

75 YEARS STRONG

*Championing the cause for
our waste and recycling
Members since 7 May 1948*



WASTE CONTRACTORS &
RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION
OF N.S.W

"WCRA is a key part of the essential service industry. We have operated for over 75 years assisting our Members to provide essential services. We've supported them, lobbied on their behalf, and provided them with advice. We've provided them with opportunities to meet with us so that we could discuss and better understand their issues to better represent them. And that's been at the heart of the association's service offering over that 75 years."

Tony Khoury, Executive Director, WCRA

SERVING OUR MEMBERS FOR 75 YEARS

Operating since 7 May 1948, the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA) has a long and proud history.

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.

EVOLVING AS NEEDS CHANGE

Over the years, we have continued to adapt and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our Members. In 2003, we merged with the NSW Road Transport Association's Waste Management branch, consolidating our position as the state's leading representative of waste and recycling contractors. This partnership provided the opportunity to hire an Executive Director with support staff, enabling us to expand our services with better advice, training and events.

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.



"I would like to say thank you for the NHVR chain of responsibility training that we attended last week. It was excellent and we gained a much deeper understanding of our requirements and obligations in this area. Tony's knowledge and passion for our industry were evident".

Feedback to WCRA from a Member dated 8 March 2023



"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)

MILESTONES IN OUR JOURNEY

Throughout our 75 years, WCRA has achieved numerous milestones significantly benefiting the waste and recycling industry and protecting Member investments.

LOBBYING EFFORTS TO SAVE JOBS

Among our most noteworthy achievements was the successful lobbying of the NSW Government and EPA to ensure recovered fines orders and exemptions were not revoked. This had the potential to impact over 100 organisations, including large recycling businesses and SMEs. These organisations process approximately 2.85 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste and 1.24 million tonnes of recovered fines each year, with a value of around \$500 million to the NSW state economy. WCRA's lobbying efforts have helped protect as many as 1,000 jobs by advocating for fair and reasonable regulations for the industry.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN WASTE AND RECYCLING

We continue to strongly advocate solutions to recycling and waste challenges, including the impact of fires from batteries, the federal ban on exporting unprocessed recyclables – including the proposal to tax those recyclables and the need for our Members to obtain a return on investment. We continue to spend considerable time promoting practical solutions to handle these types of waste once they enter the waste stream.

BUILDING A STRONG SUPPORT NETWORK

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.

WCRA's regular meeting schedule includes the Executive, ACT, Liquid/Hazardous, WHS, C&D, MRF and Scrap Metal groups.

LIAISING WITH GOVERNMENT

The waste and recycling industry has become increasingly complex, with many laws and regulations to navigate. We liaise with relevant local, state, and federal government agencies to act as a voice for our Members, who may lack the resources to understand government legislation. WCRA represents and supports Members of all sizes, providing training programs that meet the current and emerging issues faced by our industry. All training programs are referenced to the relevant regulations and standards, ensuring that our Members and their staff can access up-to-date compliance, training and support.

Throughout our 75 years, WCRA has maintained a continued industrial registration with the NSW IRC and, since 2007, with the Fair Work Commission.

REFLECTING ON OUR RECENT YEARS

Waste and recycling contractors were at the frontline during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing an essential service to householders and businesses that continued to operate and trade. Without the efforts of the industry and their many workers, the country would have faced considerable health, hygiene, and sanitation issues.

THE FUTURE FOR WCRA

Moving forward, the waste management and resource recovery sector continues to face numerous issues and challenges. We are experiencing a shortage of access to skilled and experienced labour due to lower migrant intake and the assessment of work-life priorities by many people. Increased regulations have also led to higher compliance costs, increased insurance premiums due to fires and a federal ban on exporting unprocessed recyclables. At the same time, Sydney is faced with a significant underinvestment in waste disposal infrastructure. The NSW Government, with an estimated \$775 million per annum in waste levy collections, needs to assist in addressing this critical shortfall in infrastructure.

Many of these issues are difficult challenges and we will continue to represent and service our Members with the latest information and updates. The development of training programs has been hugely positive for our industry, allowing us to provide training on relevant environmental practices and workplace safety. These resources ensure our Members

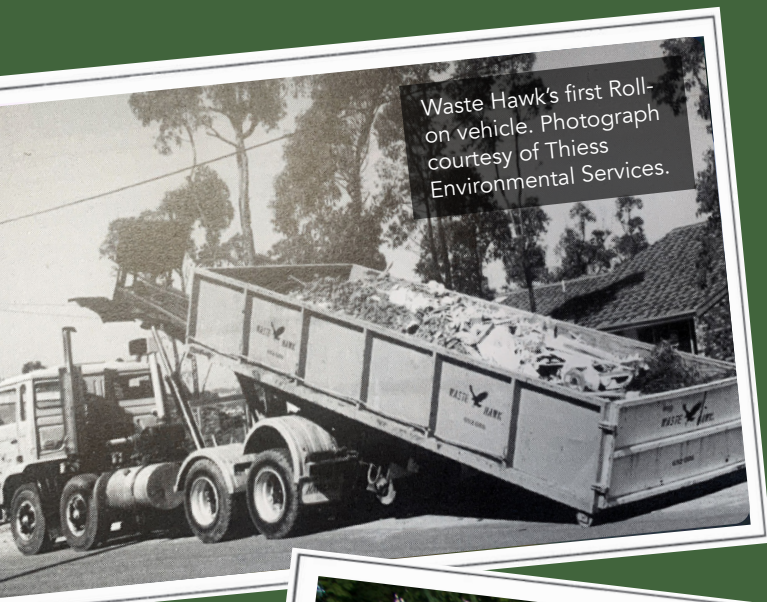


“Over the past three years, across every Australian jurisdiction, public health orders were issued – and in many cases re-issued and varied – to protect the community, ensure workers’ safety, and reduce the spread of infection from COVID-19. These health orders listed restrictions to activities and places that were closed. However, the waste and recycling industry, which provides an important and essential service for the community and businesses, continued to operate.”

Tony Khoury, Executive Director, WCRA

receive up-to-date information to continue to deliver essential services. WCRA will continue to evolve and adapt to the changes that come our way, providing the resources and support our Members need.





“WCRA represents a group of organisations and people dedicated to preserving the history, wellbeing, and integrity of the industry.”

Barry Thomas, representative of G Hawkins & Sons Pty Ltd (Waste Hawk) Thies Services and then Secretary, WCRA (1980 to 2010)



“Over the past 75 years, we’ve been able to unite various small waste groups into one strong organisation we know as WCRA. We’ve been able to provide our Members with access to professional advisors who can address issues related to legal, industrial, environmental 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. We will continue to work hard to maintain this high level of service and support for our Members.”

Harry Wilson, President, WCRA





WASTE CONTRACTORS &
RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION
OF N.S.W

With the support of our Members and Sponsors we can continue to be a strong representative association that waste and recycling stakeholders can rely on.



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



DAIMLER TRUCKS HUNTINGWOOD



Shell Lubricants
Distributor

Members of WCRA's Executive, April 2023

Harry Wilson, President, SMS Municipal Services

David Gater, Vice President, Veolia Environmental Services

Michelle Ford, Secretary, Brandster Services

Bijal Dixit, Treasurer, J R Richards & Sons

Ros Dent, Bingo Industries

Damien Vella, Breen Resources

Stuart Baird, Cleanaway

Graham Knowles, iQRenew

Joe Richards, JJ's Waste & Recycling

David Johnston, United Resource Management

David Harrison, Viscount Plastics

Mark Falanga, Kollect Group

www.wcra.com.au