**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:** Darryl Nichols

**Presenter position:** Cofounder

**Presenter organisation:** Grow It Local + Garage Sale Trail

**Presenter email address:** darryl@growitlocal.com

**Presenter phone number:** n/a

**Presenter mobile number:** 0422-665-088

**Biography**

Darryl Nichols is an innovator and impact entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of Australia’s largest circular economy event, Garage Sale Trail involving 300,000 Australians annually and helping redistribute 750k items and generating $3.8 million for local communities. He is also cofounder of the Grow It Local, your local grow community.

Darryl has received several high profile awards and accolades including an International Green Award in London, Banksia Award for Citizenship and Community Leadership, a Green Globe Award, Green Marketing of the Year, a Community Contribution of the Year Award. Darryl has also been invited to and presented at No.10 Downing St, to the Royal Household at St James Palace, Clarence House and as part of the TED Global Young Innovators Talent Search.

Darryl lives in Bondi Beach, Australia where he lives with his family, enjoys surfing, cooking and potting amongst his veggie patch ’The Salad Factory’.

**Abstract Summary**

Grow Food, Save the World. New research on the relationship between growing food and food waste. 🌱 .

**Abstract**

What if the key to reducing food waste was as simple as growing some of your own food? In this session, Darryl Nichols, co-founder of Grow It Local and Garage Sale Trail will share groundbreaking insights from The Australia Institutes ground breaking Grow Your Own Report. The research reveals that growing food leads to a greater appreciation for produce, making people more likely to use it, preserve it, and repurpose it rather it than waste it. Home growers are six times more likely to start composting - diverting food scraps from landfill and reducing methane emissions - one of natures original, truly circular systems.

Through evidence-based data, real-world insights and 16-years working with government on mass participation waste reduction programs, this talk will showcase how educating communities to grow food drives positive food waste avoidance and helps build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities.

**What you’ll learn**;

1. How growing food leads to changes in food waste behaviour

2. Why home growers waste less

3. How growing food leads to adoption of composting

4. A simple, scalable community-led solution that has been adopted 24 LGA Australia-wide

Grow It Local is educating, supporting and inspiring 40,000 Australians to grow, share & eat local and in doing so helping to build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities.