

# State of Circular

A metro Sydney local government perspective

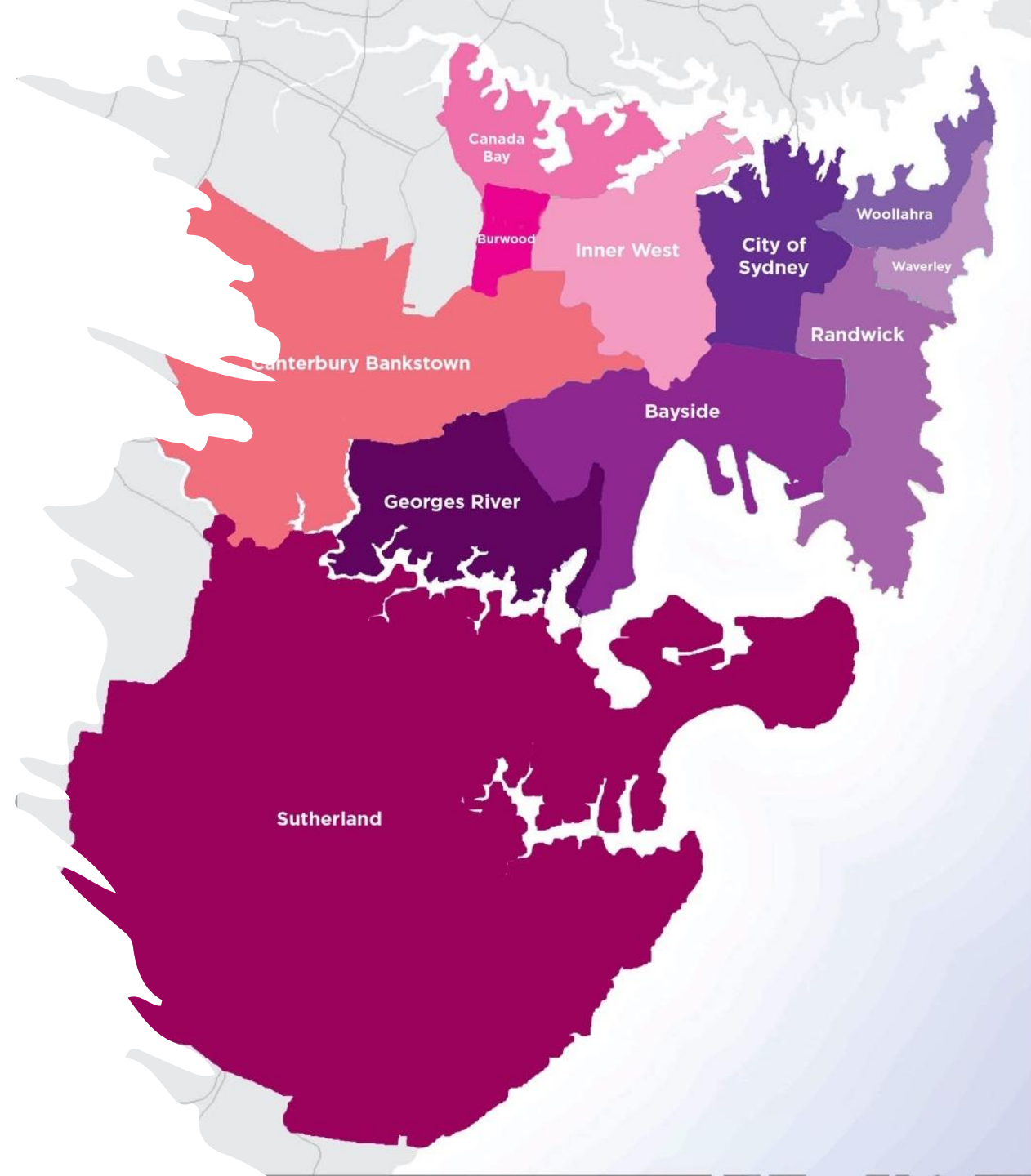


Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Inc



# Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)

- Association of 11 major Sydney councils.
- Collectively manage about 20% of the waste in NSW for 1.8m people.



Sorry!



# Circular toolbelt

- Progressive waste strategy
- Strategic planning
- Sustainable/joint procurement
- Contracts, KPIs, relationships
- Innovative services/smart tech
- CRCs/drop-off events
- Education and resource recovery programs
- Fleet/uniforms



# Critical gaps for more circular local government

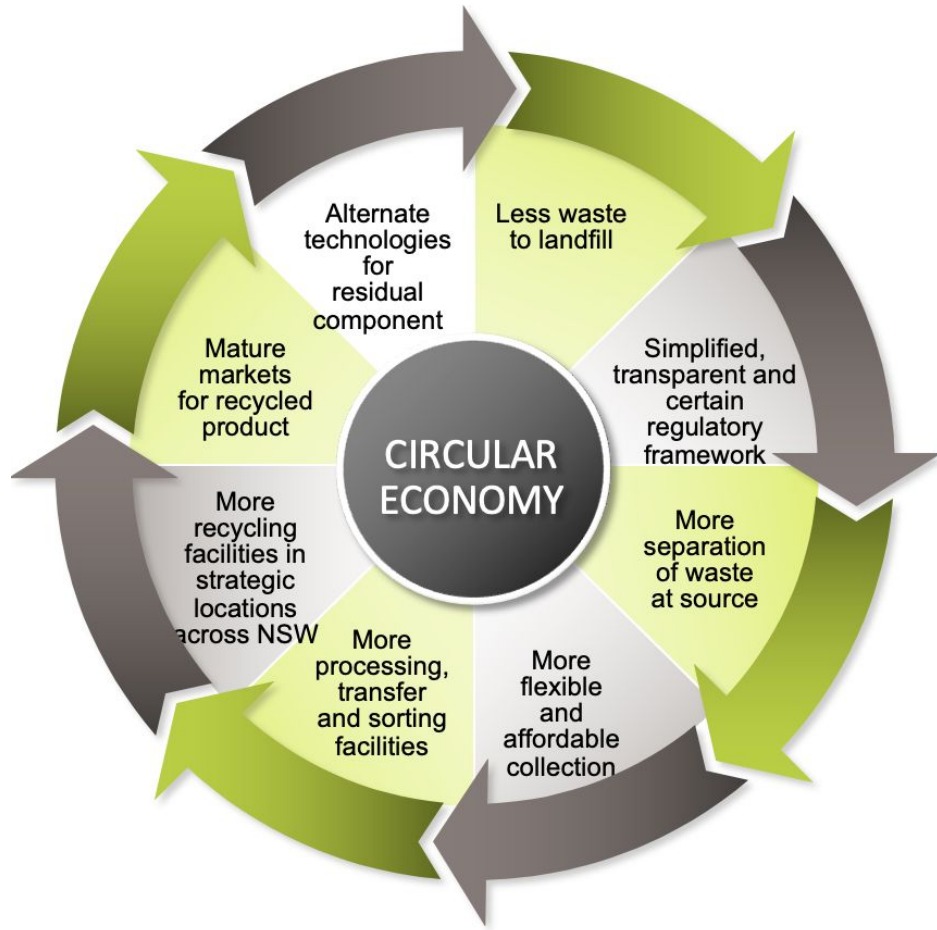


Image: Clayton Utz

- Competitive waste services
- Accessible infrastructure
- End markets with government guidance
- Data throughout value chain
- Circular legislation and regulation
- Funding




# Circular legislative and regulatory reforms

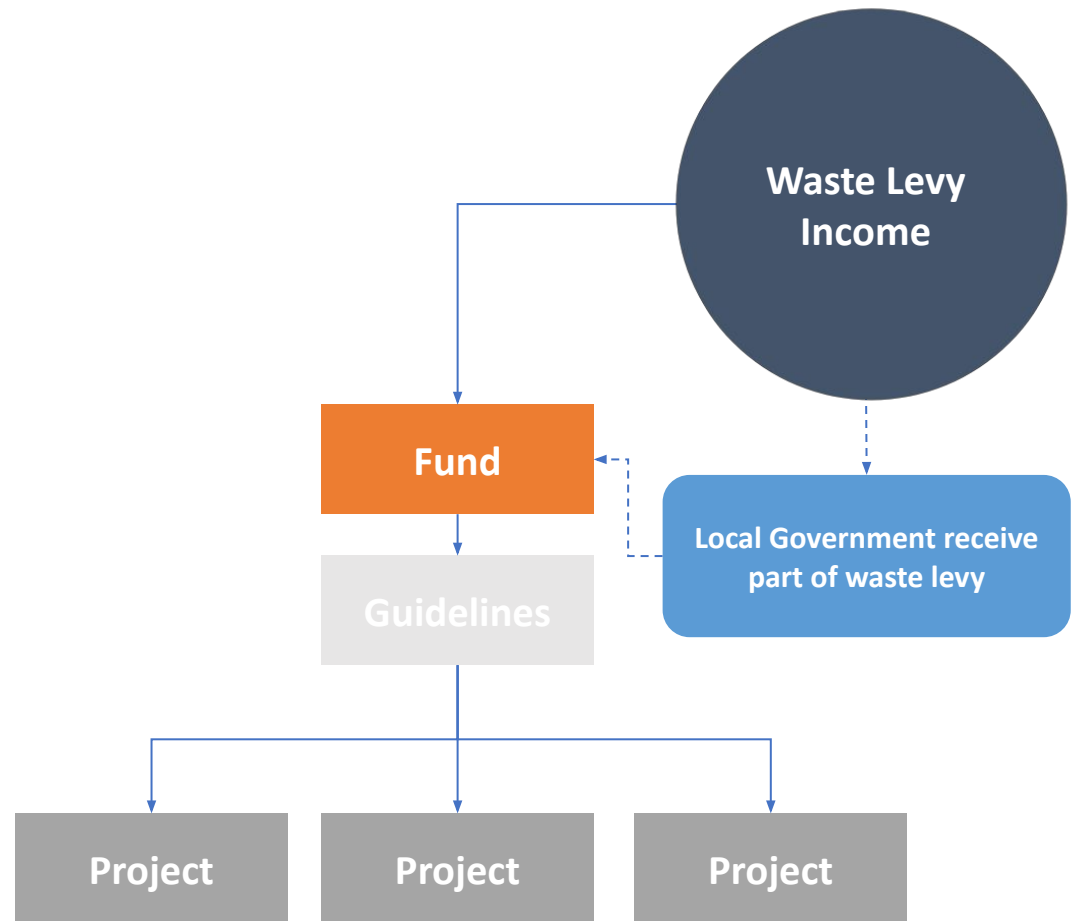
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- Waste levy hypothecation
- Definition of waste
- Resource recovery order/exemption regime
- Alternative funding & assistance
- Waste minimisation, reuse/repair
- Producer stewardship
- Uniform recycling label & regulate claims
- Mandated segregation of C&I waste






# Waste Levy

 <i>Barrier</i>	11.5% of waste levy income collected in 2018-2019 was reinvested in the NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, compared to 66% in Vic in 2017-18 and at least 50% in SA
 <i>Opportunity</i>	Increased reinvestment back into the sector will expand initiatives.
 <i>Recommendation</i>	Legislation mandating waste levy hypothecation



# Definition of Waste

 <p>Barrier</p>	<p>No distinction between "waste" and "resource" in POEO Act</p>
 <p>Opportunity</p>	<p>To ensure the regulatory framework is fit-for-purpose and accommodates innovation</p>
 <p>Recommendation</p>	<p>"Waste" definition excludes "resources". Resources defined by "end of waste code" or "end of waste approval"</p>

*"It comes back to definition of waste. Currently, if you had a feedstock of unwanted plastic that was converted into synthetic crude oil, the EPA sees it as waste, thus requiring an order and exemption, but the 7 years of record keeping of all material movements is onerous and kills innovation."*

*An end of waste policy for processed materials (e.g. converted back to oil as there are no waste derivatives) would enable a manufacturer to take material currently defined as waste and create a new product".*



# Resource recovery order and exemption regime



Barrier

Lack of transparency, certainty, flexibility and appeal rights



Opportunity

To restore confidence in the regime, increase flexibility and improve it



Recommendation

- ☐ Consumers to rely on Producer Certificates of Compliance
- ☐ Statutory timeframes for decisions and appeal rights
- ☐ Simplified approval procedures for pilot projects
- ☐ Decision making procedures for EPA
- ☐ Periodic reviews
- ☐ Register of producers

# Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority

 <p><i>Barrierx</i></p>	<p>No dedicated independent authority driving resource recovery, recycling and reuse</p>
 <p><i>Opportunity</i></p>	<p>For independent body to drive major changes and strategic engagement with government and business</p>
 <p><i>Recommendation</i></p>	<p>Separate statutory authority or state-owned corporation (similar to GISA). Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> experienced industry specialists</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> transparent reporting against targets or business plan</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> ring-fenced funding</li></ul>



# Uniform recycling label

 <p><i>Barrier</i></p>	<p>Widespread confusion among industry and consumers about packaging recovery and disposal. Greenwashing increases confusion.</p>
 <p><i>Opportunity</i></p>	<p>To provide a consistent standard to industry and consumers about packaging recyclability to improve source separation, reduce contamination and ensure cleaner feedstock</p>
 <p><i>Recommendation</i></p>	<p>Mandate use of the Australasian Recycling Label for all product packaging</p>



Australasian Recycling Label (ARL)

# Regulate recyclability claims

 <p><i>Barrier</i></p>	<p>Widespread confusion among industry and consumers about packaging recovery and disposal. Greenwashing increases confusion.</p>
 <p><i>Opportunity</i></p>	<p>To reduce greenwashing and confusing and contradictory messaging about packaging recyclability to improve source separation, reduce contamination and ensure cleaner feedstock</p>
 <p><i>Recommendation</i></p>	<p>Regulate claims of recyclability, degradability, biodegradability and compostability and associated logos to provide clear guidance to consumers, decrease contamination, and increase the value of recyclable material streams</p>



**Recyclable**



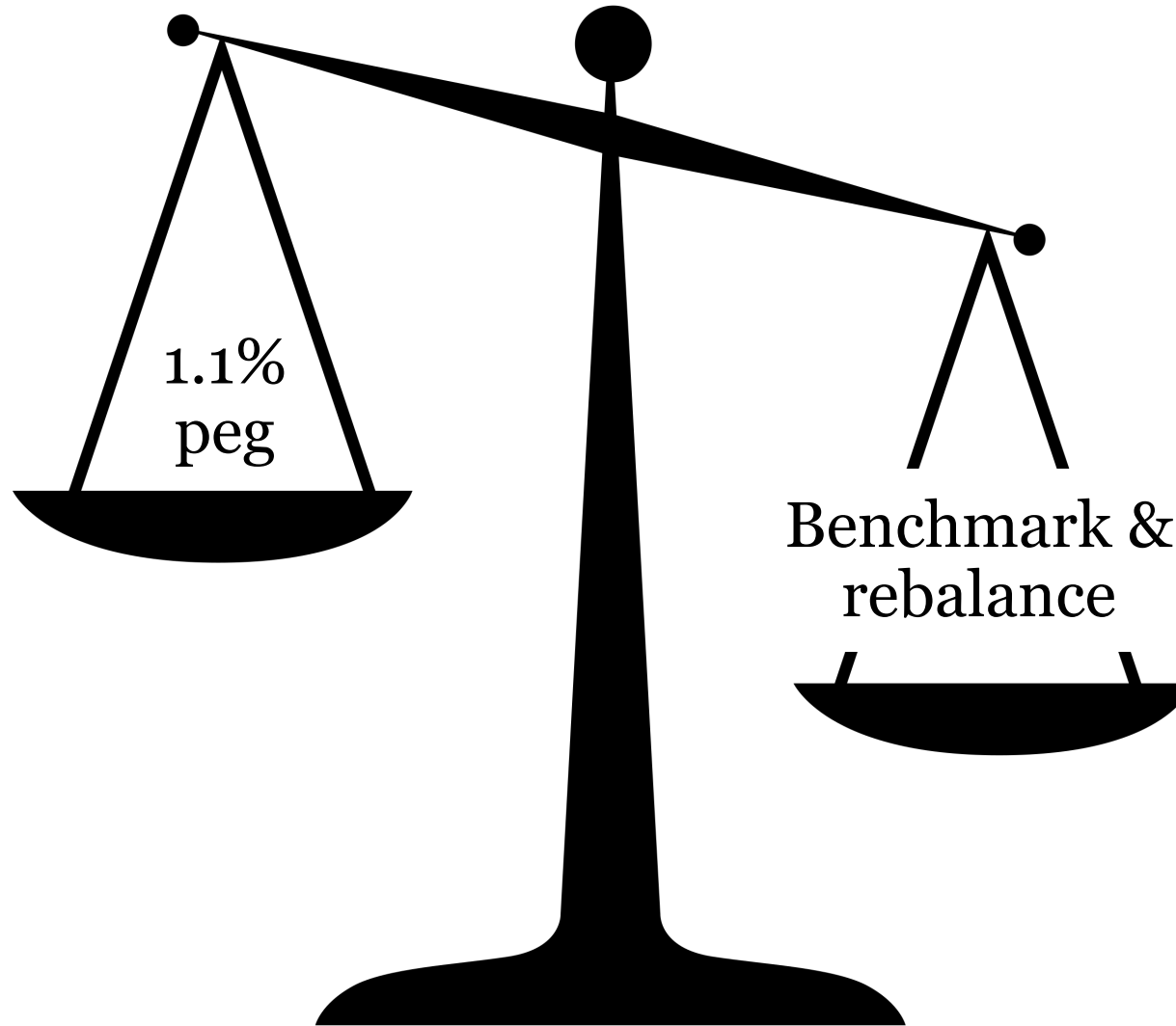
**Biodegradable**



**Compostable**

# IPART domestic waste management charge review

- Funding crunch
- WaSM targets
- FOGO ↑ 14%
- Councils exceed
- Listed publicly
- Public backlash
- Hard peg



- Pricing principles
- Transition period
- Total revenue unaffected
- Flexible DWMC
- Submissions must advocate for this

# Thank you

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