**Waste 2025 Conference Abstract Submission**

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

Legislative reforms for mandatory battery product stewardship

*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) |
| [ ]  | **Circular economy** (case studies, right to repair, material traceability, new materials targeted, climate change impacts) | [x]  | **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) | [ ]  | **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) |
| [x]  | **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:** Zac Auton

**Presenter position:** Policy Manager, Circular Economy Policy

**Presenter organisation:** NSW Environment Protection Authority

**Presenter email address:** zac.auton@epa.nsw.gov.au

**Presenter phone number:** N/A

**Presenter mobile number:** N/A

**Biography**

Zac Auton is a Manager in the Circular Economy Branch at the NSW Environment Protection Authority. He is a highly accomplished policy leader with extensive experience driving policy and strategy and delivering outcomes in highly regulated industries.

Prior to joining the EPA Zac worked at Liquor and Gaming NSW as a policy evaluator and the Office of Sport where he led the development of legislative reforms to the Combat Sports Act and Combat Sports Regulation. He is a natural problem solver and is committed to delivering collaborative policy solutions.

Zac recently led the development of the FOGO mandates legislation for the EPA and is overseeing the remake of the Waste Regulation and the development of battery stewardship reforms.

Zac is undertaking a Master of Environment at Macquarie University and has a Master of Management from CSU and a Bachelor of Social Science (Social Policy) from the University of NSW.

**Abstract Summary**

By 2030 or earlier it is predicted that Greater Sydney will have exhausted its landfill capacity. In response to this, the NSW Government committed to halving the amount of organics waste sent to landfill by mandating the collection of organics waste for NSW households and businesses. This presentation will provide an overview of the Bill that was passed in February 2025 and outline the focus for the next phase of this work.

**Abstract**

NSW is facing a waste crisis in the next five years, with Greater Sydney’s landfill capacity expected to be exhausted by 2030. Unless recyclable material can be kept out of landfill, waste will need to be transported long distances for disposal, placing greater cost of living pressures on households and businesses.

NSW produces 1.7 million tonnes of food waste a year. Bin audit data conducted for the EPA has consistently shown that food and garden organics (FOGO) waste typically makes up a third of household residual bin capacity.

A 2023 C&I waste audit revealed that the NSW business sector sent over a quarter of their organics waste to landfill. Landfilling food waste creates significant emissions, with 1.5 tonnes of CO2 generated for every tonne of food waste in landfill and increases waste disposal costs for businesses.

NSW is leading the nation in combating food waste, becoming the first state to implement a statewide mandate for Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) recycling, to divert food waste from landfill. The mandates are predicted to divert up to one million tonnes of organic waste from landfill each year with most of it being recycled into quality compost products.

In November 2024, the NSW Government introduced into Parliament the FOGO Recycling Bill 2024. The Bill mandates the source separated collection of FOGO waste for all NSW households by 1 July 2030 and for select businesses and institutions in stages from 1 July 2026.

The presentation will outline the intent of the approach to the mandates and provide an update on the next steps, including developing an exemptions pathway and establishment of a FOGO Implementation Advisory Panel.