

PROGRAM TUESDAY 13 MAY

CONFERENCE DAY ONE



7.30 am CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration opens from 7.30am in the Pre-Function Foyer

9.00 am Introduction and Welcome: Thomas Freeman, Conference Convenor, Waste 2025

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

9.20 am Welcome from the City of Coffs Harbour

Nikki Williams, Mayor, City of Coffs Harbour

9.30 am Working together towards a circular economy

Tony Chappel, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority

9.50 am National Action Plan for Australian recycling

Suzanne Toumbourou, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Recycling

10.10 am Highlights of the National Waste and Resource Recovery Report 2024

Joe Pickin, Director, Blue Environment

10.30 am MORNING TEA

Sponsored by: 

PANEL DISCUSSION: 5 YEARS TO 2030

BALLROOM

10.50 am Five years remain until 2030 – can we get there?

To meet resource recovery targets, increased infrastructure and market development must be accelerated. Stakeholders must work together to drive even more progress through hastening and supporting recovery and recycling through real buy-back and re-use of materials. Even without targets, the risk of a waste management crisis looms in the absence of achieving significant improvements. Let's act decisively to secure a sustainable future.



Facilitator: Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association Australia

Panel Members:

- Asela Atapattu, Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Henry Anning, Chief Executive Officer Energy, ResourceCo
- Mark Bannister, Director Policy and Regulation, Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- Preet Brar, Executive General Manager EfW & Major Projects, Cleanaway
- Steven Head, General Manager, Hornsby Shire Council

12.20 pm LUNCH			
CIRCULAR ECONOMY	INFRASTRUCTURE	COLLECTION	EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Natasha Schultz, APC Waste Consultants</i>	Chairperson: <i>Katherine Driscoll, Impact Environmental Consulting</i>	Chairperson: <i>Colin Clissold, Bayside Council</i>	Facilitators: <i>Steven Phillips, Chubb Fire & Security</i>
1.30 pm Empowering NSW government agencies to transition to a circular economy Lit Wei Chin, Senior Policy Officer – Circular Economy Markets, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Waste infrastructure plan Lachlan Harris, Manager, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Shared garbage compactor and recycling hub facilities for businesses Catherine Ng, Manager Commercial Waste and Recycling, City of Melbourne	Australian ingenuity unleashed: Showcasing HSR homegrown excellence in equipment design and manufacturing Jake Henderson, National General Manager – Sales & Business Development, HSR Southern Cross
1.50 pm Using products with recycled content in city builds Karen Shaw, Manager Circular Economy, Bradfield Development Authority, NSW Government	Veolia's infrastructure planning outlook Craig Barker, Chief Operating Officer, Resource Recovery, Veolia	Mandatory kerbside glass collections: Impacts to Victorian councils Alex Keyte Beattie, Senior Environmental Consultant, Tonkin + Taylor	Making the CDS & circularity even more accessible – The mobile mini solar kiosk Philip Parbury, Core Services Manager, TOMRA Collection Australia
2.10 pm Pioneering sustainable solutions: The RAMJO circular economy data portal trial Rebecca Randall, Resource Recovery Project Lead, Albury City Council	Infrastructure planning Peter Laslett, Director, Sector Strengthening, Recycling Victoria	LAWCS and order: Dealing with Randwick's vacuum waste system Andrew Quinn, Technical Director – Sustainable Waste Management, SLR Consulting Australia	Envac advanced vacuum automated waste collection system Ian Pritchard, Operations Manager, Envac
2.30 pm Challenges in circular economy planning: Lessons from Aotearoa Kimberley Hope, Principal Waste and Resource Recovery Consultant, Tonkin + Taylor	Responding to infrastructure needs and the role of local government Tanya Rajaratnam, Principal Environmental Consultant, Arcadis	Evaluating the value of bulky hard (verge) waste services Louise Cannon, Principal Consultant, MRA Consulting Group	Waste leachate management & innovations in containment certainty Andrew Kingston, General Manager, Concept Environmental Solutions The role of industrial floor toppings in waste disposal sites Louis Longh, Managing Director, Australasian Specialty Coatings
2.50 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	Q&A
3.00 pm AFTERNOON TEA			

Sponsored by: 

RECYCLING & RESOURCE RECOVERY	ENERGY FROM WASTE	C&I + C&D WASTE	WORKSHOP: SCRAPS TO SOIL
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Michael Richardson, MasterPlan</i>	Chairperson: <i>Joshua Same, Maddocks</i>	Chairperson: <i>Jim Hennessy, Veolia Australia & New Zealand</i>	Chairperson: <i>Elizabeth Scott, Compost Whisperer</i>
3.30 pm Landfill diversion – Available solutions Henry Anning, Chief Executive Officer Energy, ResourceCo	Update on EfW in NSW Rob Hogan, Manager Regional Operations, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Recipe for success – Supporting business to reduce food waste Kathy Giunta, Director Major Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority	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.
3.50 pm Resource recovery – Outlook for recycling solutions Garth Lamb, Chief Development Officer, Re.Group	Vision to reality: Lessons from Australia's first energy recovery facility Scott Reynolds, General Manager, Kwinana Energy Recovery	Business attitudes to “R” strategies and ways to drive change Ryan Collins, Head of Impact and Research, Planet Ark	This workshop covers the basics of getting started with composting and worm farming at home and will teach you how to create rich compost to make your garden grow!
4.10 pm New recycling systems, new recovery challenges Anne Prince, Director, APC Waste Consultants	NSW EfW – Parkes project update Andrew Smith, General Manager, Tribe Infrastructure Group	Collaboration to recognise construction and demolition diversion efforts nationally Sarah van Eck, Resource Recovery Specialist, Cleanaway	You will learn: <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
4.30 pm Driving circular economy outcomes through landfill diversion and social enterprise Rachel Walker, Head of Marketing and Communications, Community Resources	Cleanaway progresses EfW Preet Brar, Executive General Manager EfW & Major Projects, Cleanaway	AI driving efficiency in C&D waste management Simon Lunn, Sustainability Analyst, Traste	Join us for a 'hands on' composting and worm farming workshop, get your hands dirty and walk away with the skills to turn your kitchen and garden scraps into amazing food for your soil.
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: Brody Ireland			
8.00 pm – POST WELCOME RECEPTION – Horizons Bar, Opal Cove Resort	Sponsored by: 		
11.00 pm Entertainment by: Pete Ball			

PROGRAM WEDNESDAY 14 MAY CONFERENCE DAY TWO



8.00 am	WELCOME TEA & COFFEE
8.30 am	Introduction and welcome from chair: Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group
8.40 am	Update from the Minister – NSW's waste challenges and Government action The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage
8.50 am	European outlook: Strategies, successes and schemes Björn Appelqvist, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee and Board Member, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)
9.10 am	The future of recycling in Australia Tierry Lauren, Executive General Manager Recycling, Visy Recycling
9.30 am	Increasing the circularity of Australia's infrastructure: Progress and challenges Jodie Bricout, Design Director, Circular Economy, Aurecon
9.50 am	The revolution will be local: Rethinking communication for deep engagement Costa Georgiadis, Host, ABC's Gardening Australia and 'Costa the Garden Gnome' – Get Grubby TV and Cate McQuillen, Creative Producer / Owner, meme productions – One Story

10.10 am MORNING TEA Sponsored by: **CLEANAWAY**





PANEL DISCUSSION: TURNING TEXTILE WASTE INTO OPPORTUNITY	PANEL DISCUSSION: BATTERY RELATED FIRES – HOW DO WE MITIGATE THE RISK?
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG/SHEARWATER ROOM
<p>10.40 am Join us for an engaging panel discussion that will tackle the critical issue of textile waste. This session will offer actionable insights for local and state governments by exploring the extent of the problem, innovative collection methods, and sustainable end-market solutions. Our aim is to provide decision-makers and entrepreneurs with effective strategies to turn textile waste challenges into opportunities for positive environmental, economic, and social impact.</p> <p>Facilitator: Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ainsley Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Seamless Fiona Glenn, General Manager, The Sebastian Foundation Minette Anthonisz, Senior Project Officer Organics, NSW Environment Protection Authority Turab Bank, Partner, e-Thread 	<p>This panel will focus on the causes, risks, and mitigation measures for battery fires in the waste industry. Identifying high-risk batteries, such as lithium-ion batteries, they will delve into the causes of battery fires and explore risk mitigation strategies. The expert panel will present case studies of successful mitigation measures within the waste industry and discuss the government's role in mitigating these risks.</p> <p>Facilitator: Sandra Thomas, Director Sustainability and Conformance, Battery Stewardship Council</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brett Lemin, Executive Director, Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW & ACT Kathy Giunta, Director Major Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority Libby Chaplin, Chief Executive Officer, Battery Stewardship Council Phoebe Ashe, Acting Director Circular Economy Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority Zoltan Sekula, Product Stewardship Manager (Batteries/E-Waste), Ecocycle

12.10 pm LUNCH

GOLD SPONSORS:



FOGO & ORGANICS	LANDFILL	EDUCATION (PART 1)	WORKSHOP: LOCAL GOVERNMENT WASTE PROCUREMENT
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Mike Ritchie, MRA Consulting Group</i>	Facilitator: <i>Kartik Venkatraman, Talis Consultants</i>	Chairperson: <i>Cate McQuillen, meme productions</i>	Facilitators: <i>Katherine Driscoll, Impact Environmental Consulting, Marcelle Psaila, NSW Environment Protection Authority & Joshua Same, Maddocks</i>
1.20 pm Promoting a circular economy: The NSW FOGO mandates <i>Zac Auton, Manager, NSW Environment Protection Authority</i>	Tomorrow's tip today: Reimagining the landfill of the future <i>Chris Nivison-Smith, Service Line Leader – Waste Management, GHD</i>	Australia's largest bin rollout: Education strategy, insights and next steps <i>Lauren Grimshaw, Senior Education Officer, Cleanaway</i>	<p>Getting the procurement process right is essential for councils aiming to deliver cost-effective and efficient waste services.</p> <p>Designed specifically for local government staff, this workshop will help you strengthen your understanding of waste services procurement and achieve better outcomes for councils, residents, and the environment. You will gain a practical foundation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The key components of waste services procurement ▪ The various stages of the procurement process ▪ The different methods and strategies involved.
1.40 pm Processing FOGO – Key learnings & new risks <i>Aaron Hudon, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Native Landscapes</i>	Economically viable regional landfill gas projects with high integrity ACCUs <i>Dr Jessica North, Chief Sustainability Officer, LGI Limited</i>	Waste Tourism: Telling stories and halving waste <i>Jennifer Cunningham, Halve Waste Education Officer, Albury City Council</i>	
2.00 pm Navigating the mandate: Best practices, technologies and collaboration <i>Shaun Rainford, Associate Principal, Resource and Waste Management, Arup</i>	How to prepare a landfill for capping and closure <i>Kate Beard, Principal Engineer, SMEC Australia</i>	Why Waste It? A plastic upcycling program for schools <i>Emma Treadgold, Team Leader Sustainability Engagement, Ku-ring-gai Council</i>	
2.20 pm FOGO: CoP experience – Is there a best practice? <i>Andrew Ho, Group Manager Waste and Cleansing, City of Parramatta Council</i>	Future proofing emergency leachate management in a changing environment <i>Matthew Hobley, Waste Engineer & Deputy Waste Infrastructure Team Lead, Talis Consultants</i>	Insights into what drives households to waste less <i>Tiffany Kellar, Manager Waste Engagement and Communications, City of Sydney</i>	
2.40 pm Q&A	Q&A	Q&A	
2.50 pm AFTERNOON TEA			Sponsored by: 

STRATEGY & PLANNING		INDIGENOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT	EDUCATION (PART 2)	WORKSHOP: OPERATIONAL MATERIAL USE. OPTIMISING WASTE LEVY EXEMPTIONS
OSPREY ROOM		CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Chairperson: Jennifer Hughes, Beatty Hughes & Associates		Chairperson: Alison Leckie, Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW)	Chairperson: Barbara Gill, Garage Sale Trail	Facilitator: Lacey Webb & Oscar Gallagher, Resource Hub
3.30 pm So the world didn't actually end: Planning in retrospect Michael Richardson, Director, MasterPlan		An evaluation of EPAs Aboriginal waste management programs Nathan Cattell, Senior Project Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Integrating waste & sustainability into the curriculum at KEE Rachel Kernaghan, Ecological Education Manager, Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises	<p>Across Australia, landfills aim to maximise the recovery of waste materials for operational purposes. However, every year, millions of dollars in levy exemptions – whether OSOP (QLD), OPD (NSW), or AOU (SA) – go unclaimed due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regulatory confusionLack of awarenessTime constraints <p>This workshop will break down waste levy exemption frameworks in each Australian state and the key steps required to meet regulatory requirements for materials used in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Day coverRoad and cell constructionOther operational works <p>Learn how to optimise levy exemptions at both the start and completion of projects, with state-specific checklists to support your bottom line.</p> <p>With over \$17 million in increased Operational Material exemptions delivered to facilities across Australia in 2024 alone, the Resource Hub team will share practical tools and insights used to maximise exemptions every day.</p>
3.50 pm Local council projects and planning pathways Jason Breton, Chief Executive Officer, Liverpool City Council		Circular Economy for remote and regional communities – Unlocking economic and environmental benefits William Abbey, MICROfactorie Engineer, SMaRT Centre UNSW Sydney	That's a RAP on innovative behaviour change intervention! Rachel McIntyre, Coordinator Resource Recovery Planning – Campaigns & Projects, Inner West Council	
4.10 pm Bridging innovation and regulation in delivering resource recovery solutions Olympia Yarger, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Goterra		From design to disposal – Product Stewardship in remote Australia Kylie Roberts-Frost, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Bedding Stewardship Council	Waste 2 Art: The exhibition changing community attitudes towards waste Bill Tink, Environmental Learning Advisor, NetWaste	
4.30 pm Strategic planning to boost capacity of existing resource recovery facilities Tasneem Rangwala, Senior Environmental Planner, JEP Environment & Planning		Valorisation of demolition concrete waste in remote Aboriginal Communities Enock Menge, Regional Manager Waste Management, Central Desert Regional Council	Softening the blow of FOGO: The role of community champions Joanne Taranto, Director, Good For the Hood	
4.50 pm Q&A		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 Theme: Back to the 80's Entertainment by: DJ Dangerwaves				
				Sponsored by: 

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PROGRAM THURSDAY 15 MAY CONFERENCE DAY THREE



8.00 am WELCOME TEA & COFFEE

9.00 am Welcome and introduction from the chair:

Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group

9.10 am Development of the NSW Reuse and Repair Strategy

Bronwyn Isaac, Manager, NSW Environment Protection Authority

9.30 am PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW TO MAKE PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP REAL

BALLROOM

Product stewardship schemes play a crucial role in Australia's circular economy, but measuring and reporting their effectiveness remains a challenge. While some schemes demonstrate strong recovery outcomes and robust governance, others face barriers such as data gaps, voluntary participation limits, and cost challenges—highlighting opportunities for improvement and policy refinement. This panel discussion will bring together leaders from various schemes across the country to evaluate their successes and shortcomings.

Facilitator: Mike Ritchie, Managing Director, MRA Consulting Group

Panel Members

- Chris Foley, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
- David Robb, Head of Operations, Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association
- Libby Chaplin, Chief Executive Officer, Battery Stewardship Council
- Lina Goodman, Chief Executive Officer, Tyre Stewardship Australia

11.00 am MORNING TEA

Sponsored by: **CLEANAWAY**



REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT		SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT	ANAEROBIC DIGESTION	WORKSHOP: INVESTIGATING ILLEGAL DUMPING
OSPREY ROOM		CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Chairperson: <i>Christine Blanchard, Gympie Regional Council</i>		Chairperson: <i>Amanda Bombacci, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)</i>	Facilitator: <i>Angus Johnston, JEP Environment & Planning</i>	Facilitator: <i>Jason Scarborough, JS Regulatory Services</i>
11.30 am	Resource and recycling opportunities in regional NSW – just too good to waste Ash Sambrooks, Investment Manager, Clean Economy, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Navigating circular economy in procurement: Actionable solutions for local governments Dr Hadi Rezaei Vandchali, Consultant, ESG and Procurement Services, Local Government Procurement	Discussion: The role and limitations of various anaerobic digestion processes Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a widely-used method for processing organic waste and producing renewable energy in many countries. However, in Australia, it remains largely underutilized and not well understood, except within specific agricultural sectors like piggeries.	Illegal dumping is not going away. Even with strong awareness, education, and prevention programs, a small percentage of the community will continue to dump waste illegally.
11.50 am	Focus on foundations for regional waste management Guada Lado, Manager Regional Waste, Armidale Regional Council	Sustainable procurement: What more could be done to support industry Danial Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, iQRenew	Regional local governments are responsible for procuring organic processing services on behalf of their communities. This interactive discussion aims to educate local government officials and other stakeholders about the capabilities and limitations of AD, the requirements for feedstock, the various processing options available, and the expected outputs.	This is why thorough, procedurally correct investigations are critical to taking enforcement action against offenders. This interactive workshop will equip participants with essential skills and techniques to conduct effective investigations and obtain credible, admissible evidence.
12.10 pm	Journey of a C&D material recovery facility for regional NSW Rebecca Randall, Resource Recovery Project Lead, Albury City Council	Explaining the Building Council of Australia's new buildings circular procurement guide Ian Dixon, Technical Director Sustainability and National Property and Buildings Lead, GHD	This interactive discussion aims to educate local government officials and other stakeholders about the capabilities and limitations of AD, the requirements for feedstock, the various processing options available, and the expected outputs. This knowledge will help them better understand how AD can be utilized to extract greater value from organic wastes.	Key Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointing investigators correctly ▪ Understanding legal frameworks for gathering evidence ▪ Effective collaboration with other authorities ▪ Investigation techniques and best practices ▪ Managing and protecting collected evidence, including personal information
12.30 pm	Including "local" in disaster waste pre-planning: Lessons from remote communities Deepika Mathur, Senior Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University	Circular procurement into practice is easier than you think Mayuri Wijayasundara, Chief Executive Officer, Anvarta	You will hear from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frank Klostermann, Technical Director, SLR Consulting ▪ William Clarke, Professor, School of Civil Engineering, The University of Queensland ▪ Angus Johnston, Principal Consultant, JEP Environment & Planning 	Using a real-world case study, this workshop will provide opportunities for discussion, knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving, helping participants refine their investigative approach.
12.50 pm	Q&A	Q&A		
1.00 pm	LUNCH			

INNOVATION	LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING	PROBLEM WASTE	WORKSHOP: MAKEUP MASTERPIECES
OSPREY ROOM	CURRAWONG ROOM	SHEARWATER ROOM	CHUBB MARQUEE
Facilitator: <i>Lacey Webb, Resource Hub</i>	Chairperson: <i>Ron Smith, Penrith City Council</i>	Chairperson: <i>Spyro Kalos, Ecocycle</i>	Facilitator: <i>Vivianne Hazenveld, Artist – Facilitator – Mentor</i>
2.00 pm Are maggots the perfect upcycling machines for residential food waste? Jodie Larsen, Project Coordinator, City of Sydney	The double-edged sword of kerbside hard waste collections Samuel Lawson, Senior Consultant Resource Recovery, RM Consulting Group	Batteries product stewardship Phoebe Ashe, Acting Director Circular Economy Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority	<p>In this fun and exciting workshop, you'll create striking artworks on paper using vibrant makeup.</p> <p>With a choice of easy to use stencils or more advanced techniques, there will be plenty of guidance from your experienced tutor, artist Vivianne Hazenveld.</p> <p>We encourage you to scour the back of your bathroom cupboard for pre-loved eyeshadows/powders to bring along. If you don't have any, that's ok! There will be plenty of extras so please don't buy anything new. Absolutely no experience necessary, just a sense of curiosity and play.</p> <p>Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to explore your creativity in a simple, environmentally friendly and effective way, all while having fun!</p>
2.20 pm Effective innovation Esther Hughes, Principal Environmental Planner, MRA Consulting Group	Stop the waste – Speak to the right people to drive behaviour change Rupert Saville, Manager Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Solar panel recycling: Solving a global problem Alexander May, Technical Manager, Sircel Recycling	
2.40 pm Grow food, save the world. New research on the relationship between growing food and food waste Darryl Nichols, Cofounder – Grow It Local + Garage Sale Trail	Hawkesbury litter prevention program – How effective collaboration gets results! Charlotte Weaver, Sustainability Officer, Hawkesbury City Council	Vape disposal: Measures to save the environment and industry workers Shannon Mead, Founder and Executive Director, No More Butts	
3.00 pm Green Wheels movement is coming Guido Verbist, General Manager, Revolve ReCYCLING	Using surveillance to drive behaviour change Lisa Roach, Clean City Illegal Dumping Prevention Officer, City of Canterbury Bankstown	From policy to possibilities: Ideas for advancing Australia's car-recycling industry Dr. Sarfraz Ali Kyani, Researcher and Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology	
3.20 pm	Q&A	Q&A	

3.30 pm AFTERNOON TEA

Sponsored by: 

4.00 pm FROM 'WHAT IF' TO 'WHAT NEXT'?

As the conference closes, join Costa for a fast-paced, energizing wrap-up that turns big ideas into bold action.

Through rapid-fire insights, future-focused reflections, and interactive moments, we'll explore what's fresh, what's coming, and what's needed to drive change.

This isn't just a summary – it's a launchpad.
Let's turn What If into What's Next.

Hosted by: Costa Georgiadis, Host, ABC's Gardening Australia and 'Costa the Garden Gnome' – Get Grubby TV

5.00 pm CLOSE OF DAY 3

6.30 pm CONFERENCE FINALE BUFFET – Horizons Restaurant, Opal Cove Resort
Entertainment by: Who's Charlie

Sponsored by: 

Program subject to change without notice

PANEL DISCUSSIONS



5 years to 2030

Tuesday 13 May 10.50am – 12.20pm

To meet resource recovery targets, increased infrastructure and market development must be accelerated. Stakeholders must work together to drive even more progress through hastening and supporting recovery and recycling through real buy-back and re-use of materials. Even without targets, the risk of a waste management crisis looms in the absence of achieving significant improvements. Let's act decisively to secure a sustainable future.

Turning textile waste into opportunity

Wednesday 14 May 10.40am – 12.10pm

Join us for an engaging panel discussion that will tackle the critical issue of textile waste. This session will offer actionable insights for local and state governments by exploring the extent of the problem, innovative collection methods, and sustainable end-market solutions. Our aim is to provide decision-makers and entrepreneurs with effective strategies to turn textile waste challenges into opportunities for positive environmental, economic, and social impact.



Battery related fires – how do we mitigate the risk?

Wednesday 14 May 10.40am – 12.10pm

This panel will focus on the causes, risks, and mitigation measures for battery fires in the waste industry. Identifying high-risk batteries, such as lithium-ion batteries, they will delve into the causes of battery fires and explore risk mitigation strategies. The expert panel will present case studies of successful mitigation measures within the waste industry and discuss the government's role in mitigating these risks.

How to make product stewardship real

Thursday 15 May – 9.30am – 11.00am

Product stewardship schemes play a crucial role in Australia's circular economy, but measuring and reporting their effectiveness remains a challenge. While some schemes demonstrate strong recovery outcomes and robust governance, others face barriers such as data gaps, voluntary participation limits, and cost challenges – highlighting opportunities for improvement and policy refinement. This panel discussion will bring together leaders from various schemes across the country to evaluate their successes and shortcomings.

WORKSHOPS



Scraps to soil

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.

This workshop covers the basics of getting started with composting and worm farming at home and will teach you how to create rich compost to make your garden grow!

You will learn:

- 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

This 'hands on' composting and worm farming workshop will allow you to get your hands dirty and walk away with the skills to turn your kitchen and garden scraps into amazing food for your soil.



Local government waste procurement

Getting the procurement process right is essential for councils aiming to deliver cost-effective and efficient waste services.

Designed specifically for local government staff, this workshop will help you strengthen your understanding of waste services procurement and achieve better outcomes for councils, residents, and the environment.

You will gain a practical foundation in:

- The key components of waste services procurement
- The various stages of the procurement process
- The different methods and strategies involved.

Only suitable for local councils and regional waste groups.

WORKSHOPS

Operational material use. Optimising waste levy exemptions

Across Australia, landfills aim to maximise the recovery of waste materials for operational purposes. However, every year, millions of dollars in levy exemptions – whether OSOP (QLD), OPD (NSW), or AOU (SA) – go unclaimed due to:

- Regulatory confusion
- Lack of awareness
- Time constraints

This workshop will break down waste levy exemption frameworks in each Australian state and the key steps required to meet regulatory requirements for materials used in:

- Day cover
- Road and cell construction
- Other operational works

Learn how to optimise levy exemptions at both the start and completion of projects, with state-specific checklists to support your bottom line.

With over \$17 million in increased Operational Material exemptions delivered to facilities across Australia in 2024 alone, the Resource Hub team will share practical tools and insights used to maximise exemptions every day.



Investigating illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is not going away. Even with strong awareness, education, and prevention programs, a small percentage of the community will continue to dump waste illegally.

This is why thorough, procedurally correct investigations are critical to taking enforcement action against offenders.

This interactive workshop will equip participants with essential skills and techniques to conduct effective investigations and obtain credible, admissible evidence.

Key Topics:

- Appointing investigators correctly
- Understanding legal frameworks for gathering evidence
- Effective collaboration with other authorities
- Investigation techniques and best practices
- Managing and protecting collected evidence, including personal information

Using a real-world case study, this workshop will provide opportunities for discussion, knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving, helping participants refine their investigative approach.

Makeup masterpieces

In this fun and exciting workshop, you'll create striking artworks on paper using vibrant makeup. With a choice of easy-to-use stencils or more advanced techniques, there will be plenty of guidance from your experienced tutor, artist Vivianne Hazenveld.

Absolutely no experience necessary, just a sense of curiosity and play. This unique opportunity will allow you to explore your creativity in a simple, environmentally friendly and effective way, all while having fun!

