



NSW Government's approach to the circular economy

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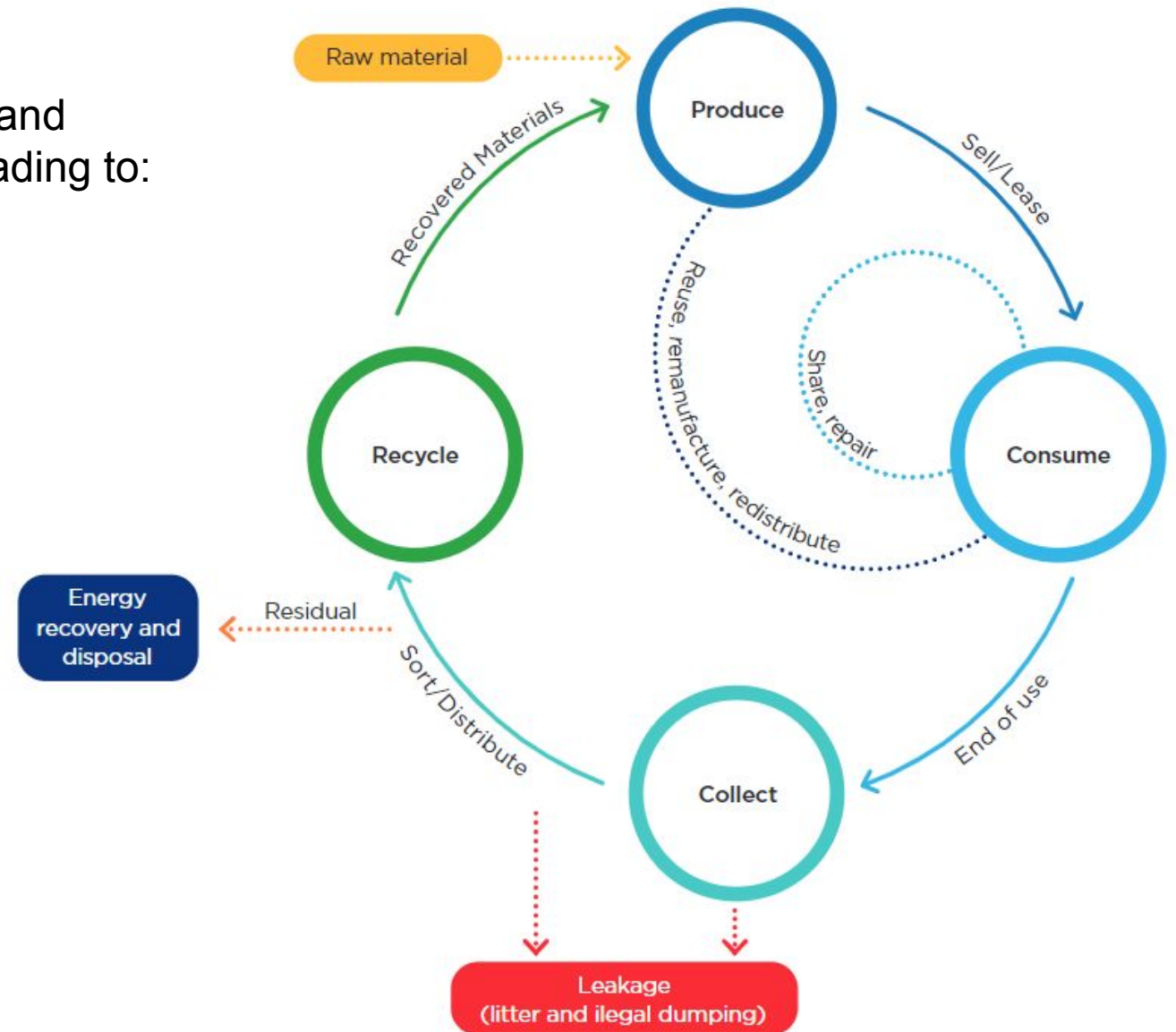
The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

21 March 2022

Why is NSW transitioning to a circular economy?

We want to use our resources efficiently and make them as productive as possible, leading to:

- less waste and emissions
- less harm to our environment
- economic growth and job creation.



Policy context

New issues and concerns:



Increasing waste volumes and **stagnating recycling** rates

- Generation will increase by 76%, or 16 million tonnes, over the next 20 years



Decreasing demand for recyclables and **increasing costs** of recycling

- The average cost to households for waste services rose by 23% between 2014-15 and 2017-18 (inflation was 8% over this period)
- China Sword policy and federal waste export ban implications



Impact of **plastics** on environment and human health

- 575 million items of plastic are littered in NSW every year

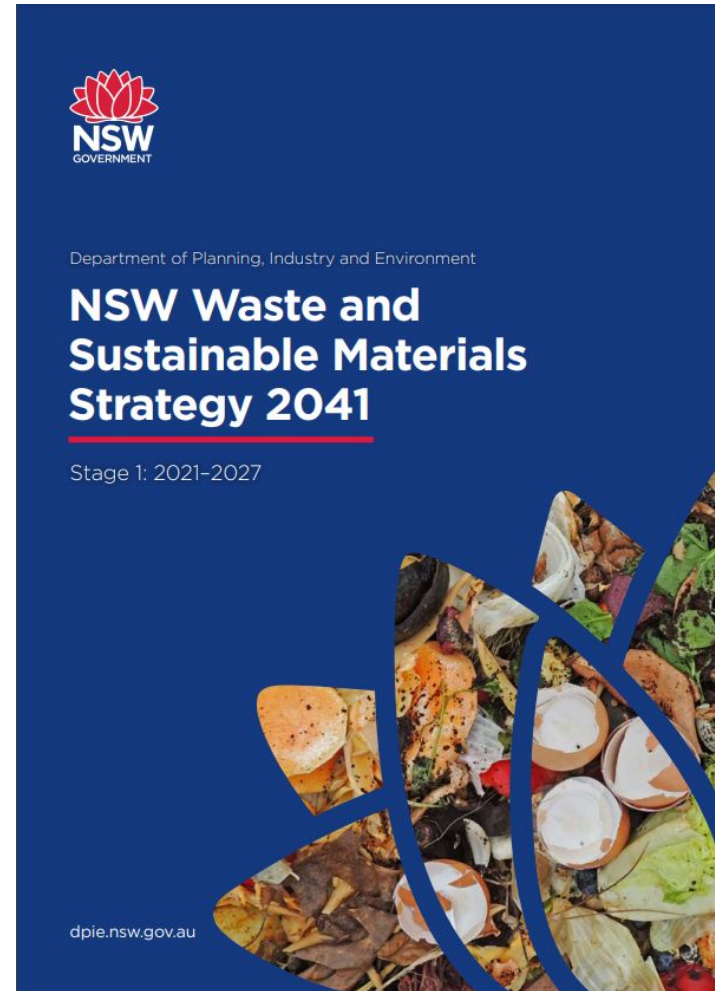


Role of waste in **climate change**

- Organics in landfill comprise 2% of net annual emissions in NSW,
- 45% of global emissions arise from the use and management of materials and products

Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041

- The NSW Government's plan to transition to a circular economy over the next 20 years
- \$356 million will be invested by the NSW Government over 5 years, from 1 July 2022
- It sets out the Government's plan to:
 - tackle plastic waste
 - support infrastructure investment
 - reduce carbon emissions through more sustainable material use
 - protect the community from waste pollution.



Strategy focus areas and targets

The strategy has **three focus areas**:

- Meeting our future infrastructure and service needs
- Reducing carbon emissions through better waste and materials management
- Building on our work to protect the environment and human health from waste pollution



Our targets are:

- reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030
- have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030
- significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
- phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
- reduce litter by 60% by 2030 and plastics litter by 30% by 2025
- triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030

Updates on key initiatives

The **Plastics Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021** will phase out problematic single-use plastics, including:

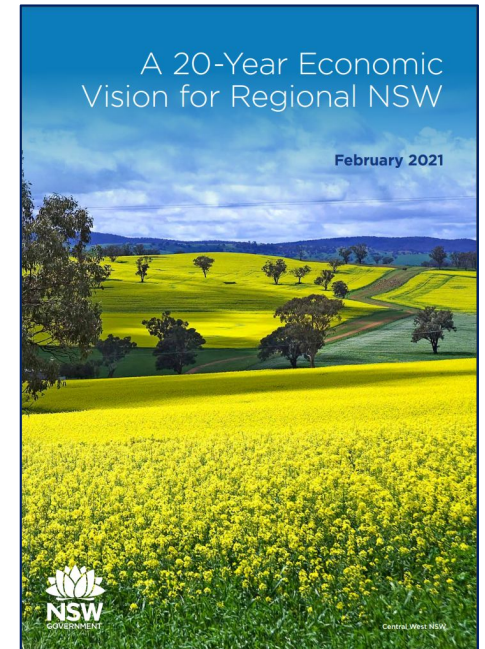
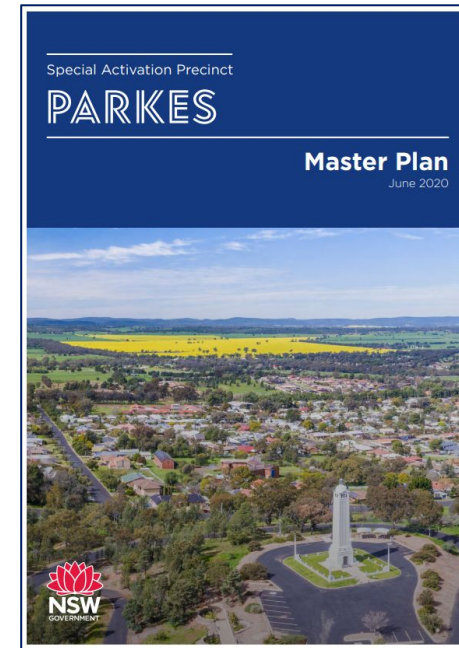
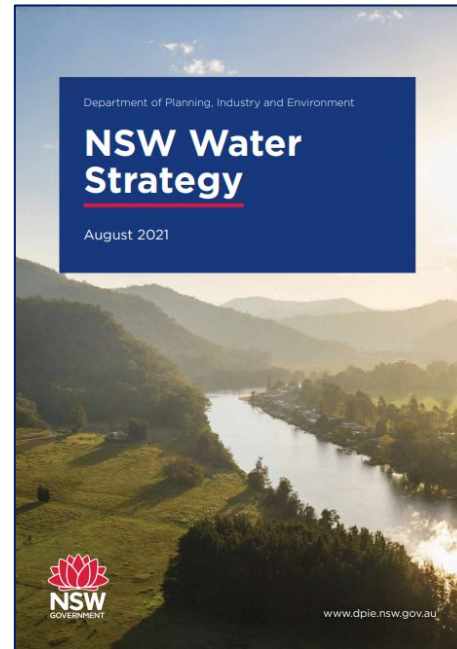
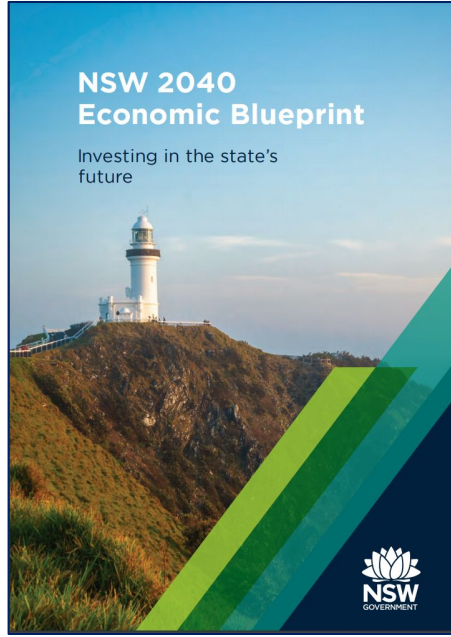
- lightweight plastic bags
- plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, plates and bowls
- expanded polystyrene food service items
- cotton buds
- microbeads

Commenced works on:

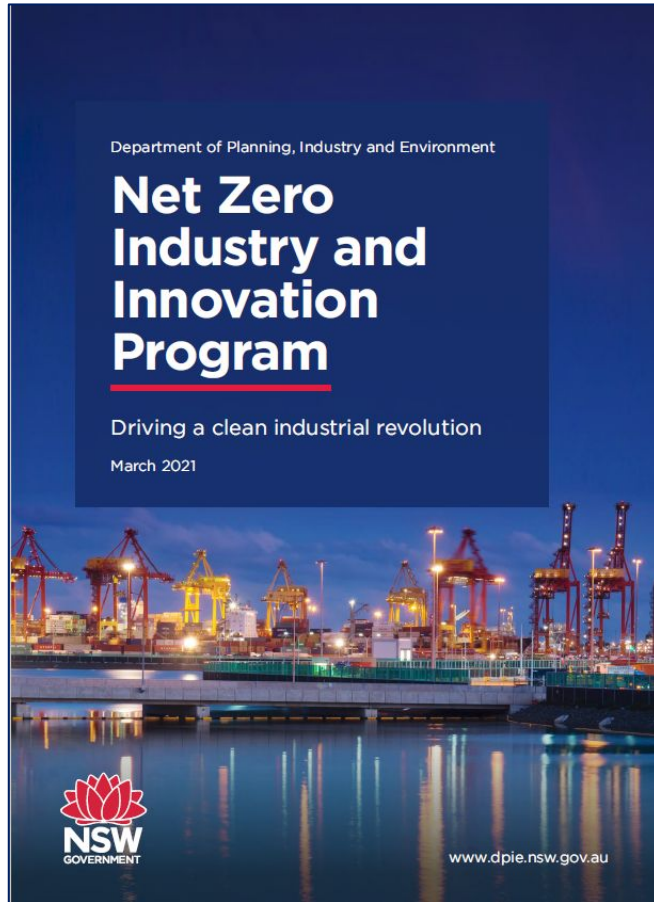
- the joint procurement of waste services with local governments
- a support program for organics collections
- feasibility assessments to deliver key infrastructure needs



Adoption of circular economy principles in Gov Strategies



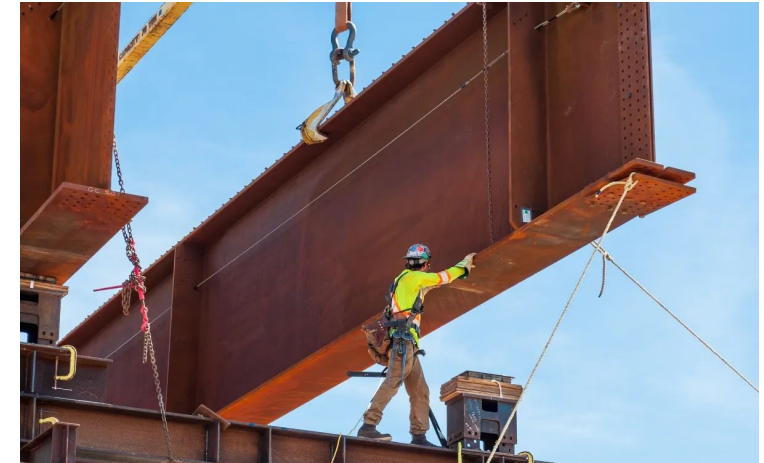
Adoption of circular economy principles in major programs



\$750 million Net Zero Industry and Innovation Fund



Sustainability Advantage



Low Emission Building Materials Program



Further information



Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy visit www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/wace



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