**Waste 2025 Conference Abstract Submission**

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

NSW Waste Infrastructure Plan

*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:** Lachlan Harris

**Presenter position:** Manager Policy

**Presenter organisation:** NSW Environment Protection Authority

**Presenter email address:** lachlan.harris@epa.nsw.gov.au

**Presenter phone number:** 02 9995 6490

**Biography**

Lachlan is a Manager in the Circular Economy Policy Branch at the NSW Environment Protection Authority. He has held various policy roles at the EPA for 6 years and has extensive experience in regulatory policy and programs, particularly in the waste sector.

Prior to his current role he was involved in the rollout and operation of NSW’s container deposit scheme, Return and Earn, NSW’s land management and biodiversity conservation reforms and the development of the NSW Koala Strategy.

He holds a Masters of Public Policy from University of Sydney and a Bachelor of International Relations from University of Wollongong.

A person in a suit and tie

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**Abstract Summary**

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is developing NSW’s first waste infrastructure plan to address immediate and critical waste infrastructure shortfalls. By 2030, Greater Sydney is expected to run out of sufficient landfill capacity, meaning that more waste will be transported into regional NSW or interstate at the expense of households, businesses and the NSW economy.

The NSW Waste Infrastructure Plan is a whole-of-government Plan designed to address immediate waste infrastructure constraints, facilitate private sector investment in new waste infrastructure, and strategically guide future planning of waste infrastructure.

**Abstract**

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is developing NSW’s first waste infrastructure plan. The plan is being developed to respond to the immediate need for additional residual waste infrastructure capacity in Greater Sydney so that the right amount is in place for the future.

NSW is currently approaching significant challenges to the continuity of its waste management. In Greater Sydney, demand for landfill space is expected to exceed supply by 2030 and without urgent action, waste generated by households, businesses and construction & demolition activities will have restricted access to safe disposal pathways. This will force more waste to be transported into regional areas of NSW or interstate for disposal, which is estimated to increase the cost of red-bin kerbside collections by 20% on average. These constraints may delay and increase the cost of major infrastructure projects, such as housing and transport, at an estimated cost of $23bn to the NSW economy.

The EPA has been listening to stakeholders describe issues with landfills closing that could expand, existing frameworks discouraging private investment, planning system barriers and the need for strategic planning for waste facilities.

In response to these issues, the Plan sets out whole-of-government actions that are designed to address immediate waste infrastructure constraints, facilitate private sector investment in new waste infrastructure, and strategically guide future planning of waste infrastructure.

This Plan is designed to be released in ‘chapters’, with this first chapter focused on addressing immediate shortfalls in residual waste infrastructure capacity. Subsequent chapters will be released with a focus on regional waste infrastructure needs and the needs of NSW’s circular economy transition.