**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) |
| ☐ | **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) | ☐ | **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:** *Donna Portis*

**Presenter position:** *Senior Consultant*

**Presenter organisation:** *MRA Consulting Group*

**Presenter email address:** *donna@mraconsulting.com.au*

**Presenter phone number:** *na*

**Presenter mobile number:** *0407924501*

**Biography**

*Insert biography here (max 150 words)*

Donna brings over a decade of experience in the waste and resource recovery sector, with extensive expertise in Local Government and hands-on experience managing a diverse range of services. These include residential and commercial waste services, resource recovery infrastructure, waste education programs, and waste planning provisions. She has extensive experience in contract management and procurement and has successfully led several capital works initiatives focused on future-proofing services and planning for growth. Donna is highly skilled in contract management, procurement, and local government policy, with notable strengths in communication, relationship management, and financial management.

Committed to reducing reliance on landfill, Donna actively supports councils and industry in transitioning to a circular economy. At MRA, she leads a variety of strategic and commercial projects and holds a key leadership role within the organisation. In this capacity, Donna oversees a team of consultants delivering complex projects on behalf of local government and industry, including initiatives related to Victoria's kerbside reform, procurement, and service planning.

With many years of experience in people leadership, Donna leverages her passion for guiding teams to ensure staff deliver high-quality, consistent, and reliable services. A knowledgeable and driven senior consultant, she is deeply committed to driving change and supporting clients in achieving their strategic goals.

**Abstract Summary**

*Insert abstract summary here (max 100 words)*

Join MRA Consulting Group as we explore the evolving landscape of bulky hard waste (verge waste) services. This session highlights proven service models, key data on diversion rates, costs, and resource impacts, as well as behavioural shifts and emerging trends like skip bag collection services in Southeast Queensland. Gain insights into the benefits, risks, and challenges of traditional models while discovering innovative approaches that align with circular economy goals. Attendees will leave with practical takeaways to maximise sustainability, accessibility, and value for their communities, paving the way for a smarter, greener future.

**Abstract**

*Insert abstract here (400-600 words)*

Join MRA Consulting Group as we dive into the evolving landscape of bulky hard waste (verge waste) services.

Drawing on our extensive experience with local governments across Australia, this session will unpack the benefits, risks and challenges of traditional collection models, unpacking the highest performers in sustainability, environmental, accessibility and cost.

Discover the latest national research as we reveal:

* Proven service models and how they perform
* Eye-opening data on diversion rates, costs, and resource impacts
* Behavioural shifts linked to different models, and
* Exciting new trends, including the rise of skip bag collection services in Southeast Queensland!

This thought-provoking presentation goes beyond the basics, showcasing how councils can break barriers, embrace innovation, and align waste services with circular economy goals. Attendees will leave with actionable insights on choosing models that maximise sustainability, accessibility, and value for their communities—while paving the way for a smarter, greener future.