

# WCRA ANNUAL REPORT 2017

14 November 2017

**Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW**

Suite 2, 12-16 Daniel St., Wetherill Park

# From the President

2017 has been perhaps the most momentous year ever for WCRA and the waste and recycling industry in NSW. We have had to consider our position on a wide range of issues with the potential to bring about significant change to the way the industry operates and the way in which it is regulated. These matters include:

- Transport of a reported 700,000 tonnes per annum of waste and recyclables by road and rail from the Metropolitan Levy Area (Sydney, the Illawarra and the Hunter) to South East Queensland.
- The consequent avoidance of approximately \$100 million in NSW Waste Levy payments.
- Failure of the Proximity Principle legislation.
- Swearing-in of yet another new NSW Environment Minister – the 10<sup>th</sup> since 2007<sup>1</sup>.
- Formation of a new national waste and recycling industry association – the National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC).
- Changes affecting the viability of glass recycling in NSW.
- Imminent commencement of a Container Deposit System in NSW.
- Proposal of a very large Waste to Energy facility in Western Sydney.
- Announcement of NSW Upper House Inquiry into *“Matters relating to the waste disposal industry in New South Wales, with particular reference to ‘energy from waste’ technology”*.
- Federal Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication *Inquiry into the Waste and Recycling Industry in Australia*.
- Broadcast in August 2017 of the ABC Four Corners program “Trashed” – an investigation into the waste industry.
- Ongoing prime-time follow-up programs on Sydney radio and television regarding practices in the waste industry and the performance of Government.
- Announcement by Barry Buffier (EPA CEO/Chair) of the self-referral by NSW EPA of waste industry corruption allegations to ICAC.

In this time of unprecedented change and turmoil in the waste and recycling industry, WCRA remains strong both financially and in terms of industry and community perceptions. WCRA is progressively improving its governance and profile and continues to represent the interests of its members without fear or favour.

I thank the staff and Executive Members of WCRA for their dedicated service and commend the 2017 WCRA Annual Report to you. I look forward to a year of great success for our industry and our members in 2018.

Harry Wilson – President and Life Member of WCRA

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<sup>1</sup> Gabrielle Upton 2017, Mark Speakman 2015-2017, Rob Stokes 2014-15, Robyn Parker 2011-14, Frank Sartor 2009-11, John Robertson 2009, Carmel Tebbutt 2008-09, Verity Firth 2008, Phil Koperberg 2007-08, Bob Debus 1999-07

# Our Finances and Administration

WCRA is acknowledged throughout the waste and recycling sector to be a prudently financially-managed organisation. WCRA raises revenue to meet its operating costs through the payment of annual membership fees, the delivery of training services, making a small margin on the staging of industry events, such as regular *Breakfast Briefing* information sessions and the *Annual WCRA Industry Update* mid-year conference, which are open to members and non-members alike. WCRA also provides a number of social events for members and sponsors, which are priced to cover costs or return a modest profit and very well-supported by sponsors. As a result, WCRA continues to stand in a sound financial position.

Financial Auditor Sterling International has approved the WCRA 2016-2017 financial statements which highlight the following key data:

Net surplus of \$44,685

Balance Sheet Net Assets \$1,416,571

## Historical Comparison:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Net Surplus	\$173,576	\$130,909	\$99,914	\$84,289	\$44,685
Balance Sheet Net Assets	\$1,042,522	\$1,147,656	\$1,287,597	\$1,371,886	\$1,416,571

## Key Ratios:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Current Ratio</b> Current assets / Current liabilities	1.81	2.05	2.32	2.35	2.13
<b>Total Asset Turnover</b> Revenue / Total Assets	0.50	0.45	0.41	0.37	0.32
<b>Return on Assets</b> Net Surplus / Net Assets x 100	17.07	11.41	7.76	6.14	3.15

WCRA has existed as an independent association representing the interests of waste and recycling transporters and facility operators since 1948. WCRA is registered with both the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW and the Fair Work Commission.

# Our People

## Members, Partners & Sponsors

Due to consolidation within the industry in recent years, the number of operators has slightly decreased, however WCRA's total membership numbers have increased by around 25% over the past 5 years. Changes in management are sometimes the catalyst to reconsider the value of a company's WCRA membership, especially when the new manager has limited knowledge of the ongoing role WCRA has had in supporting the growth of their business. The Executive Director and staff of WCRA dedicate a considerable amount of time to ensuring members receive value from their membership, the Association remains strong and relevant and members are retained. There has been little change in total membership numbers over the past year. WCRA continues to represent the majority of waste and recycling contractors in NSW and the ACT.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Members with > 41 revenue earning vehicles	8	9	9	7	7
Members with between 7 & 40 revenue earning vehicles	40	38	44	39	40
Members with 6 or fewer revenue earning vehicles	78	87	95	104	104
Associate Members	40	37	36	43	39
Total Number of Members	166	171	184	191	190
Annual Change in Members	+15.3%	+3.0%	+6.4%	+3.8%	-0.5%

## Staff and Support Services

WCRA is able to address the needs of its membership via a small core of dedicated staff and a number of retainer and commercial agreements with specialist advisors who assist the Executive Director in providing a high level of targeted support.

- Nada Ruiz Diaz and Juliette Quagliata assist the Executive Director on a permanent, part-time basis providing support with membership services, administration, marketing and book-keeping.
- Martin Dunne, Special Counsel Hunt & Hunt, provides employment relations advice to WCRA and Members.
- Maurice Baroni, now a Barrister at law, has acted as an advisor to WCRA on transport and chain of responsibility matters.
- Kim Glassborow, Principal G&B Lawyers, provides advice to WCRA on environmental and other specified government matters.
- Lee Smith, Principal Möbius Environmental provides advice and support to WCRA on technical, government & public relations matters.
- Mark Mawad contracted to WCRA on a permanent part-time basis to assist in the development and delivery of training and a range of associated projects.
- Peter Cochrane is retained by WCRA to provide IT support and maintenance services.

## WCRA Executive

Executive meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, with the exception of January. Executive Meetings are open to all Members and Sponsors to attend however only Members of the Executive may vote. Ordinary Members and Sponsors of WCRA are invited to speak on issues of interest. All meetings in 2017 were well supported and a very wide range of issues were discussed.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) confirmed on 12 October 2016 that David Johnston, Susie McBurney, Mark Taylor, Mark Falanga & Nathan Ung had been elected to fill casual vacancies on the WCRA Executive.

AEC conducted an election for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. Scott Bayliss was elected unopposed as Vice President and Greg Turner was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

WCRA wrote to the Fair Work Commission seeking authorisation for an election to fill the position of Secretary. Returning Officer, Ms Maree Malfitina (AEC) conducted an election and Jeff Brandstater was elected unopposed as WCRA Secretary.

The Members of the Executive as at 1st November 2017 are:

Harry Wilson	SMS	President
Scott Bayliss	Suez	Vice-President
Greg Turner	JR Richards	Treasurer
Jeff Brandstater	Brandster Services	Secretary
Jesse Brown	Toxfree	Executive Member
Mark Falanga	Wastefree	Executive Member
Glenn Gauslaa	Viking Waste	Executive Member
David Harrison	Viscount Plastics	Executive Member
David Johnston	URM	Executive Member
Susie McBurney	Remondis	Executive Member
Mark Taylor	Veolia	Executive Member
Nathan Ung	Polytrade Recycling	Executive Member

All Executive positions are for a 4 year term to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

The function of the WCRA Executive is governed by the Registered Rules of WCRA which define the membership and election process of the Executive.

A draft Code of Ethics relating to Members' conduct has been prepared for review by the Executive and possible future inclusion in the Rules.

Attendance at Monthly Executive Meetings by all Executive Members averages more than 70%

## Sponsors

WCRA Sponsors provide both funding and specialist expertise to WCRA members.

WCRA is honoured and grateful to be associated with the following companies:

Wastedge.com - waste operations & management software

TWUSUPER - industry superannuation

Tyres4U - heavy vehicle and passenger tyres

CJD/Volvo/SDLG - construction and waste management equipment

Allianz - workers compensation services

FUSO Mitsubishi Truck & Bus - heavy vehicles

Work Options - injury management specialists

Arthur J Gallagher - specialist insurance brokers

Green Goanna - a range of Shell industrial oils

Bucher Municipal - equipment manufacturer& supplier

## Life Membership

Life membership may be awarded to a member in recognition of outstanding service given to WCRA over a long period of time.

In awarding this honour, the Executive takes into account the Guidelines for Nomination for Life Membership of WCRA which state that the prospective Life Member:

- 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 his personal and business interests in the discharge of his WCRA duties and responsibilities; and
- Must have through his involvement with WCRA enhanced the operation and reputation of the Association & the industry.

The following former and present members are Life Members of WCRA:

- Ron Horsewell (Deceased)
- Mike Cresswell (Deceased)
- Arthur Baker

- Bernadette Byrnes
- Terry Dene
- Mike Noble
- Barry Thomas
- Harry Wilson

## Vale

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of well-known and loved WCRA member Peter Grima, founder and owner of *WasteSpec*. Peter died on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 after a relatively short battle with pancreatic cancer, aged just 53. The funeral held at Our Lady of the Angels, Kellyville was attended by well over one thousand mourners including representatives of many waste and recycling companies, from drivers to CEOs. A number of WCRA members attended the *Wish You Were Here* Gala Dinner held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, one year after Peter's passing, to help raise funds for the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

# Our Services

## Industrial and Employment Relations

With the expert assistance of Martin Dunne (Hunt & Hunt), WCRA provides regular advice to members on a wide range of employment and industrial relations matters including correct rates of pay, leave allowances, Award provisions, offsetting of over-Award payments, unfair dismissal and redundancy on loss of contract.

In the ever-changing industrial relations landscape of 2017, a few highlights of WCRA's involvement were:

- WCRA made representations to the 4-Yearly Review of the Waste Management Award 2010 with regard to the prospect of substantive changes being pursued by the TWU. The proposed variations were withdrawn by the TWU in February 2017.
- An annual wage increase of 3.3% to the Award became effective 1 July 2017.
- Martin Dunne provided a training workshop for interested members on the Modern Award Absorption Clauses
- WCRA made representations to Central Coast Council detailing concerns regarding potential carry-over of entitlements for the new domestic waste collection contract.
- An Employment Relations Update presented by Martin Dunne at the WCRA Half-day Industry Conference 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 covered a range of issues including;
  - Engaging subcontractors or employees
  - Casual conversion to full-time employment
  - Current status of the Waste Management Award

# Insurance and Workers Compensation

With the support of some of our key sponsors, WCRA is able to provide accurate and current advice on insurance and workers compensation matters to members.

The introduction of *icare* has been one of the most significant changes in recent years to the insurance and workers compensation framework. *icare* was formed in September 2015 through the commencement of the State Insurance and Care Governance Act. The Act also enabled the creation of two other government organisations to promote simpler and more efficient engagement. These are an independent insurance regulator State Insurance Regulatory Authority (*SIRA*) and an independent workplace safety regulator *SafeWork NSW*. The separation of the insurance functions was recommended through reviews and inquiries to resolve the inherent conflict between regulatory and service delivery functions and seeks to create a clear distinction between regulation and operations. *icare* workers insurance administers the Nominal Insurer, a private sector insurer responsible for providing workers compensation insurance to any NSW employer.<sup>2</sup>

- WCRA Executive Director Tony Khoury & WCRA President Harry Wilson met with *icare* on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- *icare* scheduled to take control of the invoicing for workers compensation premiums effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. Allianz (and the 4 other scheme agents) to take over the management of claims.
- *icare* announced Allianz will be a ‘transitional agent’ from 1 July 2017 & effective 1 January 2018 EML will be the sole Workers Compensation scheme claims agent
- Executive Director Tony Khoury attended *icare* New Workers Compensation Claims Model Seminar 25th July 2017

Other matters addressed by WCRA included:

- Advice re possible insurance implications of fires at waste facilities
- Probable impacts of NSW Fire & Emergency Services levy
- Advice concerning the ownership of domestic waste with regard to potential liability in terms of incidents

## Training Services

WCRA has continued to collaborate with its training partners to develop and deliver training specifically relevant to the waste and recycling industry, including an investigation of potential training opportunities aligned with WCRA’s expertise both locally and overseas.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.icare.nsw.gov.au/about-us/our-story](http://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/about-us/our-story)

Accredited training courses developed in conjunction with TAFE are presented by WCRA:

- Heavy vehicles and chain of responsibility
- Fatigue Management
- Work safely near Overhead Wires training

An agreement to present training on behalf of NSW EPA expired in June 2017

- Since 2011 WCRA has delivered more than 60 EPA training workshops, that have attracted 1,392 workers.
- WCRA has developed much of the training material in partnership with Möbius Environmental & G&B Lawyers in accordance with EPA requirements
- WCRA currently presents Waste & Resource Recovery training as a Standard module, an Advanced module and a module specifically directed to charity workers.
- The need within the sector for training delivered by experienced experts is ongoing. WCRA will investigate the continuation of the development of provision of training via a renewed partnership with NSW EPA or other parties.

In June 2017 WCRA was awarded \$200,000 by NSW Department of Industry to fund 3 projects for industry-driven training:

- A Pathway from Training to Employment
- The CDS, creating jobs across rural NSW
- Mentoring & Support

WCRA was invited by University of QLD to attend a “think tank” in course development for innovation in waste management.

## Functions and Events

The functions and events organised by WCRA include both social events and informative fora. They provide a popular and efficient means of members keeping up to date with industry regulatory developments and meeting socially with associates, colleagues and competitors.

WCRA presented (or will present) the following functions and events for members and sponsors in 2017:

- *Breakfast Briefing 14 March 2017*  
A very well-attended event focusing on the current status of glass recycling in NSW. Anne Prince (APC) presented an update on the work she has undertaken for WCRA analysing the issues and future strategy for glass recycling. Dr Tony Wilkins then moderated a hard hitting panel discussion with representatives from both industry and Government.
- *Annual Retirees Lunch 14 March 2017*

Retired members were invited to a lunch hosted by WCRA at Dooleys Lidcombe. The event was as usual well-attended.

- *Penrith Harness Night 27 April 2017*

Members and Sponsors attended an enjoyable evening of harness racing and dinner at Penrith Harness Racing Club

- *Industry Update Conference & Dinner 15 June 2017*

WCRA's annual half-day conference was held at Waterview in Bicentennial Park Homebush. Informative presentations were delivered on Chain of Responsibility, Positive and Perverse Outcomes of the Waste Levy, Employment Relations, Glass Recycling, CDS, Waste Regulation, Unfair Contract Terms legislation - and the Potential Refund of Excise for Fuel used on Toll Roads

A presentation on current trends in waste to energy given by Mark Jackson and Mike Ritchie at the conference dinner which followed the Industry Update sessions.

- *WCRA Golf Day 11 August 2017*

Around 90 members participated in the WCRA Annual Golf Day held at Cabramatta Golf Club. The team from Suez were worthy winners of the Ron Horsewell Memorial Shield.

- *Breakfast Briefing 14 November 2017*

A Breakfast Briefing session will precede the WCRA AGM. Presentations will be given by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on Chain of Responsibility and an overview of the CDS network, reverse vending machine technology and the Tomra/Cleanaway JV.

- *WCRA Annual Dinner 1 December 2017*

The Annual Dinner will be held in 2017 with a slightly different format at a new venue – Rosehill Gardens. The event will be Christmas themed with live music provided by “Sydney’s premier corporate party band” - *The Enormous Horns*. The inaugural WCRA Industry Awards will be presented at the Dinner.

- *Short Study Tour*

A two-day study tour to Melbourne to coincide with the Australian Waste & Recycling Expo was attended by nine members in August 2017.

- Site visits were organised to TIC Group’s new automated mattress recycling facility at Tottenham and the ToxFree E-waste processing facility in Dandenong and ToxFree Chemical Waste processing facility in Laverton North.
- A joint dinner was held with WCRA’s Victorian counterpart - the VWMA.

# WCRA Premises

*Suite 2, 12-16 Daniel St., Wetherill Park*

WCRA is unique amongst waste and recycling sector organisations and associations in that it owns its own premises. This provides a suitable location for WCRA's administrative activities, training, meetings of WCRA sub-groups and the Executive, all without incurring additional costs and with plenty of available free parking.

An upstairs balcony was added in 2016 and has been equipped with outdoor furniture and a portable BBQ to increase its usefulness as a break-out area for events and meetings. The functionality will be further developed in 2018. This addition has significantly added to the potential value of the WCRA premises.

## Our Groups

A number of specific interest industry discussion groups exist within WCRA. Matters relevant to these groups are noted in monthly Executive Meetings and correspondence is circulated within the respective group(s) and dedicated workshops or meetings are facilitated if required.

### Liquid Waste Group

The WCRA/Sydney Water Code of Practice for grease trap operators continues to operate.

WCRA has contacted Sydney Water numerous times regarding concerns of its members around non-compliance with regulations.

Liquid Waste Group members have expressed ongoing concern regarding increased difficulty of undertaking collections/pump-outs within the City of Sydney.

- Limited allowable hours of operation
- Safety issues re tanker parking requiring long lengths of hose
- Closure of George Street and other on-notified construction disruptions
- Operation of bike lanes causing interruption of safe and efficient collections/pump-outs

A new grease-trap liquid waste tracking system introduced in mid-2017

## C&D Waste Group

The WCRA C&D Waste Group (Skip Waste Group) has collaborated closely with the WMAA C&D Group (on the need for a workable methodology for the operation of C&D recycling operations) since the request for submissions to the Asbestos Management Review in September 2011.

The development of a proposed workable methodology has evolved into the NSW EPA *Protocol for Managing Asbestos during Resource Recovery of Construction and Demolition Waste* – otherwise known as the *Asbestos Protocol*.

Various draft versions of the *Asbestos Protocol* have been reviewed by members of the WCRA/WMAA working group over the past 5 years however the final version of the Guideline is still not available.

NSW EPA announced in November 2016 that the *Asbestos Protocol* would be released by late March 2017, however this commitment was later revised to commit to the inclusion of the *Asbestos Protocol* in the imminent release of the new *Standards for Managing Construction Waste in NSW*.

NSW EPA released a Draft version of the proposed *Standards for Managing Construction Waste in NSW* for public comment in late October 2017.

## Scrap Metal Group

The year was dominated by the proposal and introduction of new regulations by NSW Police and NSW EPA which have significant impact on the operation of scrap metal recovery businesses.

### *Cashless System*

- Members met with representatives of the NSW Police, Deputy Premier's Office and the Department of Justice to discuss draft regulations to provide a more lawful scrap metal industry. WCRA submitted comments on the proposed regulations.
- The new regulations underpinning the operation of a “cashless” system of scrap metal trading commenced 1 March 2017.
- WCRA has expressed concerns regarding the operation of the system and made a submission to the Small Business Office on the impacts of the cashless system.

### *NSW EPA Proposed Minimum Standards for Scrap Metal Yards*

- Members were invited to a meeting with NSW EPA regarding proposed EPA minimum standards for scrap metal facilities. This meeting was cancelled by

EPA officers with virtually no notice and signalled a marked deterioration in the relationship between the EPA and the waste and recycling industry.

- A replacement meeting was eventually arranged and WCRA submitted comments to the proposed EPA Minimum Standards on 18 September 2017

# Working with Government

## Work Health & Safety

### *SafeWork NSW*

- WCRA & SafeWork NSW renewed their partnership arrangement in October 2016
- The key issue related to safety in waste and recycling collection is the unreasonable operating time restrictions imposed on the waste sector by local government. WCRA has worked tirelessly to promote the additional risks imposed on the public and operators if collections are not allowed to be made before morning traffic peaks.
- Regular safety updates and alerts are sent to WCRA Members
- SafeWork provided some initial assistance in the safety implications of shopping centre carpark restrictions imposed by Canada Bay Council.

## Local Government

WCRA continues to voice the concerns of Members in response to unreasonable or unsafe clauses included in Local Government tenders. Common issues include:

- Unreasonable timeframes for response to tenders
- Unsafe collection conditions.
- Inequitable weighting of tender assessment factors

Lee Smith led a WCRA *Local Government Tendering Issues Workshop* in November 2016 which discussed:

- Lack of transparency
- Inaccurate information
- Unreasonable demands

- Unquantifiable performance requirements
- Commercially unsound tender conditions
- Obligations not in the residents' interest

Lee Smith and Tony Khoury delivered a joint presentation at the Coffs Harbour Waste 2017 Conference in May 2017 (Waste Services and Tendering Session) titled “*Are We Getting and Giving Value for Money*” which addressed:

- What the council wants
- What the resident wants
- What the collection contractor wants
- Challenges for the contractor’s supervisor
- Challenges for the council waste manager
- Paradoxes and perverse outcomes

Please refer to the issues mentioned above in Work Health & Safety

## NSW Environment Protection Authority

The relationship WCRA has with NSW EPA is potentially the most important to the effective operation of both WCRA and the NSW EPA.

NSW EPA has presided over a period of substantial change in regulation and guidance of the industry over the past three to five years. WCRA has repeatedly stated that the key requirement its members expect of the EPA is the provision of a level playing field. WCRA Members expect regulations to be sensible, easy to understand and equitably enforced. WCRA believes NSW needs a strong, well-resourced and well-skilled EPA to provide the level playing field which highlights and penalises illegal operators and encourages law abiding compliant operators.

Some of the key initiatives proposed and/delivered by the EPA include:

- A further four year *Waste Less Recycle More* grant funding worth \$337million
- Reduced licensing thresholds for waste depots
- Introduction of *Authorised Amounts* (stockpile limits) for licensed facilities
- Revised financial assurances for waste facilities
- Revised standards for the operation of C&D waste processing facilities
- Development of the *Asbestos Protocol*

WCRA has continued to express the concern of its Members at the ability of illegal operators to undercut legitimate operators by ignoring laws and regulations. Members are frustrated when they report illegal operations but never receive information as to the outcome. WCRA’s ongoing relating of these concerns to EPA senior staff has no doubt been the cause of some irritation and frustration within the EPA management team.

The broadcast of the ABC Four Corners program “*Trashed*” on 7 August 2017 and follow-up items in the SMH, on the ABC News and on the Ray Hadley radio program on 2GB precipitated an unprecedented deterioration in WCRA’s relationship with the EPA. Apparently the perception of some staff within the EPA was that aspects of the investigative program had been organised by WCRA to embarrass the NSW EPA. This is of course untrue.

WCRA has enjoyed a good working relationship with NSW EPA Senior Management until recent times and expects to be able to rebuild that relationship in the future. A meeting to explore the rebuilding of the relationship between members of the WCRA Executive, EPA CEO & Chair Barry Buffier and EPA Waste & Resource Recovery Director Sarah Gardiner has been scheduled to take place on 15 November 2017.

## Transport for NSW

WCRA has sought to develop a closer working relationship with NSW RMS and Transport for NSW in order to develop a more sensible and safe protocol for the collection of waste from “No Stopping” and “No Standing” zones. Little progress was made with former Minister for Roads Duncan Gay however WCRA is hopeful Minister Melinda Pavey will be more responsive to the resolution of the issue.

WCRA is also seeking to draw the attention of the Minister and the RMS to the risk posed by often brazenly non-compliant vehicles, used for interstate waste transport.

## Federal Senate Inquiry

The Federal Senate has conducted an inquiry into the waste and recycling industry in Australia including examining issues related to landfill, markets for recycled waste and the role of the Australian Government in providing a coherent approach to the management of solid waste.

WCRA made a written submission to the inquiry.

The inquiry is expected to report by the end of November 2017.

## NSW Government

The degree of change in regulation of the waste industry has required WCRA to broaden the scope of its contacts within the Departments’ and Ministers’ offices. WCRA has sought to meet with the Minister for Environment and key staff members as well as senior staff of the EPA on recognition of the fact that an understanding of the implications of legislative changes is required to insure appropriate changes are proposed.

- Minister Speakman agreed to attend a meeting of the Executive however the reshuffle of portfolios meant he was replaced by Gabrielle Upton.

- Minister Upton declined to attend the Executive Meeting to which Minister Speakman had agreed.
- Minister Upton also declined an invitation to address the Industry Update Conference Dinner.
- Since that time WCRA has met briefly with Minister Upton and her Chief of Staff and is hopeful that a productive dialogue can be developed.
- WCRA has also had the opportunity to meet with Shadow Environment Minister Penny Sharpe through her involvement in the Upper House Waste inquiry.

## NSW Upper House Inquiry

- NSW Upper House Inquiry into *“Matters relating to the waste disposal industry in New South Wales, with particular reference to ‘energy from waste’ technology”* announced in April 2017
- Submissions were accepted until 28 May 2017
- WCRA made a submission.
- Respondents were invited to make presentations to the Inquiry Panel.
- Following the ABC Four Corners “Trashed” program, the inquiry sought comment from respondents to matters raised in that program.

# Our Relationships

## WCRA ACT

WCRA NSW has continued to provide administrative support and guidance to WCRA ACT. Meetings are held at least twice per annum. Issues have included -

- Codes of Practice for C&D and C&I waste
- Fees for bins on Government land
- Standardised national waste tracking
- Proposed new waste regulations
- LSL provisions to government

## WMAA - Waste Management Association of Australia

WMAA and WCRA have historically enjoyed a productive working relationship. New CEO Gayle Sloan initiated discussions with WCRA to evaluate the potential for some form of partnership. At this time WCRA is happy to assess where WMAA’s future direction leads before considering the appropriateness of a partnership.

## **NWRIC - National Waste & Recycling Industry Council**

The formation of a new national waste industry association NWRIC (National Waste & Recycling Industry Council) was announced in November 2017. Membership of the Council is restricted to companies with national operations. Foundation Council members are:

- Cleanaway
- Suez
- Veolia
- JJ Richards
- ToxFree
- Remondis
- Resourceco
- Sims
- Solo
- Alex Fraser

State Associations invited to represent are:

- WRIQ
- WRINT
- WRIWA
- WRISA
- VWMA
- WCRA

WCRA was initially concerned that it may lose some of its autonomy if it became affiliated with NWRIC, however it is now confident that NWRIC can play an effective role in supporting State Associations on issues of common focus and advocating on issues of national importance

## **AORA - Australian Organics Recycling Association**

WCRA enjoys a good working relationship with AORA and the two associations collaborate on matters of joint interest from time to time.

## VWMA - Victorian Waste Management Association

WCRA shares a number of common interests with VMWA and the two associations collaborate frequently.

## WRIQ - Waste Recycling Industry Queensland

WCRA has worked together on a number of matters of common interest with WRIQ in past years. Many of the issues addressed by WRIQ are more relevant to QLD than NSW however both organisations maintain a good working relationship.

## ALOA - Australian Landfill Owners Association

WCRA enjoys a good working relationship with ALOA and the two associations collaborate on matters of joint interest from time to time.

## ACOR - Australian Council of Recycling

ACOR is a not-for-profit national industry Council representing businesses in the resource recovery and recycling industry. WCRA collaborates from time to time with ACOR on matters of mutual interest.

## Boomerang Alliance

Boomerang Alliance (BA) is Australia's largest alliance of environment and government organisations focused on packaging plastics and waste. WCRA collaborates with BA on a number of issues of common interest. Representatives of BA have attended and presented at WCRA events. There continues to be a level of mutual respect and a strong and growing relationship between WCRA & Boomerang Alliance which has not existed in the past with any waste industry association and a green NGO.

## Other Organisations

WCRA collaborates and cooperates from time to time with a large number of organisations whose interests coincide with its own. In the past year these have included:

- Civil Contractors Federation
- Asbestos Diseases Foundation
- Clean Up Australia
- Keep NSW Beautiful

# Australian Waste & Recycling Expo

WCRA & AWRE continue to benefit from an agreement which includes mutual support and promotion. A delegation of WCRA Members visited AWRE 2017 and WCRA Executive Director Tony Khoury presented at the 2017 AWRE Conference.

## The Issues We Address

### NSW Container Deposit Scheme

The NSW Government announced the proposal of a Container Deposit System for NSW in 2015.

- The scheme is intended to address beverage containers for away-from-home consumption.
- The CDS targets most beverage containers from 150ml to 3litres but does not include wine bottles.
- Implementation of the scheme was originally scheduled for 1 July 2017, however it has now been delayed until 1 December 2017.

Over the past three years, WCRA has promoted to the EPA and NSW Government the concept of an estimation methodology based on regular audits which would allow MRFs to claim deposits for containers recovered and recycled through kerbside and commercial collections. An audit methodology has been agreed by the Government and included in the NSW Container Deposit Scheme.

### Australian Standard for MGBs

WCRA was successful in persuading Standards Australia to reinstate the Australian Standard for MGBs AS 4123.7. WCRA has agreed to pursue the development of an Australian Standard for bin lifters.

## Glass Recycling Forum

- Lee Smith presented to a February 2016 Breakfast Briefing on “Issues in NSW Glass Recycling”. These issues include:
  - Reduced demand for recovered glass in past two years
  - Alternative uses for glass becoming less cost-effective
  - Globally depressed commodity values
  - Stockpile Limits likely to reduce viability of glass recovery operations
- A glass recycling forum was held at Marconi Club in April 2016 to canvas the issues further with members potentially affected.
- Anne Prince (APC) was appointed in September 2016 to report on the issues in more detail and to develop a draft strategy to suggest potential resolutions the crisis.
- The APC NSW Glass Recovery Strategy was presented by Anne Prince at a meeting of the Glass Recovery Forum (which became known as the EPA Glass Industry Working Group) in April 2017.
- APC presented an updated version of the Report and Strategy at the WCRA Industry Update in July 2017.
- NSW EPA funded a financial analysis of glass recycling issues and options undertaken by CIE in September 2017
- CIE presented an overview of the analysis at a meeting organised by the EPA on 17 October 2017. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled.

## Load Restraint Guide

WCRA, in conjunction with Bluescope Steel, is developing a Load Restraint Guide for crane trucks (HIABS, HMF, Palfinger, Ferrari, etc.) delivering bins. Trials were conducted in conjunction with Suez. In coming months, WCRA will seek RMS endorsement for this Guide.

## Weight-based Charging

Following a workshop in 2015 to discuss on board weighing and weight-based charging, WCRA has followed the trialling of weighing technology funded by NSW EPA. Conclusions from the trial conducted by Remondis in the Hunter are not yet publicly available. Representatives of the National Measurement Institute presented on 10 October 2017 to WCRA Members on the current status of test and accreditation of on-board weighing technology.

# Media

WCRA monitors both industry and general media for articles of particular relevance to members and waste-related issues. On average approximately seven media articles per month are brought to the attention of the WCRA Executive.

The ABC Four Corners program “*Trashed*” – broadcast on 7 August 2017 – overshadowed all other media in 2017 and was in fact the catalyst for a focus on the waste industry and the NSW EPA in following weeks by other sectors of the media.

The issues and claims raised in the Four Corners “*Trashed*” program included the following:

- *50% of recycling sent to landfill or disappears overseas*
- *Glass recycling at the point of collapse*
- *Fires in commingled stockpiles at SKM Coolaroo*
- *Spencer Landfill – illegal dumping, criminal involvement, resident concerns, questions to the EPA.*
- *Bingo questions regarding veracity of recycling claims and family involvement in substandard landfills*
- *Mangrove Mountain, concerns, dumping by Gosford Council, questions to the EPA, further landfill approvals.*
- *Dial-a-dump, waste to energy proposal, interstate waste transport.*
- *Proximity Principle, interstate transport, failure to regulate by the EPA*
- *Landfills in SE QLD receiving Sydney waste*

