**Waste 2025 Conference Abstract Submission**

**(for face-to-face Conference which includes live broadcast)**

*Empowering NSW government agencies to transition to a circular economy*

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

***\*\*\* SELECT A MAXIMUM OF 4 TOPIC AREAS ONLY \*\*\****

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| [ ]  | **Aboriginal community waste management** (projects, results, planning, what else to be done) | [x]  | **National, state and local issues** (policies, strategies, responses, opportunities, challenges) |
| [x]  | **Circular economy** (case studies, right to repair, material traceability, new materials targeted, climate change impacts) | [ ]  | **Organics** (food only vs FOGO, implementation strategies, new services) |
| [ ]  | **Collections** (innovations, new systems, vehicles, challenges) | [ ]  | **Plastics** (plastics recycling, plastics recovery schemes, small & large scale plastics projects) |
| [ ]  | **Container Deposit Schemes** (new schemes, new containers, innovations) | [ ]  | **Problem waste** (solar panels, batteries, textiles) |
| [ ]  | **Disaster waste management** (bushfires, floods, pandemic) | [x]  | **Procurement, tenders & contracts** (from start to finish, procurement approaches, tender processes and waste service contracts) |
| [ ]  | **Economics** (business cases, data gathering, planning for financial impacts, reviews & analyses) | [ ]  | **Product stewardship & extended producer responsibility** (current & planned schemes, new materials to be captured by schemes, local schemes for recovery) |
| [ ]  | **Education** (behaviour change, community engagement, social media, planning FOGO education) | [ ]  | **Project Planning** (projects currently planned, challenges and barriers, planning controls and conditions, project management) |
| [ ]  | **Energy from waste** (projects, case studies) | [ ]  | **Regional issues** (regional responses to waste settings, collaboration, joint projects) |
| [ ]  | **Hazardous waste** (asbestos, clinical & medical, illegally dumped hazardous waste, systems for managing hazardous materials) | [ ]  | **Resource recovery** (recycling, C&I/C&D, organics & other material recovery, emerging markets, insights & updates) |
| [ ]  | **Infrastructure & planning** (FOGO capacity, new material recovery planning) | [ ]  | **Social enterprise** (new entrants, recent endeavours, case studies) |
| [ ]  | **Innovative projects** (sustainability innovations, artificial intelligence, case studies) | [ ]  | **Strategic waste planning & policy** (stakeholder engagement, strategy development, waste policy impacts and opportunities) |
| [ ]  | **Landfill & facility management** (facility operations management, strategic planning, compliance) | [ ]  | **Technology in waste management** (AI, early adopters, innovations, improvements to services due to technology, barriers) |
| [ ]  | **Legislation, regulations & levies** (major updates, monitoring & enforcement, response to changes in regulations) | [ ]  | **Waste projects** (project management, business cases, grant delivery, case studies) |
| [ ]  | **Litter & illegal dumping** (prevention, new management systems & innovative & smart initiatives, surveillance) | [ ]  | **Other** |

[ ]  **Proposed Panel Discussion** -Proposed topic & participants suitable for key issues that may be addressed by a Panel of presenters. For this category suggest your topic & who you will arrange to attend and present (maximum of 5 panel members).

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Lit Wei Chin

**Presenter position:** Senior Policy Officer – Circular Economy Markets

**Presenter organisation:** NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW)

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**Biography**

Lit Wei is a Senior Policy Officer in the Circular Economy Market team at the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Waste (NSW DCCEEW). He has worked in the NSW Government across circular economy and climate risk since moving to Australia from New Zealand.

He brings a unique public and private partnership mindset, having previously worked at Auckland’s economic development agency to support the region’s shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. His current work focuses on supporting the NSW Government in procuring more recycled products to support sustainable recycling markets.

**Abstract Summary**

The Choose Circular program, delivered by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW), empowers government agencies to get the most value from our resources, reduce waste, and achieve net zero.

This presentation will offer an update on the progress of the Choose Circular program and provide insights into how the NSW Government is embedding sustainability provisions into procurement processes.

It will show how the NSW Government is leading by example to stimulate demand for recycled material, while also working to support the market response.

**Abstract**

The Choose Circular program empowers government agencies to get the most value from our resources, reduce waste, and achieve net zero. It enables circular procurement choices, including recycled products, and using circular practices in infrastructure and design.

Choose Circular is implementing the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy commitment for NSW Government departments to preference products that contain recycled content. It is supported by the $13 million Circular Innovation Fund, which was established by the NSW Government to support research into new technologies and uses for recycled material and provide opportunities to pilot them in government projects.

This presentation will provide an update on the actions being undertaken to implement this commitment, including:

* Choose Circular projects being led by NSW Government agencies to improve circular procurement practices and increase procurement of recycled materials
* A directory of recycled material products and suppliers to support government purchasing decisions
* Reporting on the use of recycled content in government procurement
* Training, resources and support to assist government agencies in implementation of environmentally sustainable procurement practices, including procurement of recycled materials
* Specification development for priority recycled materials.

This presentation is in conjunction with Bradfield Development Authority’s presentation on ‘Using products with recycled content in city builds’, which is an example of a Choose Circular project being delivered under the program.