisations Commission was formally notified.

Each of the newly elected Executive Members have undertaken the compliance and governance training required under the Fair Work Registered Organisations regulations.



Ms Ros Dent, Executive Member, Ms Michelle Ford, Secretary, Ms Bijal Dixit, Treasurer and Mr Tony Khoury Executive Director. It should be noted that 25% of WCRA's Executive of 12 are women.

Sponsors 2022/2023

WCRA was generously supported by key corporate associates. These organisations contributed essential funding for the Association as well as providing invaluable specialist advice, proposals and assistance to Members.

AMCS	Waste operations and management software
TWU Super	Superannuation
Ryan Tax	Suppliers of global tax services, software & technology
CJD Equipment/Volvo/SDLG	Construction and waste management plant and equipment
Daimler Trucks Huntingwood	Mercedes Benz, Freightliner and Fuso Heavy Vehicles
Arthur J Gallagher	Insurance broking
Green Goanna – Shell	Oil specialists
Bucher Municipal	Waste industry equipment

Our corporate Sponsors provide specialist expertise and options to our Members, together with essential funding for the services offered by WCRA.

On behalf of all Members, the Association acknowledges the support of its Sponsors and its gratitude to these organisations and their representatives.

Life Membership

Life membership is the highest honour that can be given to a member of the waste and recycling industry who is associated with WCRA. Life membership may be awarded to a member in recognition of outstanding service given to WCRA over a prolonged period.

The Executives, in accordance with the Guidelines for life nomination for Life Membership, considers the following with regard to prospective Life Members:

- Must never have brought the Association or the industry into disrepute.
- Must have consistently put the interests of the Association and the industry ahead of their personal and business interests in the discharge of WCRA duties and responsibilities.
- Must have, through their involvement with WCRA, enhanced the operation and reputation of the Association and the industry.

The following former and present Members are Life Members of WCRA

- Ron Horswell (deceased)
- Mike Creswell (deceased)
- Arthur Baker (deceased)
- Bernadette Byrnes
- Terry Dene
- Mike Noble
- Barry Thomas
- Harry Wilson
- Greg Turner (elected to Life Membership November 2022)
- Jeff Brandstater (elected to Life Membership November 2022)
- Glenn Gauslaa (elected to Life Membership November 2022)

WCRA stays in touch with our Life Members by inviting them to attend events such as the Annual Dinner and the Long Serving Members Lunch.



Kevin Song (representing Greg Turner), Jeff Brandstater, WCRA Vice President, David Gater, WCRA Executive Director, Tony Khoury, WCRA President Harry Wilson and Glenn Gauslaa, WCRA Annual Dinner

WCRA Long Serving Members

WCRA acknowledges Long Serving Members for their service to the waste management industry and the Association.

Long Serving Members are entitled to the following:

- Invitation to an annual luncheon (previously known as the Retiree's Lunch) where they will receive an update on topical industry issues.
- Email updates on matters of interest.
- (At the discretion of the Executive Director) one Long Serving Member will be invited to attend and present at WCRA's regular Waste & Resource Recovery training sessions.
- Invitation to a lunch meeting at the WCRA offices where they will participate in the annual Youth in Waste judging process (with the winner to be announced at the WCRA Annual Dinner).

75 Years of WCRA

On 7 May 2023 WCRA celebrated 75 years of championing the cause of our waste and recycling employer Members.

As the world's oldest known waste management employer association, we have established ourselves as a leading voice in the field, consistently at the forefront of emerging challenges, including transport, collections, recycling, processing and disposal. We are uniquely positioned to serve and support our Members with our extensive experience and deep understanding of industry requirements.

At WCRA, we take great pride in our long and successful history. We are committed to using our knowledge, expertise, and professional approach to continually support our Members and the wider waste management industry.

WCRA continues to work tirelessly to provide its Members with advice, opportunities, and professional training programs to navigate the industry's complexities. We remain committed to keeping Members informed and connected through regular events that provide opportunities for peer-to-peer support and connection. These events enable Members to remain updated with the latest industry trends and regulations.

"Congratulations to WCRA on another quarter of a century. The association shows the power of combined and unified efforts with reconciled differences of opinion and approach. It's an amazing story: so many 'old' names have continued on and moved with the times and social needs."

Bernadette Byrnes, Secretary to the President and then Executive Director, WCRA (1975 to 2003)

Services

Industrial & Employment Relations

The Association continues to provide Industrial Relations support for all its Members. As well as providing key information about pay rates & conditions, leave, injured workers, HR, unfair dismissals, redundancy, public holidays, etc. WCRA continues to represent Members and the industry in various industrial relations discussions and negotiations.

WCRA is a registered body of employers under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Registered Organisation's Act) and NSW Industrial Relations Act 1996. WCRA representatives are involved in negotiations with Trade Unions and assist government bodies such as the Fair Work Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman with industrial matters affecting the waste management industry. WCRA is recognised as the peak employer association representing the interests of its Members in both NSW and the ACT.

A number of training sessions and presentations were conducted by WCRA using the services of Jay Clowes from Fishburn Watson O'Brien, addressing issues including developments about classifying casual workers and contractors and the sweeping changes to employment law under the recent "Secure Jobs, Better Pay" amendments. Mr Clowes also highlighted the Federal regulatory changes on collective bargaining provisions. This resulted in WCRA forming an Industrial Relations sub-group.

Members are informed about award changes throughout the year including updates to the Waste Management Award and FWO's Pay Guide. Information about general employment law has been circulated as well as information about family and domestic violence leave, additional public holiday, collective bargaining provisions and industrial action by TWU.

On 1 July 2022 the Fair Work Commission announced that the National Minimum Wage along with all Modern Award wage rates, including Waste Management Award 2020 was to increase by 4.6%. Members were informed of this decision.

Front & Side Lift in 2023

- As per the Waste Management 2020
- Level 6
- \$1,043.29 per 38 hour week
- EBA's approximately 25% greater than the Award
- Time & half rate \$41.18
- Meal allowance \$17.78

Services (cont'd)

Insurance and Workers Compensation

WCRA, in collaboration with our sponsor Gallagher (Specialist Insurance Brokers), have provided Members with advice on a broad range of insurance matters. In the last few years there has been an increased number of fires at waste management facilities resulting in significant insurance premium increases.

The issue of lithium-ion batteries continues to be a source of fire risk in transport, recycling, processing and across the rest of the industry. Insurers have commented on the significance of this risk and the need for better management.

Several online information and training webinars were promoted to WCRA Members in 2022/23 on a range of relevant insurance matters.

Throughout the year Gallagher continued to support WCRA Members by providing discounted CTP rates for their vehicle fleets and ongoing advice to assist with better premium outcomes. There was a continuation of the offer to Members for discounted property insurance premiums.

The Association meets with iCare (workers compensation insurer for NSW) on an as required basis and then circulates updates to Members.

Exclusive Members' Service Offer

In December 2022 WCRA launched its Exclusive Members' Service Offer. The services offered by WCRA include driver assessments, general worker assessments, toolbox talks and short-term leave cover. The cost of these services is negotiated with the Member on a job-by-job basis.

The most popular to date has been the driver assessments. Members who have engaged WCRA have been thrilled with the quality and professionalism of the on-the-job assessment of heavy vehicle drivers, providing scores and feedback in the operation of specialised waste equipment.

Several of our smaller Members have utilised this service to review and develop their safety and compliance procedures, including formal toolbox talk sessions.

Training

WCRA offered Members a broad variety of highly industry focussed training courses dealing with contemporary issues affecting the waste management industry. In the delivery of these training services, WCRA has maintained a formal relationship with TAFE NSW Sydney Institute, Safety Wise (RTO ID 21871) for ICAM training, along with Pentrans Consulting for fatigue management (RTO ID 91427).

Training is a valuable and well utilised component of the Association's suite of services. Many Members rely on WCRA to provide high quality and industry tailored training for employees and contractors. Through its work in this area, WCRA makes a significant contribution to ensuring that safety, environmental standards and compliance are practiced at a high level of competence across the NSW and ACT sector.

Nationally accredited training courses covering Chain of Responsibility ('CoR') regulations and obligations, Fatigue Management regulations and Work Safely Near Overhead Wires were delivered throughout the year. Whilst four of these sessions were delivered at WCRA Wetherill Park, sessions were also delivered at Adelaide, Camden, Newcastle, Woodlawn, Minto, Rutherford, Blacktown, Kemps Creek, Picton and the ACT.

The following table summarises WCRA's training & workshop delivery across the year.

Training &/or workshops in 2022/2023	Unit nos.	No. of sessions	No. of Attendees
Chain of Responsibility	TLIF0009	17	219
Chain of Responsibility, Toolbox	N/A	2	20
Chain of Responsibility, non-accredited	N/A	0	0
Fatigue Management	TLIF0005	1	11
Work Safely Near Overhead Wires, non-accredited	N/A	3	46
Work Safely Near Overhead Wires, Toolbox	N/A	2	20
Incident Cause Analysis Method (ICAM)	RIIWH301D & BSBWWHS505B	2	30
Intro. to Waste & Resource Recovery	N/A	3	36
Driver Workplace Assessments	N/A	1	25



Safety is a key priority for all waste transporters. CoR training proved popular throughout the year, with many training sessions conducted at the WCRA office in Wetherill Park.

WCRA working with Government

Economic & environmental impacts of NSW energy from waste regulations, (report prepared for WCRA by The CIE)

The NSW Government has enacted a prohibition on energy from waste (EfW) in NSW, except in specific designated locations across rural NSW.

In late 2022 WCRA engaged The CIE to undertake a review of the development of the regulation against the NSW Better Regulation Principles and to evaluate potential impacts of the regulation.

The report from The CIE concluded that it is not clear what the basis for the regulation is and why the preferred options have been selected.

- The problem is identified as a potential oversupply of energy from waste facilities. There is no evidence of this problem and in fact NSW Government strategic planning indicates that NSW is running out of space to deal with residual waste and critical residual waste infrastructure is urgently needed. Certainty of feedstock is a key factor for businesses in developing energy from waste proposals, and there is no reason to think the government needs to manage this.
- The overarching objective is identified as to maximise efficiencies in infrastructure, waste management, innovation and energy recovery and ensure consistency with the transition to a circular economy. This is a reasonable objective to underpin regulation of EfW.
- The options developed are not aligned to the overarching objective. The regulatory change that has been made would reduce efficiency if it forces energy from waste to more distant locations, with higher transport costs (including social and environmental costs of transport).
 - ✓ Selecting specific locations does not allow for businesses to find locations that optimise on commercial costs, while accounting for the other non-commercial criteria relevant to the NSW community
 - ✓ Options not considered that would better meet objectives include building relevant criteria into the assessment processes for proposals, where these are not already part of existing assessment processes. This would ensure that any proposal which meets identified criteria can proceed rather than restricting EfW to specific locations
- The regulatory change was also intended to increase certainty for potential EfW projects. However, interviews with industry showed that certainty has not been provided, largely because the basis for the regulations is weak and businesses do not believe that specifying specific locations is a credible long term regulatory framework.
 - ✓ It is evident that obtaining community support for an EfW facility or any other residual waste facility is difficult and politically challenging. Restricting locations does not assist with this. However, there may be other government levers that could better address community concerns with EfW facilities and make the planning process less uncertain, such as clear objective criteria for where EfW is and is not acceptable

Economic and environmental impacts of NSW energy from waste regulations (cont'd)

- Outside of Better Regulation Principles, the regulatory changes enacted for energy from waste violate the Intergovernmental agreement on competition and productivity enhancing reforms signed by the NSW Government in 2016. The changes are a clear restriction on competition and show no evidence that the benefits outweigh the costs or that the objective could not be achieved without restricting competition. The impacts of the regulations will depend on what EfW facilities or other residual waste facilities will occur under the regulations, versus what would occur if the regulations had not been introduced.
- Of the four specified locations, the most likely to be commercially viable is at Woodlawn Goulburn. Other locations are either not of interest from their owners or are expected to have logistics costs that make them prohibitively expensive (note that there remain some other issues that would need to be resolved to enable any EfW facility to reach financial close, such as clarity on long term waste levy arrangements for EfW
- There were a large number of EfW proposals that were under active development that are in locations not allowed under the regulations. The capital investment specified for proposals that are now prohibited is in excess of \$2 billion. We do not expect that all of these would have become projects without the regulations, but some would have proceeded to be built. Cleanaway is actively progressing its investment in EfW in other states (Victoria and Queensland) following the regulatory changes made by the NSW Government.



Tony Chappel, CEO, NSW EPA and WCRA President, Harry Wilson at WCRA's Silverwater Breakfast Briefing on 8th November 2022

Economic and environmental impacts of NSW energy from waste regulations (cont'd)

The regulatory change that has been made has not been shown by the NSW Government to have benefits in excess of its costs, with no attempt to quantify impacts, costs and benefits of proposed options. This is a significant failure given that the regulatory option prohibits a number of proposals that are under active development.

In our assessment, the transport costs of moving EfW to more distant locations will far outweigh air pollution benefits from EfW occurring in areas with higher population density

- based on an assessment of the transport costs of moving waste to the specified locations from the most likely source of waste (Sydney), the cost to a single EfW facility could be in excess of \$25 million per year.
- the air pollution costs from moving an EfW further from major population centres are conservatively estimated to be about one tenth of this

There is not a robust reason to restrict EfW facilities to specific regional locations on the basis of the impacts on the community

- NSW has enacted very strict pollution controls on EfW
- the populations within a catchment of EfW plants in Western Sydney or many other potential locations is much smaller than in other countries, such as the UK. For example, most UK EfW plants have 10 000 people within a 2km catchment. Cleanaway's proposed plant in Western Sydney is forecast to have less than 500 people within a 2km catchment by 2056.

If restrictions on EfW lead to additional landfilling, this would be inconsistent with the overarching NSW Government intentions for waste management. However, it may well have benefits in excess of its costs because landfills have a lower development cost than EfW facilities (excluding the waste levy). A possible alternative is that no capacity is developed in the medium to longer term to deal with residual waste, leading to capacity constraints. This could lead to a waste crisis. Greater policy certainty will be required to ensure that viable residual waste options, whether landfills or EfW, can be developed by private businesses, or governments would need to take a more proactive role in providing or contracting for residual waste disposal infrastructure themselves.

The most obvious changes to improve the NSW EfW regulations are to make the criteria for an allowed location objective and to allow any location to be used where the criteria were met. This would remove the significant anti-competitive framing of the existing regulation. The alternative, and likely more beneficial, option is to remove the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Thermal Energy from Waste) Regulation 2022 in full, recognising that NSW already has in place sufficient regulations to address environmental impacts of EfW facilities.

Federal bans on the export of recyclables

In summary the Federal Government has passed Recycling and Waste Reduction legislation confirming the following:

- From 1 January 2021, a licence is now required to export waste glass
- From 1 July 2021, the rules for what plastic can be exported have changed
- From 1 July 2022, a licence is now required to export all types of waste plastics
- From 1 December 2021, a licence is now required to export tyres
- From 1 July 2024, a licence will be required to export mixed paper and cardboard
- A number of Members have expressed concerns that a ban on the export of mixed paper and cardboard will create potential adverse competition issues. The rules around this ban continue to be debated and are yet to be finalised. WCRA has highlighted to Government that inadequate consultation combined with poorly designed rules are likely to lead to significant, adverse resource recovery outcomes.
- The Federal Government has discussed a cost recovery fee per tonne for waste exports. \$3.98 p/t was nominated in the discussion paper, however due to lobbying efforts, the commencement of this system has been delayed until 2024-25 financial year.

Waste management challenges & opportunities

There are numerous challenges facing the waste management industry, including but not limited to -:

- The Federal restrictions on the export of unprocessed recyclables
- Fire safety risks & compliance, in particular lithium-ion batteries (and the continued increases in insurance premiums)
- The economic and environmental impacts of the current NSW Energy from Waste regulations
- The absence of a well-thought-out, implementable waste management infrastructure plan for NSW
- The absence of a practical & well-thought-out disaster waste management plan for NSW
- The inability of the NSW EPA to deal with waste & recycling businesses operating without an EPL
- C&D recycling and the on-going issues with asbestos (detection, zero tolerance & absence of due diligence defence)
- The implementation of the recommendations from independent review of the NSW resource recovery framework by Dr Cathy Wilkinson, by the EPA and the NSW Government.

NSW Small Business Commissioner

In July 2022 WCRA met with the NSW Small Business Commissioner and agreed that where appropriate WCRA would send a short note detailing concerns with NSW EPA. It was also agreed that WCRA would contact the Commissioner's office and provide examples of issues and concerns with iCare's system for the management of injured workers.

Matters involving Government included:

- WCRA has long been concerned that our industry is poorly represented on the EPA's Board. This concern has been agreed by WCRA Executive & communicated to the Minister for the Environment.
- In July 2022 WCRA met with the Hon. Paul Scully MP, Member for Wollongong to discuss waste management issues relevant to the Illawarra area.
- WCRA held discussions in August 2022 with the Hon. Penny Sharpe MP, NSW Shadow Minister for the Environment in relation to the need for C&D recycling sites to have an asbestos detection procedure, along with discussions relating to EfW in NSW.
- In September 2022 WCRA met with Ms Honora Campbell, senior advisor to the Hon Minister for the Environment James Griffin discussing issues in WCRA's 2022 Annual Report, along with EPA's regulatory role, the need for a review of the waste levy, lack of commercial reference group at EPA, failure by EPA to undertake regulatory impact studies, lack of business experience on EPA board, the importance of EfW, the lack of disposal infrastructure in the Sydney area, the need for better emergency waste management in NSW, invitations to future WCRA events and to detail our case for a funding allocation for training from the waste levy.
- In November 2022 Mr Khoury and Mr Wilson met the Hon James Griffin, Minister for the Environment and provided a copy of The CIE report prepared for WCRA on the EfW regulations.
- In February 2023, WCRA provided a copy to the Hon Penny Sharpe of The CIE report prepared for WCRA on the EfW regulations.
- The NSW elections were held on Saturday 25 March 2023 with Chris Minns' Labor Government winning the election. This resulted in the Hon Penny Sharpe being appointed Minister for the Environment.
- A list of priorities along with a meeting request was sent to the Hon Penny Sharpe which resulted in Mr Wilson attending a round table discussion on 14 June 2023.
- Despite several formal approaches by WCRA to the federal Environment Minister, the Hon Ms Tanya Plibersek congratulating her on her appointment and seeking a meeting, there has never been a reply.



Government funding is required to educate waste generators to keep lithium-ion batteries out of the general & recycling waste streams. At date of this report, an estimated 3 fires per day across the country are caused by batteries in either collection trucks and/or at waste & recycling facilities.

Work Health and Safety – SafeWork NSW

- The WCRA WHS Group met bi-monthly throughout 2022/2023 via Zoom with the following charter.

The WCRA WHS Group is a forum for advancing health and safety in the industry.

We agree to:

- ✓ *Maintain ethics and treat each other's contributions with respect.*
 - ✓ *Not to share commercially sensitive information and, if received, such information to not be shared outside of the group.*
 - ✓ *When sharing agreed information outside of the group (such as lessons learnt from an incident/event) that best efforts are made to maintain the privacy / confidentiality of the people/businesses involved.*
- Mr Gregg Frost, State Inspector with SafeWork NSW presented at all the meetings providing the Group valuable updates on the latest SafeWork NSW initiatives and resources.
 - A presentation by Mr Mark McKibben of Gallagher regarding Psychosocial Risk, highlighting the need to identify gaps from a user perspective.
 - Lithium-ion battery fire risk was discussed throughout the year. Members provided WCRA with data detailing the frequency of fires, incidents & explosions potentially caused by lithium-ion batteries. This data was aggregated and passed onto SafeWork NSW and the EPA to make it a priority issue.
 - Driver shortages, fire risks, pedestrian separation from plant and overhead wire incidents were some of the consistent industry concerns discussed at the meetings.
 - SafeWork NSW presented on silica dust. Great information and Q&A with a commitment to work together in this area, especially with the C&D recycling group to protect workers.
 - Collection of Domestic Waste Code of Practice to be reviewed in the coming year.
 - The “*around the grounds*” portion of the WHS Group meeting allows Members to table common issues and share best practice, whilst working together for a zero-harm objective to all workers.

“We need to regularly discuss & share key safety learnings from across the waste & recycling industry, and if we do, we will better protect our most valuable assets, our workers”

*Glenn Caffyn
Projects Manager, WCRA*

Transport for NSW / NHVR

- WCRA delivered NHVR funded Chain of Responsibility training workshops at Camden, Wetherill Park, Moree and Coffs Harbour.
- WRIQ has continued to develop the NHVR endorsed national code for waste vehicle load management compliance. WCRA has provided assistance through its existing, approved load restraint guidance material, along with a new section to address concerns relating to collections from no standing / no stopping zones. WCRA continues to monitor and advise Members with any relevant updates.
- In both April and May 2022 WCRA provided submissions for grant funding to the NHVR for CoR training across NSW and the ACT.



Brett Mirrow & Ben Presser, JJ's Waste & Recycling, receiving the 2022 WCRA WHS award from Michael Darmanin, TWU Super at the WCRA Annual Dinner

NSW EPA

With NSW EPA having direct responsibility for resource recovery and enforcement, the relationship between WCRA and the EPA is of critical importance to the effective operation of our industry. As stated in annual reports over a number of years, the area for improvement would be for EPA to better understand the commercial implications of their decision making, actions and/or inactions. WCRA has long advocated that a healthy, dynamic waste management and resource recovery industry needs a strong, well-resourced, well-informed, politically independent & operationally transparent regulator to enforce all regulations and to provide a level playing field for industry.

In mid-2022, the EPA appointed Tony Chappel to the office of CEO, which is a very pleasing appointment. EPA Chair Rayne de Gruchy welcomed this appointment stating *"we're delighted to welcome Tony Chappel to lead the EPA. His breadth of experience is ideally suited to lead on the critical environment protection issues that are so important to our communities, industry and government."*

WCRA, via Executive Director Tony Khoury, has continued our solid working relationship with EPA with regular meetings and communications, including attendance at the EPA's Waste Advisory Group meetings. There have been many interactions between WCRA and EPA staff throughout 2022/2023 and whilst we continue to have our differences, all discussions and interactions were conducted with a healthy, professional respect.

Throughout the year WCRA President Mr Wilson and Mr Khoury met with the EPA's Mr Chappel. The agenda at these meetings was to promote high level discussions on the key issues affecting our industry.

WCRA continued to pursue the EPA for a resolution to a broad range of issues such as:-

- Better funding outcomes for the industry
- To more effectively regulate rogue and unlicensed operators
- The Federal Government's exports bans and the impacts on the recycling sector
- In July 2022 WCRA met with EPA staff to progress the long outstanding issue of local government Model Contracts. To date this matter has not progressed
- EPA presented to WCRA Members on the proposed review of POEO Waste Regulations in 2023.
- A realistic asbestos strategy that is not based on a zero-tolerance level at recycling facilities and due diligence defence provisions for directors and managers
- Construction and demolition recycling issues (reported in this report under this sub-heading)
- The waste levy rebate on shredder floc
- The independent review of the NSW resource recovery framework by Dr Cathy Wilkinson has resulted in 22 recommendations which the EPA supports in principle. It is hoped that the outcomes of this review will create better and more sustainable opportunities for legitimate recycling and resource recovery across NSW. WCRA looks forward to the detailed work program, budget and timetable to support the implementation of these recommendations.
- A range of recycling industry concerns, with solutions presented by WCRA
- Emergency and incident waste and recycling disposal – planning and co-ordination
- The need for a meaningful, achievable & sustainable NSW waste management infrastructure plan. Throughout 2022/2023 WCRA has passed on the concerns of Members to EPA for much needed additional infrastructure (inefficient transfer station network, with major operational impacts on waste transporters).
- Waste levy rates for 2023/2024 with WCRA expressing concerns that the EPA provide insufficient notice to the industry ahead of these increases.

NSW EPA (cont'd)

- Energy from Waste issues, including regulations that restrict EfW to 4 regional precinct areas. In March 2023 WCRA and The CIE addressed the EPA executive with the findings of the economic and financial report commissioned by WCRA
- RID squad officer warnings to drivers of caged trucks, to tarp loads of baled paper & cardboard
- EPA's 3-year contract to WCRA to undertake annual surveys of C&I food & organics waste
- Rapidly rising cost of shipping containers (~300% = \$10k per container) and impacts on recyclers
- EPA's proposed integrated waste tracking solutions for waste transport and classification
- A mainstream media campaign on TV and radio for the lawful disposal of lithium-ion, all batteries and all products containing batteries including vapes. The first step involved Mr Chappel and Mr Khoury jointly presenting in a video detailing best practises in disposal of these battery products. Very disappointingly the EPA have advised they don't have the budget to fund this TV / radio campaign and will instead promote lawful disposal via a social media campaign.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Report, agreement on a procedure or protocol to deal with an unexpected find of asbestos in a C&D recycling facility is no closer now, than what it was in previous years.

The NSW Waste Levy rates for 2023/24 were advised by the EPA to WCRA and Members -: solid waste metropolitan area \$163.20 per tonne (2022 \$151.60) and regional areas \$94 (2022 \$87.30). It is worth noting that since 2010 the metropolitan area waste levy has increased by 232% or \$92.90 per tonne.

The sudden announcement by the EPA in 2018 that the processed outputs from AWT facilities would no longer be lawfully applied to agricultural, forestry and mining land continues to cause unease across the entire industry. The debate and the fallout from this decision has led to genuine wide-spread industry concern that Resource Recovery Orders and Exemptions (RRO/E) can be too easily changed and amended by the EPA. This decision has resulted in a lack of confidence from general investors, in waste management infrastructure. These concerns were further magnified by the EPA's proposed plan to revoke the RRO/E for recovered fines from mixed C&D waste inputs (as reported elsewhere in this report, the industry undertook the appropriate studies, then lobbied hard, with EPA re-thinking this matter and the revocation did not take place). Industry continues to have these concerns and awaits the EPA's implementation of the recommendations by Dr Wilkinson (referred to above).

At present, waste disposal infrastructure is significantly lacking in NSW. It is evident to all stakeholders, including the government and regulators, that NSW has limited disposal options for Sydney's waste, and we are lacking an infrastructure network to safely address our essential waste management disposal needs. In light of these ongoing challenges, it is critical that EPA and the NSW government support the NSW waste management and resource recovery sector by ensuring that the regulatory framework does not hinder legitimate and sustainable resource recovery operations.

It is worth noting that organisations such as WCRA invest heavily (time, expertise, money, resources) in making submissions to NSW EPA. The EPA rarely provides detailed formal feedback to our submissions. In our view, it would be very much appreciated if we were to receive this formal feedback. And if it is a lack of resources that prevents the EPA from addressing this issue, then the EPA needs to be allocated additional resources.

Corporate relationships

WMRR

WCRA has a good working relationship with the Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association of Australia's (WMRR), in particular the C&D Waste Group, chaired by Jason Sweeney, where we jointly continue to lobby the EPA to develop a procedure for the safe management of a small piece of asbestos at C&D recycling sites. WMRR is led by Gayle Sloan who is a strong industry advocate with regular comments on industry developments, regular media releases and branch activities in each Australian capital city.

NWRIC

WCRA is the NSW and ACT Affiliate of the National Waste & Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC), which is led by CEO Rick Ralph. Membership of the Council is restricted to organisations with national operations. The current Council members are:- Cleanaway, Veolia, JJ Richards, Resource Co, Sims, Sell & Parker and Solo. State and Territory Associations represented at Council meetings as observers are: WRIQ, WRINT, WRIWA, WRISA, VWMA and WCRA. Council meetings are conducted throughout the year with venues alternating to different state capitals. WCRA's involvement in NWRIC is an opportunity to progress contentious and national issues. This involvement with NWRIC maximises the potential for better communication across all Australian jurisdictions. It should be noted that NWRIC competes with WMRR & ACOR.

AORA

Australian Organics Recycling Association, WCRA collaborates with AORA led by John McKew on matters of joint interest including the NSW Resource Recovery Orders and Exemptions.

VWMA

Victorian Waste Management Association (VMWA), led by Executive Officer Brett Lemin, and WCRA continue to enjoy a close relationship and work together on a number of matters including resource recovery, transport, environmental training and stockpile management training.

WRIQ

Waste Recycling Industry Queensland (WRIQ) led by CEO Ms Alison Price and WCRA maintain a good working relationship. WRIQ is still leading the national project on a code of practise for load management.

ALOA

Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) led by CEO Colin Sweet and WCRA collaborate on matters of mutual benefit to our Members as and when they arise.

ACOR

Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) Led by CEO Suzanne Toubourou is the peak national industry recycling association. WCRA continues to work with ACOR on matters of joint interest, in particular the concerns relating to fires from batteries, scrap metal, export bans on recycling and resource recovery issues.

Other Organisations

WCRA collaborates and cooperates with a large number of organisations whose interests and expertise are relevant, including -:

- NSW Civil Contractors Federation
- Asbestos Diseases Foundation
- The Total Environment Centre
- Clean Up Australia
- Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
- Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
- Institute of Public Works and Engineering
- Waste Recycling Industry South Australia
- Waste Recycling Industry Western Australia
- Waste Recycling Industry Northern Territory
- Fiji Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

AWRE

The Australian Waste and Recycling Expo (AWRE) was held in Darling Harbour in August 2022. A number of WCRA Members presented at the AWRE summit in a session chaired by Mr Khoury including Mr Damien Vella, Ms Ros Dent and Ms Susie McBurney. WCRA & AWRE have signed a three-year partnership agreement through to August 2025.



AWRE Summit resource recovery session included Mr Vella & Ms Dent and chaired by Mr Khoury

Groups

Within WCRA there are a number of single-sector, industry or regional sub-groups. Meetings and workshops for these groups are scheduled and facilitated by WCRA and reported in the WCRA Executive monthly meetings.

WCRA ACT GROUP

WCRA had a series of discussions which were confirmed in writing to ACT NoWaste representatives detailing industry concerns that ACT landfill and MRF price increases were not advised until 23 June 2022. Members have long expressed these concerns that ACT waste management price increases could not be communicated to customers in time to reflect actual cost recovery.

A number of meetings were held throughout the year with ACT NoWaste including 8 September 2022 (new proposed FOGO service, planned tender for MRF, price increase 01/01/2023, GST on CDS and lithium-ion batteries). Earlier that day Mr Khoury and several Members address the ACT Government's standing committee on environment with these same issues.

On 7 December 2022 Members were advised that all ACT disposal and recycling pricing would increase by 1.75% effective 1 January 2023.

A further ACT Group meeting was held on 30 March 2023 with support from ACT NoWaste (main discussion centred around a proposal for finance, design, construction, operations and maintenance of a new ACT MRF, noting the previous ACT MRF was destroyed by a battery related fire).

Liquid & Hazardous Waste Group

Many specific issues affecting this group relate to Sydney Water (who regulate the disposal of grease trap waste and trade waste discharges). Amongst the issues referred to Sydney Water were reminder notices for missed scheduled services, re-instatement of service frequencies resulting from business shutdowns due to Covid-19, potentially non-compliant operators & concerns relating to waste tracking (lawful disposal).

Members continue to be concerned that Sydney Water has inadequate resources to fulfil its regulatory oversight of the sector. WCRA continues to seek reassurance and to address these concerns by obtaining a re-commitment from Sydney Water via our existing Code of Practice.

Throughout 2022/2023 WCRA continuously followed up Sydney Water in relation to their commitment to industry, including the plan for non-compliant accounts and the need to review the draft Waste Safe Transporter agreement. Sydney Water don't have the resources to address these issues and this was confirmed by their inaction throughout the year.

The EPA's waste levy on liquid waste was set at \$81.20 for 2022/23 (previously \$78.80). These funds are part of the consolidated revenue for NSW and are not hypothecated back for the benefit of the NSW liquid waste sector.

In previous years the EPA conducted a series of compliance audits on the resource recovery orders for the land application of treated grease trap waste. As at the date of this report these findings have not been tabled by the EPA for discussion with industry.

Looking ahead to 2024, the sector will face a number of challenges including the inactions of Sydney Water, PFAS acceptance criteria at liquid treatment facilities, question marks over the EPA's Resource Recovery Orders (land application of treated grease trap waste) and a strategy to pressure the regulators (EPA & Sydney Water) to enforce compliance with the NSW liquid waste & grease trap waste regulations.

Throughout 2022/2023 the EPA delivered a number of presentations to WCRA Members on a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking system (entitled integrated waste tracking solutions). This will most likely be implemented in late 2023.

C&D Waste Group

The Group's activities continued to be chaired by Mr Brent Lawson from Concrete Recyclers and throughout the year met several times to discuss and address a range of issues including -:

- An allowable asbestos limit or procedure for dealing with a rogue piece or two of asbestos in a C&D recycling facility. This group along with WMRR's C&D group have had numerous meetings with the EPA in an attempt to address this matter. On 15 June 2023 senior EPA staff advised the group that EPA will accept AS4694 as the test method for asbestos in C&D recycling, supported by site-specific unexpected find procedures.
- The impacts & management of Asbestos on the NSW Construction and Demolition Industry, an Industry based exercise supported by the industry associations, WMRR and WCRA. The industry has collectively contributed \$111,500 to cover the cost including consultant's scientific report, economic analysis and legal advice. As at, 30 June 2022 a balance of \$24,525 remained unspent.
- As at, 30 June 2023 a balance of \$55,057 remains unspent from the WMRR and WCRA C&D groups recovered fines project.
- The Group continues to work closely with WMRR C&D Group and meets jointly from time to time presenting a united voice in response to (often ill-considered) Government regulatory proposals.
- WCRA continues to promote the EPA's Standards for Managing Construction Waste in NSW to Members. These Standards detail how an incoming load is to be inspected. Further sections include sorting, storage and transport. There is also a section on training. On behalf of Members, WCRA lobbied the EPA and the Minister for the Environment seeking clarification on sorting requirements, inspection points, storage, rejected loads, funding for asbestos detection equipment and the education of waste generators.
- In December 2022 the Court of Criminal Appeal fined Grafil \$100,000 with Mr McKenzie not fined. This case highlights that NSW has no leeway on trace levels of asbestos in recycled products.
- Looking ahead into the coming year, this sector is still facing a number of major issues including the EPA's comments and actions on the review of the resource recovery framework by Dr Cathy Wilkinson, the definition of asbestos waste, due diligence defence for directors, review of standards for managing C&D waste in NSW, recovered fines education program and a continuation of the debate on a procedure for managing asbestos in recycling facilities.



A sample showing asbestos waste.

Groups (cont'd)

Scrap Metal Group

Throughout 2022/23, a 25% waste levy reduction applied on floc waste landfilled within NSW. This concession is an initiative from the NSW Government that is designed to encourage metal recyclers to accept scrap from regional areas along with products that have a marginal scrap metal value (fridges, washing machines, etc. that contain significant plastic, non-scrap metal parts). An additional benefit of this concession was that it removed the economic incentive to transport floc waste residue to cheaper SE QLD landfills. This concession will be reviewed by the EPA in a waste levy review in late 2023.

Throughout the year, there were several fires at car wrecking yards across NSW. It was noted by Members and advised to Fire + Rescue NSW (and NSW EPA) that these yards are not covered by the NSW Fire Waste Guidelines. Further, a vast majority of scrap metal and car wrecking yards are not covered by EPA licence requirements.

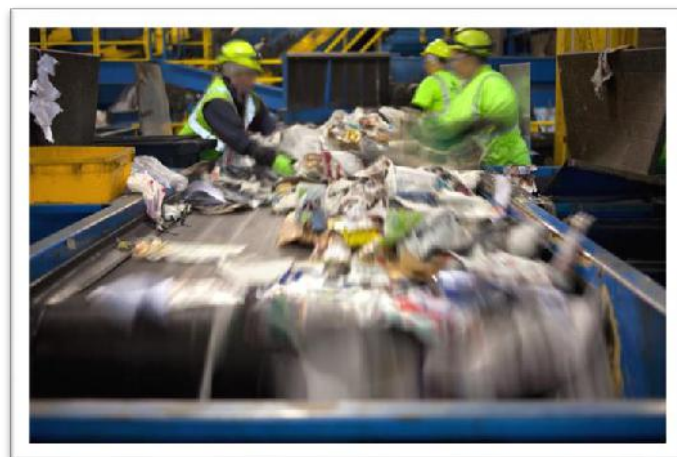
NSW regulations pertaining to no cash payments for scrap metal continue in NSW, albeit with the Police no longer having a dedicated unit for the proper enforcement of these laws. This lack of enforcement continues to cause business issues for legitimate operators, whilst the business model of rogue operators' flourishes. To this extent WCRA and Members lobbied Government to review the Scrap Metal Industry Act 2016 and the Motor Dealers and Repairers Act. Both of these Acts have now been updated; however the industry continues to lobby for better police enforcement of these laws.

It was reported to WCRA by Members that due to the significant volume of exported unprocessed scrap metal, to ensure there was adequate feedstock, NSW steel mills have imported scrap metal shipments from overseas. As a result, major scrap metal operators have advocated to the federal government to ban the export of unprocessed scrap metal.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) GROUP

Throughout the year the WCRA MRF discussion Group met and discussed the following issues:

- A review of the MRF protocol
- Discussions with Gallagher to address insurance risk and premiums
- A letter to the Federal Government detailing concerns for the export ban of paper and cardboard, along with the proposed export tax of \$3.98 p/t.
- National collection specifications being developed by NWRIC.
- National accreditation specifications being developed by ACOR.



Workers on a conveyor line at a MRF dealing with contamination in recycled products.

- Tendering practices, specifications, emerging trends, improvement to the model contract and unreasonable risk provisions in tender contracts.
- Supply chain issues including substantial increases in the cost of shipping containers used for export purposes.
- Working with local government to achieve better contract collection and processing outcomes. This has led to several discussions and presentations from the Southern Sydney Region of Council (SSROC), including the regulatory reforms for disaster waste and risk resilience.

The Issues We Address

Access to Solid Waste Disposal Infrastructure

Unprecedented rain events in 2022 caused the closure of transfer stations and access issues to landfills across the Sydney solid waste network. This La Nina weather event caused significant rainfall across the landfill and rail infrastructure, resulting in unsafe road surfaces, rail line closure out of Sydney, tip face conditions, wait times at landfill and challenging operations at transfer stations.

These closures and delays caused major issues for our C&I collection Members.

In mid-2022 WCRA attended a meeting with the NSW EPA in Parramatta to discuss the above issues and potential solutions for disaster recovery and contingency purposes. As at the date of this report, there still have been no updates provided by EPA on this very critical issue.

WCRA supported an application by Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) to Resilience NSW for contingency planning funding for the disposal of Sydney's household waste. A number of WCRA Members who operate critical infrastructure attended these meetings throughout the year.

NSW Container Deposit Scheme

The NSW CDS has now been in operation for five and a half years with the NSW Government reporting that the scheme has been a phenomenal success story. Conceived as a litter reduction initiative, Return and Earn has now collected more than 9.9 billion containers in just over five years.

A number of issues remain unresolved:

- Several Members expressed concerns to WCRA that bin raiders continue to take eligible CDS containers from kerbside bins. These concerns include public liability, personal injury, littering and loss of revenue.
- The issue of CDS refunds for commercial co-mingled materials remains unresolved.
- With most jurisdictions reviewing their CDS regulations, there are possible implications for NSW (wine bottles, spirit bottles & value per eligible container all under review)
- WCRA has initiated a class action to the ATO for MRFs to be refunded the GST deduction from the 10c per eligible container under the MRF refund sharing protocol. This application is being managed by Ryan Tax, with the claim back dated to the start of the scheme.



Ms Suzanne Toumbourou (ACOR CEO) and Mr Tony Khoury at Return & Earn's 5th birthday in December 2022

The Issues We Address (cont'd)

Load Management Waste & Recycling Industry Code of Practice

WRIQ is leading the development of a NHVR endorsed Waste & Recycling Industry Code of Practice for Load Management. WCRA has made significant contributions by offering the approved NSW load restraint documents for Hooklift, Dino, Skips & Bin Delivery systems. Further WCRA has successfully lobbied for inclusion of a section on the collection of waste & recyclables from no standing and no stopping areas. The code is currently being reviewed by NHVR with view to a draft being issue for public consultation.

Long Distance Transport of Waste

Despite the failure by EPA to enforce the Proximity Principle, it continues to retain its place amongst NSW regulations. And despite the introduction of a QLD waste levy, substantial volumes of waste continue to be transported to rural NSW, SE QLD and the ACT. This activity results in poor environmental and resource recovery outcomes.

Conversely, it has also been reported to WCRA that general waste is being transported from SE Qld to rural NSW landfills (in non-regulated areas, where there's no NSW waste levy). These economic arbitrage transactions create perverse safety and negative environmental outcomes and can be avoided if there were national laws on waste levy portability.

Standards Australia – MGBs and Mobile Bin Lifting Equipment

In mid-2020 the Technical Committee established for a review of the Mobile Waste Container Standard along with an additional part (8) for mobile bin lifters began to take shape. In February 2021 WCRA, WMRR and Australian Industry Group representatives agreed on the 15 stakeholder organisations to be consulted in the review of AS4123.1 to AS4123.7. Standards Australia Technical Committee PL-047 which includes industry representatives met throughout 2022/2023 reviewing parts 1 to 7 and drafting part 8. This process will continue in 2023/2024.

Definition of an essential worker

Whenever there is an emergency, disaster, further breakout of the pandemic or a supply issue, the waste management industry spends valuable time and resources detailing to government the essential nature of our industry. There is a need for government to make the appropriate amendments to ensure that this essential worker status continues.

Media

WCRA continues to review the industry and general media for articles of specific interest to WCRA Members. Across 2022/23, approximately 18 media articles per month were brought to the attention of the Executive. Amongst the key media themes were the following-:

- NSW fire fighters fight Rockdale transfer station fire
- Challenges in securing workers in the waste sector
- Coffee cups and the circular economy, achieving an idealistic dream
- New NSW EfW regulation in place
- The implementation of mandating unsafe work times
- WCRA comments on contamination in recycling & trivial noise complaints
- WCRA happy with Fair Work award increases
- Huge fine to man for providing false information to NSW EPA
- Review of the NSW resource recovery framework, findings need to be implemented
- RED Cycle soft plastic scheme closes
- Veolia sends out pre-Christmas battery warning
- Lithium-ion battery causes fire in rubbish truck
- Recyclables export tax, a blow to the industry
- EPA serves Coles & Woolworths with cleanup notice over RED Cycle
- Bosses must ask staff before rostering to work public holidays
- Batteries blamed for destroying Hume, ACT MRF
- The economic and environmental impacts of the NSW EfW regulations
- Remondis to trial hydrogen truck
- Waste myth, 'household recycling is just sent to landfill'
- Visy, regular advertisements in daily newspapers, 'Hiring drivers across Australia'

What do WCRA Members want from Government?

WCRA Members

- Want a level commercial playing field;
- Regulations that provide certainty;
- Regulations that provide for a return on investment;
- Want to be consulted & listened to;
- Waste including recyclables should be managed in a safe, sustainable & environmentally sound manner;
- Regulations and proper practices need to be enforced by all regulators, the EPA, Local Government, NHVR, T4NSW, Police, ATO, SafeWork NSW, Health, ACT NoWaste, etc.
- NSW Government (with ~ \$830 m of waste levy to consolidated revenue) is well placed to intervene and assist in addressing issues that affect the waste management sector.

WCRA working with NSW EPA to better understand C & I organics

In 2022/2023 a number of Members were jointly interviewed by WCRA & NSW EPA

The feedback included:

- FOGO services need to be cost effective
- To minimise FOGO transport costs and to ensure better productivity, additional processing capacity is required across the metropolitan area;
- The EPA needs to commit additional funds & resources to better educate C&I waste generators to minimise contamination rates in organic waste;
- The long, uncertain and costly planning times to obtain DA's and EPL's for NSW waste processing facilities is in urgent need of review and improvement;
- NSW resource recovery framework doesn't provide certainty for investors, whilst the EPA's regulatory arm is not tolerant of the source materials for organics' recycling

Functions and Events

The latest calendar of events is available and can be viewed at www.wcra.com.au

WCRA Annual Dinner and Awards night – December 2022

The very popular WCRA Annual Dinner was held on 9 December 2022 in the Sales Arena at the luxurious The William Inglis Hotel at Chipping Norton, with 215 guests in attendance.

The Work Health and Safety Award, sponsored by TWU Super, was awarded to JJ's Waste & Recycling for their fire suppression project with Ben Presser and Brett Mirrow accepting the award.

The President's Award, sponsored by Gallagher, was awarded to Loop Organics. In circular economy terms, Loop Organics takes organic waste material that would otherwise end up in landfill and applies it to land as a fertiliser.

The inaugural Youth in Waste Awards, sponsored by WCRA, was jointly awarded to Mark Napper from Bingo Industries, Hannah Partland from iQRenew & Nina Ho also from iQRenew.



Inaugural Youth in Waste Award winners at the 2022 Annual Dinner Nina Ho, Hannah Partland and Mark Napper represented by Shiloh Ainuu



WCRA's Sponsor Mark Bramley, Gallagher & President Harry Wilson presenting the President's Award for 2022 to Loop Organics, Lisa Rawlinson & Matthew Brown at the WCRA Annual Dinner .

Functions and Events (cont'd)

Industry Update Conference – June 2023

This annual event was held at the Kirribilli Club on 8th June 2023. 150 delegates attended the update sessions followed by the WCRA 75-year anniversary dinner with over 190 guests in attendance.

The update session presentations included:

- Getting new waste & recycling facilities through the NSW planning system
- Legal risks and strategies for developing waste facilities.
- EfW, the economic & environmental implications of the NSW regulations
- NSW EPA update - status of the review of the resource recovery framework
- NHVR, introduction to the National Waste & Recycling Code
- “Secure jobs, better pay”: Federal regulatory changes including collective bargaining.



Asela Attapatu from NSW EPA, with an update on the status of the review of the resource recovery framework



WCRA Industry Update held in June 2022 at the Kirribilli Club.

Functions and Events (cont'd)

Breakfast Briefing

Mr Tony Chappel, CEO, NSW EPA addressing 90 Members, Sponsors & other Stakeholders with a presentation detailing the EPA's plans & vision to better work with the sector to achieve lawful & sustainable resource recovery outcome at the WCRA Breakfast Briefing on 8th November 2022. At the same briefing, Mr Michael Bates, Head of ANZ Region, AMCS Group provided attendees with an update on innovation & digital solutions for the waste & recycling industry.



Michael Bates, AMCS Group at the Breakfast Briefing on 8th November 2022 detailing innovation & digital solutions for the waste & recycling industry

On 14th March 2023 WCRA held a breakfast briefing at Dooleys, Lidcombe which featured:



A presentation from Ms Belinda Hughes from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on compliance, how Safety Management Systems can assist to manage the risks associated with your transport activities, chain of responsibility obligations and recent prosecutions.



At the same briefing Mr Jay Clowes, Principal, Fishburn Watson O'Brien addressed delegates on developments about classifying casual workers and contractors and the sweeping changes to employment law under the recent "Secure Jobs, Better Pay" amendments.

Functions and Events (cont'd)

Industry Updates via Zoom

WCRA hosted three (3) online briefings via Zoom throughout the year to ensure Members were armed with the most up to date information. An estimated one hundred Members attended these online sessions covering the following topics:

- July 2022, Employment Relations update provided by Jay Clowes from Fishburn Watson O'Brien
- December 2022, the economic and regulatory impacts of the NSW Energy from Waste regulations provided by Phil Manners from The CIE
- March 2023, an update on the NSW amendments to waste levy regulations provided by Ross Fox from Fishburn Watson O'Brien

WCRA Golf Day

The Ron Horswell Memorial WCRA Golf Challenge was held for the eleventh time on 18th November 2022 at Cabramatta Golf Course. Twenty-two teams of Members, Sponsors and their Guests enjoyed a wonderful day and spectacular weather. The four ball Ambrose format is a popular event, with the winning team in 2022 being Veolia, captained by Scott Bond.



The Veolia golf team take out the 2022 Ron Horswell Memorial Cup

Functions and Events (cont'd)

Long Serving Members Luncheon

The annual luncheon for Long Serving Members from across the waste management industry was held on 14th March 2023 at Dooleys Lidcombe. This is a very popular and well attended get-together. Name tags maybe added to next year's luncheon due to some Members not remembering names, even their own. Unfortunately, some Members were unable to attend due to health issues. At the event WCRA President, Harry Wilson made a special presentation to Tony Khoury celebrating his 20 years as WCRA Executive Director.

Harness Racing, WCRA Sponsor's Night

This annual event was held at the Penrith Harness track on Thursday 11th August 2022 with 60 Members, Sponsors and their Guests. The 7 races were named after Sponsors of WCRA, who receive national publicity across the media, pubs, clubs and betting outlets. The second chance prize barrel was overflowing with losing betting tickets but a great night was had by all.



The very happy sponsors of race 6, Tomra Cleanaway with James Dorney and staff holding the sash.

WCRA Premises

The premises owned by WCRA in Wetherill Park provides the Association and our Members with an excellent location for meetings, training and administration at no additional cost. The convenience of plentiful parking is an added advantage. WCRA is the only waste and recycling industry association in Australia to own its own premises.



It is highly likely that within a decade, Sydney will experience a significant waste disposal problem. Landfill space is rapidly running out and there are no current energy from waste (EfW) facilities. We can minimise the amount of waste we generate, and we can recycle more (via bins with yellow and green lids), but when it comes to the contents of the bin with the red lid, we need disposal options for this waste residue. We also require disposal options for general commercial waste residues. The only current live application for EfW in NSW is the application by Veolia at Woodlawn. It is important for this application to be approved, not only for the waste management industry and business confidence, but to provide a valuable reference point for regulators of what is possible and what good quality EfW infrastructure should look like in NSW.

Tony Khoury, Executive Director

Tony Khoury, Executive Director, at WCRA, since May 2003



The waste management sector provides an important and essential service across all parts of the community, collecting a broad range of waste and recyclables from households and the business sector. What was once a relatively simple industry, is now complex and highly regulated. The key regulator in our sector is the NSW EPA and in recent years they appear to have lost touch with how to regulate to support good, legitimate waste management business operators. The 22 recommendations from the independent review of the NSW resource recovery framework by Dr Cathy Wilkinson is a positive start. But these recommendations will need to be acted on and implemented. It is also a fact that many of our waste management laws, and regulations do not provide investors with consistency, certainty and fairness. Nor do they create an environment that promotes

employment, resource recovery, recycling and circular economy outcomes.

If we are to achieve an 80% diversion rate by 2030 then industry will require meaningful assistance from both the NSW and ACT Governments. We will also require a greater slice of the NSW waste levy to be invested in new recycling and waste management infrastructure. We will require a voice within both the NSW and ACT Governments to promote the procurement of Australian recycled content and to generally champion the arguments that will support and encourage businesses to invest in sustainable resource recovery solutions.

Looking forward into 2024, it has long been the view of WCRA that waste transporters should be licensed, similar to the Victorian scheme. The licensing should include a training and education program to promote awareness and encourage compliance with environmental laws. This will provide better control over the transport of waste and recyclables and will lead to better compliance and resource recovery outcomes.

WCRA's ACT and NSW Members should be very proud of their efforts which include collections of in excess of 250 million MGBs per annum from approximately 3.2 million dwellings, plus the full range of commercial, industrial, liquid and hazardous waste services. These services are all undertaken in an environment that ensures compliance with all WHS and chain of responsibility regulations. Further, standardised bin colours and systems, well-planned productive collection routes and highly trained workers have our Members providing collection services that are as safe and productive when compared with anywhere in the world.

With WCRA having celebrated 75-years of continuous industrial registration on 7th May 2023, I am extremely proud and feel fortunate to have served 20 plus years as WCRA's Executive Director. Whilst we have had to encounter many challenges and frustrations, we have also kicked many, many goals and it has been a very rewarding period of time.

Finally, I would like to extend a massive thankyou to WCRA's staff and contractors, the Executive, along with all Members, Sponsors and Stakeholders for your support and engagement. Without this support WCRA would not be in the strong financial and representative position that it is in today.

WCRA's valued Sponsors

We would like to thank our generous Sponsors for their continued support of the Association. Sponsors assist us to provide better services to our Members and to the industry. When seeking a product or a service, we encourage Members to please support our Sponsors by requesting a proposal for their product or service offering. Here is a link to the Sponsor's page on the WCRA website, <http://wcra.com.au/Partnership.html>



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