



Industry Conference Program

Date/Time:

Friday 13th June 2025

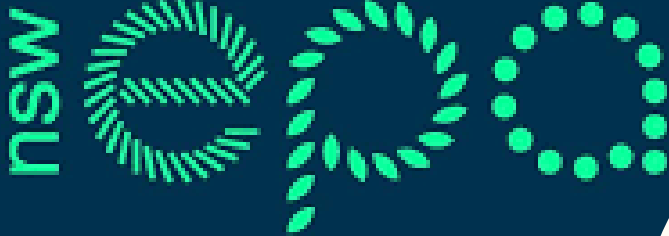
Starting at 9am - 5.30pm

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 Attapatu

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

Jason leads WSAA's priority policies & programs to support members in achieving water security, & a resilient and regenerative future. Jason coordinates the Liveable Communities Committee & a diverse portfolio of projects



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 3rd 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 Partner



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. What is the current research telling us?
Jason Mingo
WSAA

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

**Networking & Lunch
Product Displays**

Event Partner



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

Event Partner



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
4:30PM**

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



WCRA

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nsw



Sponsors

Fishburn
Watson
O'Brien
LAWYERS



TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND MINING



labour**force**
group

human capital management

25 years



The
Citation
Group

BUCHER
municipal



Gallagher

Insurance

Risk Management

Consulting



NSW

Huntingwood - Milperra - Newcastle

