



# Industry Conference Program

## Date/Time:

Friday 13th June 2025

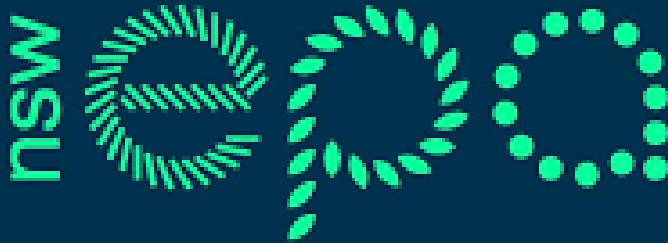
Starting at 9am - 5.30pm

## Location:

Rydges Parramatta  
116-118 James Ruse Dr,  
Rosehill NSW 2142

## Sponsored by:





# **2025 Industry Conference**

**Presented in Partnership by WCRA & EPA NSW**

**The Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA) is proud to partner with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to deliver the 2025 Industry Update.**

**This flagship event brings together regulators, operators, and key stakeholders to explore the challenges and opportunities shaping the waste and recycling sector. With a strong focus on policy, safety, compliance, and innovation, the 2025 Industry Update offers valuable insights and practical takeaways for businesses navigating a rapidly evolving landscape.**

**WCRA extends its sincere thanks to the NSW EPA for their ongoing support and shared commitment to fostering a safer, more sustainable, and collaborative waste and resource recovery industry in NSW.**

# Presenters



**Presenter Name : Asela Attapattu**

**Session: Keynote speaker**

Asela Atapattu is a trained biochemist, who has been with the NSW EPA for over 7 years. As Director, he has led numerous teams from Hazardous Materials, Chemicals & Radiation, to Major Projects and Initiatives & now, Circular Economy Policy.



**Presenter Name : Rick Ralph**

**Session: Federal Update**

Rick is an experienced industry professional with more than 40 years international & Australian expertise in the waste management, secondary resource recovery & recycling industry. He is a founder & current CEO of the Australian Resources Recovery Council (formally NWRIC).



**Presenter Name : Mick Veitch**

**Session: NSW Politics Update**

Mick Veitch has an unrivalled understanding of the NSW political landscape and the Minns Labor Government. During his 16-year, high level political career (2007 to 2023) he served in a host of key roles including Parliamentary Secretary and Shadow Minister.



**Presenter Name : Katherine Driscoll**

**Session: Local Government Tendering**

Katherine is a senior consultant working exclusively in local government waste services, since 2007. Katherine has developed tender documents for waste & resource recovery collections, & processing services in rural & regional areas & for metropolitan councils across Australia.



**Presenter Name : Chris Sant**

**Session: Grants Application**

Principal and Indirect Tax Leader, Ryan, Sydney office. Specializes in providing indirect tax advisory services to clients, including but not limited to fuel tax credits & goods & services tax, GST and Waste Levy

# Presenters



**Presenter Name : John McKew**

**Session: Going FOGO**

John has lead AORA since in June 2022. Prior to joining AORA, John had worked extensively in senior roles within the farming/primary production sectors & most recently as CEO for the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association.



**Presenter Name : Jason Mingo**

**Session: PFAS, emerging research**

With over a decade of international experience in water management across both the public and private sectors, Jason combines deep expertise across Environmental Science & Policy with a practical approach to solving complex water challenges.



**Presenter Name : Scott Reynolds**

**Session: Waste to Energy in Action**

Scott is a strategic leader in the Waste & Resources sector with over 20 years' experience, in both Infrastructure Development and Operations Management across the UK & Australia.



**Presenter Name : Linda Apthorpe**

**Session: Asbestos & Silica Reform**

Linda Apthorpe is a Certified Occupational Hygienist and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH), and has provided occupational hygiene consulting, specialised training and laboratory services to a wide variety of workplaces for over 25 years.



# Presenters



**Presenter Name : Kris Thomas**  
**Session: Asbestos & Silica Panel**

Kris Thomas is the Chief Executive Officer MAICD of EP Risk and a Principal Environmental Scientist with over 19 years of consulting experience in the areas of contaminated land management (CLM), asbestos in soil (ASBINS), assessment and site remediation.



**Presenter Name : Kate Cole**  
**Session: Asbestos & Silica Panel**

Kate Cole OAM is a certified occupational hygienist dedicated to preventing work-related disease. With expertise in silicosis prevention. A past President of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, she serves on the NSW Dust Diseases Board, the Asbestos & Silica Safety Eradication Council.



**Presenter Name : Ross Fox**  
**Session: Legal Updates**

Ross is an industry leader in planning and environment law matters. A seasoned regulatory lawyer with extensive experience in government, he provides strategic advice to private and public sector clients across the waste, resource recovery, property development & agricultural industries.



**Presenter Name : Chris Foley**  
**Session: Australian Packaging Updates**

Chris Foley is the CEO of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). He leads strategies that unite Australian businesses, governments and industries towards the common goal of a circular economy for packaging. Chris has expertise in product stewardship, sustainable packaging, plastic and waste.

# Presenters



**Presenter Name : Barry Cosier**  
**Session: Plastic Stewardship**

Barry Cosier is the CEO of the newly formed Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia, formally the Director of Sustainability at the Australian Food & Grocery Council & a member of the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water Resource Recovery Reference Groups.



**Presenter Name : Andrew Drake**  
**Session: Battery Safety Technology**

Andrew Drake is the National Business Development Manager at Draeger. Dräger is an international company specialising in medical and safety technology, founded in 1889. Their products are used globally in hospitals, emergency services, fire departments, mining, and industry to protect, support, and save lives.



**Presenter Name: Katharine Hole**  
**Session: Battery Recycling**

Katharine greatly enjoys working across the Australian battery value chain to support development of a world leading, innovative & sustainable clean energy sector. Prior to joining ABRI, she worked in senior executive roles across the energy, resources, planning, water, infrastructure and environment portfolios within government.



**Presenter Name: Alison Price**  
**Session: Battery Innovation**

Alison Price is the CEO of the Waste Recycling Industry Association Queensland. Prior to taking on her role with WRIQ, she founded and ran her own soil remediation business SoilCyclers, which worked with the construction, waste and mining industry recycling around half a million tons of material per year across 50 different sites.

# Conference Program.



**9:00 AM  
9:10 AM**

**Opening & Welcome**  
**Brett Lemin**  
WCRA

**9:10 AM  
9:30 AM**

**Keynote**  
*An overview of all of the work currently underway with NSW EPA*  
**Asela Atapattu**  
EPA

**9:30 AM  
9:45 AM**

**Federal Government update**  
*After the dust has settled on the recent federal election, what does the outlook hold for our industry?*  
**Rick Ralph**  
ARRC

**9:45 AM  
10:15 AM**

**NSW politics update**  
*As we enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Minns Government, what is at play within the walls of Parliament?*  
**Hon. Mick Veitch**  
Counsel House

**10:15 AM  
10:45 PM**

**Panel**  
*How is Politics Shaping the Waste and Recycling Landscape?*  
**Rick Ralph, Hon. Mick Veitch, Brett Lemin**

**10:45AM  
11:15 AM**

**Networking & Morning Tea**

Event Partners



# Conference Program.



**11:15 AM  
11:35 AM**

## **Local Government Tendering**

*An overview of the municipal tendering settings – including the do's and don'ts for local government tendering.*

**Katherine Driscoll**

Impact Environmental

**11:35 AM  
11:55 AM**

## **The Art of Grant Applications**

*With more grants slanted to be released in the near future, make sure you have the tools to maximise your chances of success.*

**Chris Sant**

Ryan Tax

**11:55 AM  
12:15 PM**

## **Going FOGO**

*With NSW introducing Mandatory FOGO requirements across the state, what are the challenges? what are the opportunities?*

**John Mckew**

AORA

**12:15 PM  
12:35 PM**

## **PFAS Forever?**

*PFAS continues to grab headlines and keep us all awake at night. Hear about the current research & experiences from the water sector.*

**Jason Mingo**

WSAA

**12:35 PM  
1:30 PM**

**Networking & Lunch  
Product Displays**

Event Partners



NSW





# Conference Program.



# WCRA

WASTE CONTRACTORS & RECYCLERS  
ASSOCIATION OF NSW

**1:30 PM  
1:50 PM**

## **Waste to Energy**

*The team from Acciona, talk about the road to Australia's first operational Waste to Energy Plant.*

**Scott Reynolds**  
Acciona

**1:50 PM  
2:20 PM**

## **Panel**

### **W2E – Managing the Residuals**

*The Team from Acciona, Tellus and Blue Pheonix showcase how they work collaboratively to Manage WA's W2E Residuals.*

**Scott Reynolds, Nate Smith, Ian Lynass**

**2:20 PM  
2:40 PM**

## **OCSE, Asbestos and Silica Reforms**

*With the release of the OCSE report, the recent silica breaches what does this mean for industry?*

**Linda Apthorpe**  
Hibbs and Associates

**2:40 PM  
3:10 PM**

## **Panel**

### **Asbestos/ Silica Management**

*Potential implementation and impact on industry of changes to the potential changes to legislation from the OCSE report and managing Silica.*

**Linda Apthorpe, Kris Thomas, Kate Cole, Ross Fox**

**3:10 PM  
3:30 PM**

## **Legal Update**

*The legal year in review – what does it mean for you?*

**Ross Fox**  
Fishburn Watson  
O'Brien

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NSW



# Conference Program.



**WCRA**  
WASTE CONTRACTORS & RECYCLERS  
ASSOCIATION OF NSW

**3:30 PM**

**Afternoon Tea  
Product Displays**

**3:50 PM  
4:10 PM**

**APCO – Packaging Updates**

*Explore the latest changes and future developments for the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation*

**Chris Foley**  
APCO

**4:10 PM  
4:30 PM**

**Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia**

*Join Barry as he explores SPSA's Journey and plans for Soft Plastic*

**Barry Cosier**  
SPSA

**4:30 PM  
4:50 PM**

**Battery Safety Technology**

*Learn about the latest research and technology for detecting and suppressing battery fires, keeping your employees and infrastructure safe.*

**Andrew Drake**  
Draeger

**4:50 PM  
5:10 PM**

**Battery Recycling & Safe Disposal**

*Where is NSW and Australia at with Battery Recycling, how are the big brands working with industry to tackle the issues?*

**Katherine Hole**  
ABRI

**5:10 PM  
5:30 PM**

**Battery Innovation Initiative**

*WRIQ with support of the QLD government are launching a funding initiative for safe battery identification in the waste and recycling Sector*

**Alison Price**  
WRIQ

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