



Industry Conference Program

18-19th

June 2026

Rydges, Hunter Valley

Sponsored by:



Event Partners:





Thursday 18th June- Day 1

Event Partners



8:30 AM

Rego and Morning Tea

10:00 AM

**Keynote
Carolyn Walsh**
EPA NSW and NTC Chair

10:30 AM

**Keynote
Hon Jacqui Munro**
Shadow Environment Minister

11:00 AM

Panel - The Cost of Waste
Unpacking the real cost of delivering waste and recycling services in NSW, and challenge whether the current system; pricing, regulation, and risk allocation is still sustainable.

Brett Lemin - WCRA
Scott Ryall - Rimor Equity Research
Ross Fox - Fishburn Watson O'Brien
Mark Jackson - Jackson Environmental and Planning

Coffee Cart provided by



11:40 AM

Room Transition

11:45 AM

WCRA ROOM	Team Super Room
<p>Recycled Content & Procurement: Turning Demand Into Markets</p> <p><i>Recycling only works when recovered materials have a home. This session explores how procurement, specifications, recycled content commitments and the OCSE findings can shape end markets, rebuild confidence and support a stronger circular economy.</i></p> <p>Brett Lemin - WCRA James Hammond - 4Pillars Daniel Adler - LGNSW Linda Mitchell - Tyre Stewardship Aus</p>	<p>Battery Fires & Product Stewardship 10,000 Fires a Year: Who's Actually Responsible?</p> <p><i>Battery fires are placing unacceptable risks on waste and recycling operators. This session examines product stewardship, regulation and shared responsibility, and what must change to stop dangerous batteries entering the waste stream.</i></p> <p>Alison Price - WRIQ Zoltan Sekula - EcoCycle Phoebe Ash - NSW EPA Rowan Bilkey - Cleanaway</p>
Encaps Fire Supression Demo	
Lunch	

12:30 PM

12:35 PM



Thursday 18th June- Day 1

	WCRA Room	Team Super Room
1:30 PM	<p>Waste Levy Review \$180 a Tonne... and Now What?"</p> <p><i>NSW's Waste Levy is the highest across the country, but our recycling rates are not nation leading. What is happening with the money, where is it being spend and where should it be spend?</i></p> <p>Hon. Jacqui Munro - Shadow Minister Mike Ritchie - MRA Consulting Ros Dent - Bingo Ken Dickens - Corio Waste</p>	<p>C&I FOGO Rollout FOGO is Coming: Ready or Not?"</p> <p><i>The first of the mandate kicks off 1st July 2026, are we ready for the additional services, do we have capacity? is education hitting the mark?</i></p> <p>Jim McBurney - ORG Christopher Malan - SoilCo Ash Turner - Cleanaway Daniel Nicholson - Topsoil Organics</p>
2:10 PM	Room Transition	
2:15 PM	<p>Infrastructure Cliff (2030) Out of Space: Is NSW Sleepwalking Into a Waste Crisis?"</p> <p><i>NSW is heading toward a waste capacity crunch. This session explores the infrastructure, planning and policy decisions needed now to avoid a 2030 crisis.</i></p> <p>Brett Lemin - WCRA Brad Searle - Bingo Damien Vella - Breen Carmen Loecherer - Veolia</p>	<p>Workforce & Industry Sustainability Who's Going to Do the Work?"</p> <p><i>As demand grows and skills shortages bite, this session explores how the sector can attract, retain and support the workforce needed to keep NSW moving.</i></p> <p>Alison Price - WRIQ Rod Marshall - Citation Mark Venhoek - JR Richards Ben Haack - Menai Civil Contractors Jon Shevket - Team Super</p>
2:55 PM	Room Transition	
3:00 PM 3:30 PM	Afternoon Tea	

Event Partners





Thursday 18th June- Day 1

3:30 PM

WCRA Room	Team Super Room
<p>"PFAS: Where do waste and resource recovery stand in 2026</p> <p><i>As PFAS regulation continues to evolve, this session unpacks what the shifting rules, risks and uncertainties mean for waste, recycling, treatment, reuse and disposal pathways in NSW.</i></p> <p>Matthew Askeland - ADE</p>	<p>Beyond the Bin: Education, Awareness and Behaviour Change</p> <p><i>Changing waste outcomes starts before materials reach the bin. This session explores how better education, clearer messaging and shared responsibility can reduce contamination, improve participation and support safer resource recovery.</i></p> <p>Val Southam - KAB Annie Savage - NSW EPA Oscar Gallagher - Resource Hub Lara Barclay - Recycle Mate Phillippa Helene - Cleanaway</p>

4:10 PM

Room Transition

4:15 PM

<p>Chain of Responsibility & NHVR Code From Paper to Practice</p> <p><i>The NHVR Code has set the standard, but compliance is only meaningful if it works in practice and can be proven when challenged. This session explores how waste and recycling operators can turn Chain of Responsibility obligations into practical, defensible systems across training, operations, technology, documentation and legal risk</i></p> <p>Brett Lemin - WCRA Craig Minns - ORSS Matt Bates - Bizzmine Belinda Hughes - Hughes Laws</p>	<p>AI Revolution in the workplace</p> <p><i>AI is no longer a future concept – it is already changing how businesses manage everyday tasks, communicate with customers and streamline internal systems. In this practical session, Sarah Balmer from Balmer Agency will explore how AI can support office administration, marketing, content creation, customer engagement and business automation, helping operators save time, improve consistency and work smarter across the business.</i></p> <p>Sarah Balmer</p>
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4:55 PM

Room Transition - To EPA Room



Thursday 18th June- Day 1

5:00 PM

Fire Side Chat, NSW's Circular Economy, where is it heading?

Join Brett Lemin, Executive Director of WCRA, Suzanne Toumbourou, CEO of ACOR and Asela Atapattu from NSW EPA for a main-stage fireside chat on the EPA's role in supporting NSW's transition to a circular economy.

This session will explore how regulation, industry collaboration, infrastructure, markets and practical policy settings can work together to move circular economy ambitions into real-world outcomes.

Asela Atapattu - Director Circular Economy Policy - NSW EPA
Suzanne Toumbourou - CEO - ACOR
Brett Lemin - Executive Director -WCRA

5:35PM

Closing remarks, Door Prizes and Networking Drinks



Networking Drinks

7:00PM

Conference Dinner

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TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND MINING



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OF RECYCLING

Thursday 18th June WCRA Dinner

7 PM

Guests seated - Welcome

7:15 PM

Entree's Served

7:30 PM

Entertainment

8:00 PM

Mains Served

8:30 PM

Presentation

9:00 PM

Dessert Served

10: PM

Function Concludes

Event Partners

TEAM SUPER
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WCRA

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ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Friday 19th June

WCRA Room

9:00 AM

Opening Remarks - Brett Lemin

9:10 AM

EPR in Action: Fixing Waste or Shifting the Burden?

Extended producer responsibility is reshaping expectations across packaging, batteries and problem materials. This session explores whether EPR is truly driving better design and recovery outcomes, or simply pushing costs and risks further down the waste chain.

**Suzanne Toubourou
Chris Foley, Graham Knowles, Trevor Evans**

9:50 AM

Fuel Crisis & Supply Security

Fuel volatility and supply disruption can quickly flow through collection, transport and processing costs. This session explores how the sector can manage price shocks, improve contract resilience and prepare for future fuel security risks.

Brett Lemin, Megan Surawski, Romesh Rodrigo

10:30 AM

Morning Tea

WCRA Room

Liability and Risk in Resource Recovery

As circular economy pathways become more complex, so do questions of contamination, responsibility and liability. This interactive workshop explores how risk is tracked, managed and allocated when recovered materials are processed, blended and returned to market.

**Matthew Askeland
Mark Challoner
ADE**

Team Super Room

Are you paying more than you should?

*Presented by Resource Hub
Every tonne counts. This practical workshop will show operators how to better understand and apply the Operational Purpose Deduction to reduce unnecessary levy costs, protect margins, and avoid leaving money on the table.*

**Oscar Gallagher
Resource Hub**

11:00 AM
11:40 AM



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11:40 AM

11:45 AM

12:25 PM

12:30 PM

12:40 PM

1:30 PM

Friday 19th June

WCRA Room

Team Super Room

Room Transition

How to avoid the pitfalls from approval to commencement

Securing approval is only the beginning. This workshop explores the practical, regulatory and operational hurdles that can delay projects after approval, and how proponents can move from consent to commencement with fewer surprises.

Dr Mark Jackson
Jackson Environmental & Planning

Navigating Council Tenders

In this practical workshop, Impact Environmental will unpack how waste and recycling businesses can better understand tender requirements, respond to evaluation criteria, avoid common pitfalls and present a clear, competitive submission. The session will provide practical guidance on positioning capability, demonstrating value, and improving tender readiness in an increasingly competitive local government market.

Katherine Driscoll
Impact Environmental

Room Transition

Closing Remarks

Lunch

Optional Golf Tee Off



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