

PROGRAM CONFERENCE DAY ONE

TUESDAY 12 MAY

7.30 am CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration opens from 7.30am in the Pre-Function Foyer

8.30 am Introduction and Welcome: Thomas Freeman, Conference Convenor, Waste 2026

8.40 am Welcome to Country: Uncle Richard, Garlambirla Aboriginal Elders Group

8.50 am Welcome from the City of Coffs Harbour

Nikki Williams, Mayor, City of Coffs Harbour

9.00 am Working together for a stronger circular economy in NSW

The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage

9.20 am Policy and regulation in the circular economy

Tony Chappel, CEO, NSW Environment Protection Authority

9.40 am Mandating food and soft plastics collection: Lessons from England

Cathy Cook, Senior Advisor, ReLondon

10.00 am Announcement of the winners of the Collaboration and Innovation Awards

10.20 am MORNING TEA

Sponsored by:



PANEL DISCUSSION: Resource recovery investment – challenges & crossroads

BALLROOM

10.50 am Resource recovery investment – challenges and crossroads

Whilst government interest and funding continue to support some progress in resource recovery, throwing capital at infrastructure is unlikely to respond to all challenges.


In this panel discussion, the assumed settings will be highlighted. Experts will explain how government and industry responses are being shaped within a shifting policy, economic and cultural paradigm. How are decisions made about policies and funding priorities? How does industry keep their strategies and capital investment planning dynamic in the face of uncertainty on policy positions? How do the challenges and risks impact resource recovery outcomes?

Facilitator: Garth Lamb, Chief Development Officer, Re.Group

Panel Members:

- Carmen Loecherer, Chief Operating Officer – Resource Recovery, Veolia Australia & New Zealand
- Preet Brar, Executive GM EfW & Major Projects, Cleanaway
- Rod Carr, Director, Marsden Jacob Associates
- Tony Chappel, CEO, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Tony Circelli, Head, Recycling Victoria

12.20 pm LUNCH			
CIRCULAR ECONOMY	INFRASTRUCTURE	PLASTICS	EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Rod Carr, Marsden Jacob Associates</i>	Chairperson: <i>Joshua Same, Maddocks</i>	Chairperson: <i>John Vyse, Why Waste It</i>	Facilitators: <i>Matilda Kearney, CleanEra</i>
1.30 pm Unlocking opportunities in the circular economy Joanne Chong, Commissioner, Productivity Commission	Waste infrastructure planning update Lachlan Harris, Manager Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Cycleback: Building Australia's first end-to-end circular soft plastics pathway solution Vanessa Lenihan, Head of Future Fuels and Decarbonisation, Viva Energy Australia	Revolutionising weighing: Smart software, seamless automation, precision service Jem Kokcek, Managing Director, Weigh-More Solutions
1.50 pm The circular vintage Olympia Yarger, Founder & CEO, Goterra	Asset-led circularity: Bringing policy to life Aaron Carter, General Manager - Resource Recovery, Cleanaway	NSW Plastics Plan 2.0: Addressing the challenges of plastic waste Rebecca McCormack, Acting Unit Head, Circular Economy Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	MAStrac – Electronic bin and caddy delivery system Stephen Hewett, Sales & Business Development Manager, MASTEC Australia
2.10 pm How behavioural insights help bring the circular economy to life Alex Geddes, Executive Director, Programs & Innovation, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Rethinking local government's role in waste infrastructure Richard Collins, National Discipline Manager - Waste Advisory, Arcadis Australia Pacific	Confectionery packaging: Closing the loop on soft plastics Darren Thorpe, Managing Director, Australian Paper Recovery	Propeller: Real-time hydro analysis for smarter landfill management Jasmine Jarvis, Account Manager, Propeller
2.30 pm Unlocking human nature to apply best-practice waste management Richard Reeve, Independent Researcher	Dynamic planning in the Circular Economy: A town planner's perspective David Schumacher, General Manager – Planning & Approvals, SOILCO	Reduce reuse refill - Rethinking packaging in Australia Tara Jones, Program Manager, Plastics & Packaging, Australian Marine Conservation Society	Waste to wealth: Vortair's integrated resource recycling platform Jeff Lang, CEO, Vortair
2.50 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	We looked inside 600,000 FOGO bins, what did we learn? Naser Soueid, Managing Director, CleanBins
3.00 pm AFTERNOON TEA	Sponsored by: 		From guerrilla street furniture to 3,000 container diversion units Jonathan Gibson, Founder, Bin Bypass

ENERGY FROM WASTE	BATTERY FIRES	PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP	THE GRUBBY BUCKET GAME SHOW
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Thomas Freeman, Impact Environmental</i>	Chairperson: <i>Libby Chaplin, Battery Stewardship Council</i>	Chairperson: <i>Melissa Gutberlet, Marsden Jacob Associates</i>	Facilitators: <i>Costa Georgiadis, Cate McQuillen, dirtgirl and scrapboy</i>
3.30 pm The EfW Inquiry: An update Nichole Overall, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW	Battery fire solutions – Where are we at? Brett Lemin, Executive Director, Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW & ACT	Growing and optimising a national stewardship scheme during a time of change Jade Barnaby, Director Best Practice and Innovation, Battery Stewardship Council	A joyful eruption of noise, laughter and circular cleverness, the Grubby Bucket Game Show is the perfect outdoor activation for Waste 2026. Hosted by game master scrapboy – with dirtgirl and Costa the Garden Gnome roaming the crowd – four teams compete in lightning rounds of quizzes, charades, scavenger tasks and mini-quests. Every correct answer earns a prize from the infamous Grubby Bucket: sticks, tubes, leaves, cans, bark, string... at first confusing, later utterly essential. Because the twist comes at the end.
3.50 pm Bringing Australia's first energy recovery facility into operation Scott Reynolds, General Manager, Kwinana Energy Recovery	The hot flush... and no, not that kind! Vanessa Seaton, Business Development Manager NSW & ACT, Re.Group	Solving the big bag problem: Circular solutions at national scale Paige Christodoulou, National Sustainability Manager, Big Bag Recovery	After the chaos subsides, scrapboy announces that competition is over – and collaboration begins. All teams must now pool their random objects to build a yet to be revealed naturehood must-have, guided by humour, creativity and circular thinking. Together we will move from trivia to teamwork, from laughter to legacy, experiencing the core message of the conference in real time: waste becomes resource, competition becomes collaboration, and joy becomes change.
4.10 pm Purposeful agility delivering resilient, reliable outcomes Preet Brar, Executive GM EfW & Major Projects, Cleanaway	Mandatory product stewardship for batteries – NSW leads the way Zac Auton, Manager – Circular Economy Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Repairing phones, restoring connections, reducing waste Alejandra Lacleite, Sustainability and Stewardship Manager, Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association	It's unforgettable, completely manageable, and makes fun of sustainability...in the best way!
4.30 pm If not now... when? The local council pathway to contracting for EfW Katherine Driscoll, Senior Consultant, Impact Environmental Consulting	Lithium batteries are safe. So why are we seeing fires? David Cooke, Sales & Account Executive, EcoBatt	Tyre dumping isn't accidental — So why are councils paying? Tammie Miller, Head of Market Development, Tyre Stewardship Australia	
4.50 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	
5.00 pm CLOSE OF DAY ONE			
5.30 pm – WELCOME RECEPTION – Outdoor Exhibition, Opal Cove Resort			Sponsored by: 
7.30 pm Entertainment by: Evan Ayres			
8.00 pm – POST WELCOME RECEPTION – Horizons Bar, Opal Cove Resort			
11.00 pm Entertainment by: Timbregains			

8.00 am WELCOME TEA & COFFEE

8.30 am Introduction and welcome from chair: Richard Collins, NSW President, Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association Australia (WMRR)

8.40 am Coffs Waste Conference celebrates with a 30-year retrospective

The Coffs Waste Conference turns 30 – a milestone that mirrors the transformation of the waste industry itself. From humble beginnings, through constant change, the past three decades have taken us from a waste world focused on simple disposal to one shaped by recycling, regulation, FOGO, circularity and community engagement.

To celebrate this journey, our seasoned and long standing industry and conference veterans will take the stage to reflect on the most significant shifts, challenges and achievements of the last 30 years – and offer a few bold suggestions for what the next 30 might hold.

It promises to be a lively, insightful and thoroughly entertaining session, and one that captures just how far the industry has come.

Facilitator: Greg Freeman, Former Convenor, Coffs Waste Conference

Panel Members:

Kathy Giunta, Director Major Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority

Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group

Tracy Chalk, Head of Waste & Resource Recovery, Penrith City Council

9.10 am 80% Municipal separate collection and recycling: How northern Italy built a system with organics at its core

Marco Ricci, Managing Director, Altereko sas Consulting, Italy

9.30 am SMaRT technologies using waste as a sustainable resource

Veena Sahajwalla, Director, Centre for Sustainable Materials Research & Technology, UNSW

9.50 am Australia's fuel crisis: Is it toilet paper 2.0?

Brett Lemix, Executive Director, Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW & ACT

10.10 am MORNING TEA

PANEL DISCUSSION: REFLECTING ON 30 YEARS OF WASTE EDUCATION

OSPREY ROOM

10.40 am This panel invites delegates to pause and take stock of the extraordinary journey waste education has been on — from the early days of “bin basics” to today’s complex systems of FOGO, circularity, community stewardship, and behaviour-change campaigns.

The conversation will weave together voices from different eras: pioneers who built the foundations, practitioners who innovated through challenge, and new leaders redefining what community-led circularity can look like. Together, they explore what worked, what didn’t, what surprised us, and which lessons we can no longer afford to ignore.

Facilitator: Costa Georgiadis, Host, ABC’s Gardening Australia and ‘Costa the Garden Gnome’ - Get Grubby TV

Panel Members

- Barbara Gill, General Manager, Garage Sale Trail
- Cate McQuillen, Creative Producer / Owner, meme productions - One Story
- Glenn Eales, General Manager, EnviroCom Australia
- Ryan Collins, Head of Impact and Research, Planet Ark

PANEL DISCUSSION: FOGO – HERE, NOW AND WHAT’S NEXT

CURRAWONG/SHEARWATER ROOM

This panel of experts will provide updates and insights on how stakeholders are responding to the requirements for implementing FOGO management systems. The discussion will cover the circular economy drivers influencing FOGO programs, what is emerging as best practice, and the challenges currently being identified across the sector, including areas where legislative and regulatory improvements could assist. The panel will also explore how the industry is progressing in its overall approach to FOGO management.

The session will offer delegates timely, practical and engaging insights from a diverse range of FOGO sector participants.


Facilitator: Stuart MacLachlan, Associate Director, Marsden Jacob Associates

Panel Members

- Amanda Kane, Organics Lead, Circular Economy Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Daniel Nicholson, Director, Topsoil Organics
- Marco Ricci, Managing Director, Altereko sas Consulting
- Mark Darwin, General Manager Infrastructure, JR Richards & Sons
- Nicole Greenwood, Manager FOGO & Resource Recovery, Blacktown City Council

12.10 pm LUNCH

FOGO PROCESSING	EDUCATION	REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	WORKSHOP: DESIGNING A MUNICIPAL WASTE AUDIT PROGRAM
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Michael Bonanno, Cleanaway</i>	Facilitator: <i>Lisa Siegel, Australian Association for Environmental Education</i>	Chairperson: <i>Alison Leckie, Northern Inland Regional Waste</i>	Facilitators: <i>Samuel Lawson, Senior Consultant, RMCG</i>
1.20 pm Powering the circular economy: Solutions for the FOGO mandate Nick Lawrance, Engineering Manager, NALG Envirotech	KESAB/East Waste schools program - behaviour change through peer-led action Henry Bowesman, Manager Environmental Services, KESAB environmental solutions	Securing our waste future through united regional action Steve Krieg, Mayor, Lismore City Council	This workshop walks participants through the key stages involved in designing a municipal waste audit program - from clarifying objectives to choosing the most suitable methodology and navigating the ever-challenging task of determining sample sizes.
1.40 pm Balancing compliance, cost, and community: A regional approach to FOGO Carly Gregg, Manager – Waste and Resource Recovery VIC/TAS, SMEC	Breaking down the components of effective behaviour change Glenn Eales, General Manager, EnviroCom Australia	Regional procurement and contracting Antony Cullen-Ward, Regional Projects Coordinator, NetWaste	The session provides a clear, structured process to help participants balance the need for accurate, reliable data with real world resource constraints and operational demands.
2.00 pm Pathways for transforming low-value contaminated FOGO rejects into viable resources Angus Johnston, Director, New Resource Solutions	Transforming recycling behaviour through evidenced-based co-design Shirani Glover, Executive Director, Communications Marketing & Engagement, Exchange for Change	Distance to resilience: Commissioning a regional MRF in Shoalhaven Peter Windley, Project Manager Waste Services, Shoalhaven City Council	The goal is to design an audit program that is genuinely useful, supports policy outcomes, and avoids unnecessary cost or complexity. Through guided, hands-on activities, attendees will begin shaping the scope of their next municipal waste audit with greater clarity and confidence.
2.20 pm Dry anaerobic digestion: making Australia's FOGO mandates bankable Sean Galdermans, General Manager, OREZ	Trailblazing FOGO mandates: Educating children to maximise FOGO recovery Rachel McIntyre, Coordinator Resource Recovery Planning - Campaigns & Projects, Inner West Council	Beyond the bin: Tackling regional waste challenges in Mildura Geri Robles, Senior Environmental Engineer – Waste and Resource Recovery, SMEC	
2.40 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	
2.50 pm AFTERNOON TEA			

FOGO COLLECTION	DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT	WORKSHOP: FINANCIAL AND OPERATING FUNDAMENTALS FOR LANDFILL PROFESSIONALS	WORKSHOP: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NSW
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Jennifer Hughes, Beatty Hughes & Associates</i>	Chairperson: <i>Steve Krieg, Lismore City Council</i>	Facilitators: <i>Ronan Cullen & Alex Uptis, Talis Consultants and Liz Spooner & Rob McGahey, Optimal Site Performance</i>	Facilitator: <i>Bernie Turner, Unit Head Community Recycling, NSW Environment Protection Authority</i>
3.30 pm Tackling FOGO contamination with AI and social science Amanda Kane, Organics Lead, Circular Economy Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Asbestos and natural disasters – A growing risk in a changing climate Daniel Adler, Project Manager – Asbestos Policy, LGNSW	This workshop will be broken into two parts: Understanding the Whole of Life (WoL) cost of landfilling residual waste Every tonne of waste received carries a long-term financial obligation for its compliant management extending for the active life of the landfill, and beyond. To ensure you are both fully aware of the component costs involved in the long-term management of residual waste, and you are accounting for both costs incurred today and those to come in the future, this workshop will help you identify both the magnitude and relative importance of each component within the WoL calculation through the use of real examples and cost-modelling exercises. Optimise your landfill operations and workforce performance Efficient site operations and a skilled team can reduce operational costs and extend landfill life by years. Drawing from real life examples this workshop will focus on assessing staff capability, identifying training needs, and improving machine utilisation and site planning to maximise airspace - the most valuable asset of any landfill. Participants will learn proven methods for measuring operational efficiency, reducing wasted airspace, and implementing continuous improvement strategies for their teams.	This workshop will provide councils, regional waste groups and waste management companies with an opportunity to discuss problematic waste, including the types of waste posing the most significant risks to the environment, human health and waste management systems. It will provide an opportunity to workshop solutions to the collection and management of these waste types and feed into the EPA's broader framework and issues paper that will guide the program's future over the next five and ten years. During this session, we want to hear about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biggest challenges in managing problem waste Waste types causing the most concern due to environmental, health, and safety risks We'll also workshop practical options and innovative solutions for managing these waste types. So come ready to share your ideas and help shape the next chapter of household problem waste management in NSW!
3.50 pm The Hills Shire Council MUD infrastructure audit for FOGO preparation Edward Santos, Coordinator – Resource Recovery Operations, The Hills Shire Council	Turning chaos into capacity: Disaster waste planning for resilient communities Lyndell Coates, Senior Waste Management and Circular Economy Consultant, Talis Consultants		
4.10 pm Ipswich's organics journey - From opt-in FOGO to standard GO Paul Tanko, Senior Community Education and Engagement Officer, Ipswich City Council	Strengthening local government disaster waste preparedness in NSW: practical guidance and tools for an effective response Nicole Julian, Senior Project Officer – Incident Management & Environmental Health, NSW Environment Protection Authority		
4.30 pm The Goldilocks principle: Getting FO bin size just right Edie Benny, Project Officer, City of Sydney	Disaster waste management in regional communities - Wollondilly sub-plan Donna Shiel, Senior Associate Consultant, Tonkin + Taylor		
4.50 pm Q&A	Q&A		
5.00 pm CLOSE OF DAY TWO			
6.15 pm Pre-dinner drinks – Bayside Green /Reception Lawns, Pacific Bay Resort	Entertainment by: Charlie Davis		
7.30 pm CONFERENCE DINNER – Reef Room, Pacific Bay Resort	Sponsored by: 	Theme: Grit & Glamour: Celebrating 30 Years in 1930s Style	Entertainment by: Sophisticats with the Moye Boys



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EcoBatt, part of the EcoCycle Group are driving meaningful change through our nationwide battery collection service, designed to significantly reduce batteries entering landfill.

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PROGRAM CONFERENCE DAY THREE THURSDAY 14 MAY

8.00 am WELCOME TEA & COFFEE

9.00 am **Welcome from the Chair:**
Thomas Freeman, Conference Convenor, Waste 2026

9.10 am **Updates in waste regulation**
Steve Beaman, Executive Director Operations, NSW Environment Protection Authority

9.30 am **Why do Container Deposit Schemes succeed while other EPR models struggle?**
Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group

9.50 am **PANEL DISCUSSION: END OF LIFE APPLIANCES – THE HIDDEN COSTS**

CURRAWONG/SHEARWATER ROOM

This panel will unpack what happens to fridges, freezers and other appliances once they reach end of life. Recycling rates look strong on paper, however inconsistent degassing practices, cost pressures and fragmented regulation mean valuable materials — and harmful refrigerants — are still being lost. The discussion will trace the journey from collection to processing, highlighting gaps in responsibility, enforcement and funding that undermine outcomes. The panel will explore why voluntary approaches struggle, how “free-riders” distort the system, and whether a stewardship model could finally lift recovery rates and ensure safe, consistent degassing across the sector.

Facilitator: Brett Lemin, Executive Director, Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW & ACT

Panel Members

- Adam Hamawi, Team Leader Waste, City of Ryde
- Annie Walker, Senior Coordinator, Circular Economy, SSROC
- Natalie Churn, Assistant Director, Ozone Regulatory Strategy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

11.00 am MORNING TEA

LANDFILL MANAGEMENT	SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE	REPAIR & REUSE (PART 1)	WORKSHOP: WASTE DATA MATURITY. MOVING FROM COLLECTING INFORMATION TO INTELLIGENT DECISION MAKING
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Chris Sharman, Glen Innes Severn Council</i>	Chairperson: <i>James Dorney, TOMRA Cleanaway</i>	Facilitator: <i>Hal Dobbins, Lake Macquarie City Council</i>	Facilitator: <i>Lacey Webb & Chloe Rhoades, Resource Hub</i>
11.30 am Landfill gas project renewable hybrid – Expediting the energy transition Katrina Nelson, Business Development Manager, LGI Limited	Penrith City Council's material flow analysis for council-managed waste Katherine Dodd, General Manager, MRA Consulting Group	Taking textile recycling out of the too hard basket Meriel Chamberlin, Business Development Manager, Salvos Stores Australia	Facilities across Australia produce more waste data than ever — yet many still struggle to turn that information into reliable reporting, operational insight, and defensible EPA or Regulator outcomes. This workshop provides a practical framework to help facilities across industry and local government lift from basic data collection to intelligent, integrated data use.
11.50 am Review of techniques for fugitive methane quantification at landfills Jane Barnett, Director, Zephyr Environmental	Byron Shire's move to reuse Danielle Hanigan, Manager Resource Recovery, Byron Shire Council	Giving bikes a second life, SSROC's Retread program Tegan Yasserie, Circular Economy Project Officer, Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)	Using a 5-level maturity model, participants will assess their current data capability and learn how to improve data structure, levy & compliance reporting accuracy, internal data standards, and gatehouse processes. The session explores key state regulator expectations, common audit issues, and the growing need for consistent data across regional waste groups.
12.10 pm Leachate management at a regional landfill - Case study Nikita Sharma, Chemical Engineer, BeneTerra	Embedding sustainability in Parramatta's public events Lisa Kollaras, Sustainability Officer, City of Parramatta	Rehoming furniture, renewing community Caitilin Pettigrew, Recycling Programs Officer, City of Sydney	Through hands-on activities and real examples, councils will develop a 90-day action plan and a clear roadmap to strengthen their data accuracy, compliance, and decision-making. Ideal for waste managers, compliance officers, and anyone responsible for waste data, contracts, reporting or planning.
12.30 pm Designing a new regional landfill for a rebuilding community Garon Clough, Director of Waste and Resilience, Lismore City Council	Best practice in council sustainability rebates Justin Bonsey, Managing Director & Principal, Tidal Circular	Repair Fair 2025 - Repair Reuse Reimagine Corrine de Mestre, Waste Projects Officer, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	
12.50 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	
1.00 pm LUNCH			

CHALLENGING WASTE	LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING	REPAIR & REUSE (PART 2)	WORKSHOP: SCRAPS TO SOIL
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CLEANERA MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Andrea Baldwin, Wagga Wagga City Council</i>	Chairperson: <i>Samuel Lawson, RM Consulting Group</i>	Facilitator: <i>Lacey Webb, Resource Hub</i>	Facilitator: <i>Elizabeth Scott, Compost Whisperer</i>
2.00 pm Neutralising the threat: A comprehensive strategy for high-risk municipal waste Mason Grave, Technical Manager – Environmental Services, Pure Environmental	Building an evidence-based approach to litter prevention Ju'eta Amir, Resource Recovery Program Manager, City of Canada Bay Council	Repairing for a circular future: Community-driven models for waste recovery Jarrod Roskell, NSW State Manager, Resource Recovery Australia	Scraps to Soil is a home composting and worm farming workshop that teaches you how to transform your kitchen and garden scraps into nutrient-rich food for your soil and plants.
2.20 pm Commercial-scale recycling of nappy and continence waste Clarke Kelland, Technology and Commercialisation Manager, Kelland Environmental Technology	Understanding the complexities and motivators of illegal dumping behaviours Wendy Bevan, Chief Executive Officer, KESAB environmental solutions	Recovery and reuse to save lives – The MedEarth Story Steve Williams, Director, MedEarth	Offered by MidWaste Regional Waste Forum, this workshop covers the basics of getting started with composting and worm farming at home and teach you how to create rich compost to make your garden grow! You will learn:
2.40 pm Achieving 100% diversion for mattresses David Petrie, General Manager – Soft Landing, Community Resources Limited	Butt busters: A collaborative rapid response to cigarette butt litter Shannon Mead, Founder and Executive Director, No More Butts	The Bower: building a circular economy and empowering communities Nathan Smith, CEO, The Bower Reuse & Repair Centre Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of composting • How to set up, manage, and maintain a compost bin or worm farm • What materials to use and how to troubleshoot common issues • How to apply compost products effectively in your garden
3.00 pm PFAS removal from sewage including biosolids using SAFF® Peter Murphy, Managing Director, EPOC Enviro	Bird feeding doesn't fly in Canterbury-Bankstown Jaydn Mcgregor, Project Officer Resource Recovery, City of Canterbury Bankstown	Planning for reuse and repair services at a regional level Katherine Dodd, General Manager, MRA Consulting Group	
3.20 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	

3.30 pm AFTERNOON TEA

4.00 pm From here to next: Our shared circular future

This final collective moment invites delegates to come together and integrate everything they've seen, felt and learned throughout the conference. Guided gently by Costa and Cate, participants identify key shifts, surprise insights, emerging needs, and one meaningful change they are ready to take home to their LGA. It's reflective but energising – a rare, spacious moment within a busy conference to articulate direction and purpose.

The session ends with a simple ritual: each person writes a single word of intention on a seed card – a commitment, an aspiration, a reminder of who they want to be in this work. These cards become both a takeaway and a promise to their communities. It's a soft landing filled with clarity, hope and collective momentum.

Hosted by: Costa Georgiadis, Cate McQuillen, dirtgirl and scrapbox

5.00 pm CLOSE OF DAY 3

6.30 pm CONFERENCE FINALE BUFFET – Horizon's Restaurant, Opal Cove Resort
Entertainment by: Superstrait Duo

Sponsored by:  **MRA**
Consulting Group

Program subject to change without notice