**Waste 2025 Conference Abstract Submission**

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

*Insert presentation title here (max 10 words)*

*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) | [ ]  | **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) |
| [x]  | **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) | [ ]  | **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) | [x]  | **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) | [x]  | **Waste projects** (project management, business cases, grant delivery, case studies) |
| [ ]  | **Litter & illegal dumping** (prevention, new management systems & innovative & smart initiatives, surveillance) | [ ]  | **Other** |

[x]  **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:** Aaron Hudson

**Presenter position:** CEO

**Presenter organisation:** Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd

**Presenter email address:** aaron@anlscape.com.au

**Presenter phone number:**

**Presenter mobile number:** 0408408841

**Biography**

An experienced CEO, General Manager, and Senior Executive with over 25 years of extensive experience across both private and public sectors. Recognised for implementing transformative initiatives in environmental organizations and circular economy manufacturing, with a focus on optimizing managerial culture, enhancing divisional structures, and driving systems integration to maximize operational efficiency and company value.

Aaron began his career with Australian Native Landscapes, one of the largest composting and organics processing companies in Australia. He played a pivotal role as the GM of Australia's first in-vessel composting (Tunnels) facility for REMONDIS. In collaboration with Port Macquarie/Hastings Council, Aaron was involved in the pioneering adoption of food waste (FOGO) processing. He has also served as CEO of Kimbriki on the Northern Beaches and most recently, as CEO of reDirect Recycling for the Borg Group, where he led the Urban Wood Waste (UWR) program focused on circular economy manufacturing. Aaron has now returned full circle to Australian Native Landscapes, where he is dedicated to advancing FOGO and green waste infrastructure initiatives with the team.

*Insert biography here (max 150 words)*

**Abstract Summary**

Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd has been in business for over 50 years.

ANL’s organics recycling footprint includes 9 organics processing, composting and sales facilities supporting an additional 7 commercial sales operations, located in the Sydney Basin, the NSW Central and Mid North Coast, the Hunter Valley and the Central West regions of NSW

Over the last 40 years ANL has processed over 9 million tonnes of Greenwaste (GO) and organic residues to markets and over the last 10 years processed 400,000 tonnes of FOGO through the Badgerys Creek facility utilising new technology such as its aerated static floor system and pioneered the use of Hydroxyl technology within its enclosed FOGO building at Badgerys Creek.

There has been significant expansion across many divisions over the past few years. This has included a major upgrade to our Tea Gardens Organics Processing facility working towards the inclusion of FOGO processing and currently processing on a long-term contract with Hunter and Central Coast Councils including a proposed 90,000 tonne site at Warnervale currently in its EIS stage.

ANL’s existing locations provide a strong foundation and the infrastructure in place for further geographic growth and expansion across NSW

The Badgerys Creek facility processes 50,000tpa of FOGO. Our Browns Creek facility in the NSW Central West is processing large volumes of organic wastes and producing a wide range of agricultural ‘Carbon to Soil’ products.

ANL has over 20 Local Government contracts

Abstract

Significant Policy Developments

There have been significant policy developments implemented by NSW EPA transitioning down to Local Government local in its commitment to divert organics from landfill - “The recently tabled FOGO mandate”

This presentation will cover some major Key Learnings & New Environment Risks experienced by ANL since the introduction of “FOGO” and what this means for Councils making huge investment decisions for their local LGA.

 The presentation will focus on 3 main environmental challenges faced by the industry.

**Firstly,** a lack of coordinated understanding and approach among the EPA, councils, and the composting industry is seen by the industry as a threat to the EPA FOGO mandate landfill diversion aspirations and targets. I will discuss this in relation to the key points below.

**Secondly,** a key focus of my discussion will be the Council's thorough process for selecting the right Organic (GO & FOGO) and red bin collection method. This choice is crucial throughout the supply chain, ultimately impacting the quality of the compost product for market. What arrives at an ANL facility directly affects our operations.

I will share valuable insights from our ongoing contracts with Councils. The Council's decision when planning a FOGO rollout is critical. I will explore the implications of implementing an unsuitable FOGO waste collection service and its effect on diversion rates and the final product's quality. I will also highlight current Council FOGO collection services**.**

 **Thirdly,** and closely linked to the first point, are the emerging risks associated with the FOGO waste streams themselves. Choosing the incorrect FOGO collection services, particularly concerning the frequency of both FOGO and general waste bins, can significantly heighten the risk of contamination. This includes:

* Physical contamination (by weight)
* PFAS and PBDEs
* Microplastics
* Heavy metals (e.g., Zinc, lead)
* Chemical contaminants (Organochlorines and Organophosphates)

Contamination poses significant obstacles for organic processors striving to meet AS4454 compliance, an essential Australian Standard for producing high-quality compost that improves soil health and diverts waste from landfills.