



The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

MARCH 21-22

POST EVENT SUMMARY



A Message from our CEO

Now is the time for a circular economy in Australia.

Our future depends on our ability to transition to a new economy that is circular, designing out carbon and waste and ensuring we have regenerative systems and solutions to enhance our natural environment and biodiversity. In a resource and carbon-constrained future, the circular economy will drive productivity and the jobs and industries of the future, while protecting biodiversity and natural capital.

NSW Circular is proud to have hosted the inaugural [Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022](#). We are absolutely thrilled to have had such a vast audience join us, with over 800 registrations from all parts of NSW, Australia and countries around the world.

This Forum provided circular economy facts, research, perspectives and case studies, to engage you and your organisation in the work of circular economy trail blazers. With 40+ expert speakers, the Forum shared NSW Circular's collaborative work on the 'how-to transition', transforming our infrastructure, products & services, as well as finance and investment approaches towards a more sustainable, circular future.

In this document you will find our leading [Rapid Review Research Reports](#), recordings of the 2 day webinar event, the program, and press release for our [Circular Challenge Funding](#).

Thank you to our partners, funders, speakers, to the Board at NSW Circular and to each of you - please keep prioritising the circular economy in your work and join our growing network for change.



Lisa McLean
CEO, NSW Circular

Australian Circular Economy Forum

MARCH 21-22



Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

Virtual Summit

Mar 21-22

DAY 1 Program: March 21

Time	Speakers	Topic
9:00am	Lisa McLean, NSW Circular	Introduction & Acknowledgment of Country
9:03am	NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Hugh Durrant Whyte	Thanks & aspiration for the event/ circular economy. Introduction to the Minister
9:05am	Hon. Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology	Ministerial Address
9:20am	Prof Tommy Wiedmann, UNSW	The Science of Climate & Circular Economy
9:25am (40mins)	PANEL DISCUSSION Where do we start?: The Pathway to Circularity Hosted by: Lisa McLean Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suzanne Toumbourou, ACOR ● Brooke Donnelly, APCO ● Dr Nicole Garofano, Planet Ark ● Kate McMullan, ReMade in Australia ● Connie Ho, Standards Australia 	
10:05am	PRESENTATIONS	Precincts & Infrastructure
10:10am	Hosted by: Ed Steane, GSC	1. Precincts & Infrastructure Rapid Review Research 2. Infrastructure Sustainability Council & IS Ratings/Scheme 3. Water & Circular Economy 4. Next Gen Waste Infrastructure
10:25am	Presentation: Prof. Ali Abbas, Emer. Prof. Will Rifkin, Dr Steven Liaros & Sally Walford, USYD, UON & NSW RGDC	
10:35am	Presentation: Ainsley Simpson, ISC	
10:45am	Presentation: Terry Leckie, Altogether Presentation: James Dorney, TOMRA Cleanaway	

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10:55am (20 mins)	DISCUSSION Western Sydney Debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Steane, GSC (Host) • Simone Concha, Western Sydney Airport • Lucy Sharman, WPCA 	
11:15am	Break	
11:25am	Linda Scott, Australian Local Government Association	Keynote Presentation: Councils and the Circular Economy
11:35am 11:40am 11:50am 12:00pm 12:10pm	PRESENTATIONS Hosted by: Jodie Bricout, Lifecycles Presentation: Emily Yip, DPIE Presentation: Rusty Langdon UTS Presentation: John Gertsakis, Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence Presentation: Justin Bonsey, SSROC	The State of Circular 1. DPIE / 2040 Waste 2. NSW Government Rapid Review Research 3. Product Stewardship in Aust 4. IPART
12:20pm	DISCUSSION Policy Debrief with Jodie Bricout and above panel	
12:50pm	Lunch Break	
1:30pm (45 mins)	Panel The State of Circular Hosted by: Jodie Bricout Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Yip, NSW DPIE • Angela Hoefnagels, Victoria DELWP • Ian Overton, Green Industries SA • Michael Trushell, ACT NoWaste 	
2:15pm	Thanks & Close Lisa McLean, NSW Circular	
2:20pm	END	

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DAY 2 Program: March 22

Time	Speakers	Topic
9:00am	Lisa McLean, CEO NSW Circular	Intro & Acknowledgment of Country
9:03am	Margaret Harding, Chair NSW Circular	Introduce Minister
9:05am	Hon. James Griffin MP, NSW Minister Environment	Ministerial Address
9:10am	Dr Kar Mei Tang, NSW Circular	The Circular Economic Opportunity
9.20am (40 mins)	PANEL Circular Investing Hosted by: Dr Kar Mei Tang, NSW Circular Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brer Adams, Pollination • Mark Mudie, Morrison Co • Ian Learmonth, CEFC 	
10:00am 10:15am 10:30am	PRESENTATIONS Presentation: Joseph Capurso, CBA Presentation: Edoardo Sabatino, Intesa Sanpaolo Presentation: Dr Maria Balatbat & Karin Kobelentz, UNSW & UTS	CIRCULAR FINANCE 1. CE and the Australian economy 2. CBA and circular economy 3. How Intesa Sanpaolo bank embraced the circular economy 4. Finance & Investment Rapid Review Research
10:50am	Break	
11:15am 11:20am 11:35am 11:50am	PRESENTATIONS Hosted by: Joyanne Manning, Arup Presentation: Dr Monique Retamal, Prof. Natalie Stoianoff, Dr Steven Liaros, UTS & USYD Presentation: Lachlan Feggans, Brambles Presentation: Sabine Suiver, Hydraloop	Circular market enablers 1. Industry Rapid Review Research 2. Circularity in Transport 3. International case study
12:10pm	DISCUSSION Industry Debrief with Joyanne Manning and the above panel	
12:50pm	Thanks & Close Lisa McLean, NSW Circular	

The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

Webinar Recordings

Click on the boxes below to access the recordings of each of our webinar sessions.

DAY 1

NSW Circular Funder
Prof. Hugh Durrant Whyte
NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer



The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

Ministerial Address
The Hon. Alister Henskens SC MP
Minister for Science, Innovation & Training



The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

The Science of Climate & Circular Economy
Prof. Tommy Wiedmann
Professor of Sustainability Research, UNSW



The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

Where do we start? The Pathway to Circularity
Hosted by **Lisa McLean**
CEO, NSW Circular



Suzanne Toubourou
ACOR







Brooke Donnelly
APCO

Dr Nicole Corfano
Planet Ark

Connie Ho
Standards Australia

Kate McMullan
DAWE

Circular Precincts & Infrastructure
Hosted by **Ed Steane**
Director, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Greater Sydney Commission



Prof. Ali Abbas
USYD




Emer. Prof. Will Riffin
UON

Ainsley Simpson
ISC

Terry Leckie
Altogether

James Dorney
TOMRA Cleanaway

Western Sydney Debrief
Hosted by **Ed Steane**
Director, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Greater Sydney Commission



Lucy Sharman
WRCA

Simone Concha
Western Sydney Airport

Circular Economy & Community
Linda Scott
President, Australian Local Government Association



The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022

State of Circular Presentations
Facilitated by **Jodie Bricout**
Lifecycles Principal
NSW Circular Board Member



Emily Yip
DPIE, NSW

Rusty Langdon
UTS

John Gertakis
Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence

Justin Bonsey
SIRROC

Webinar Recordings Cont.

DAY 1 CONT.



State of Circular Panel

Hosted by **Jodie Bricout**
Lifecycles Principal
NSW Circular Board Member

Emily Yip
DfE

Michael Trushell
Act. NSW

Ian Overton
Green Industries SA

Angela Hoefnagels
Vic. Dept. Environment,
Land & Water Planning

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DAY 2



Ministerial Address

Hon. Minister
James Griffin
Minister for Environment

The Australian Circular
Economy Forum 2022

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**Panel Discussion:
Circular Investing**

Moderated by **Dr Kar Mei Tang**
NSW Circular

Brian Adams
Rollinson

Mark Mudie
Morrison Co.

Ian Learmonth
CEFC

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Circular Finance

Moderated by **Dr Kar Mei Tang**
NSW Circular

Joseph Capurso
Commonwealth Bank

Edoardo Sabatino
Innes Kemp

Dr Maria Balabat
UNSW

Karin Kobelentz
UTS

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**Circular Market
Enablers**

Moderated by **Joyanne Manning**
Arup

Dr Monique Retamal
UTS

Prof. Natalia Stolaroff
UTS

Steven Liros
SAYO

Lechlan Peggans
Brambles

Sabine Stulver
Hydrolog

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Rapid Review Research Funding

The NSW Circular Taskforces bring together industry and research to help secure the social, economic and environmental benefits of transitioning to a circular economy. Cross-sector collaboration with industry, government, social enterprises, investors, and local communities will drive innovation and the development of new products, services, businesses and skills.

NSW Circular has dedicated \$68K (\$17K each) to four of its Taskforces to catalyse research that will assist in the delivery of the Taskforce's agreed Objectives, as funded by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer. This research has been conducted by four collaborative research teams selected based on research proposals submitted through an EOI process, representing a combined total of eight research and supporting organisations.

NSW Circular is thrilled to launch the final Rapid Review Research Reports, as they set out the evidence - state of play, opportunities and next steps - on priority topics to advance the circular economy in New South Wales.

FINANCE & INVESTMENT CHALLENGE TEAM



NSW GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE TEAM



INDUSTRY CHALLENGE TEAM



PRECINCTS & INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGE TEAM



Rapid Review Research Funding

The Rapid Review Research Reports are available to download via the boxes below as well as NSW Circular's website [here](#).

Finance & Investment

Identification and measurement of circular assets and risks for the finance and investment sector in the transition to a circular economy

UNSW & UTS



Government

Benchmarking and monitoring the Greenhouse Gas implications of a circular economy in NSW

UTS, UON & USYD



Industry

Taxation & fiscal policy for a circular economy

UTS, UNSW & USYD



Precincts & Infrastructure

Embedding circular economy principles within precincts and infrastructure business case processes in NSW

USYD, UON, CSIRO, CLEAN CORE DEV, MQ, RGDC & UTS



Circular Challenge Funding Scheme

NSW Circular has launched the Circular Challenge Funding Scheme in an exciting new round of support for Australian research. The Circular Challenge fund of \$400K will be used to support one or more collaborative iconic projects that will enable the delivery of circularity in, and scaling of, critical supply chains identified by the work of NSW Circular.

NSW Circular was thrilled to have Minister Henskens announce the recipients of our the Scheme in his Opening Address of Day 1 of The Australian Circular Economy Forum 2022.

Read the full press release from Minister Henskens and Minister Griffin on the next page to find out more about the recipient research teams. We look forward to seeing these impactful projects progress over the next 18-24 months, as NSW Circular continues to collaborate with research, industry and government in tackling key supply chain challenges to a circular transition.



The Circular Challenge Funding Scheme is commissioned by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer.





Alister Henskens

Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Skills and Training

James Griffin

Minister for Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 21 March 2022

NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sustainable, economically viable and environmentally friendly projects have received NSW Government funding through a program which is fostering innovation through the state's world-leading researchers and companies.

Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology Alister Henskens said the Circular Economy Challenge Program will help to remove barriers and build new sustainable supply chains that minimise or eliminate waste as well as generate jobs and investment in new circular industries.

"The Circular Economy refers to a model of production and consumption which aims to eliminate waste by keeping products and materials in use through innovative methods," Mr Henskens said.

"This funding is supporting exciting ways for businesses and people to participate in the new zero-carbon, zero-waste circular economy, ensuring NSW stays at the forefront of innovation and research in this area."

The funding was announced today, coinciding with Minister Henskens addressing the [Australia Circular Economy Forum](#) hosted by [NSW Circular](#).

Minister for Environment James Griffin said the projects are focused on solving the greatest environmental challenges through innovation.

"The circular economy is already in action in NSW, through programs including our wildly successful Return and Earn scheme, which has had more than 7 billion plastic containers returned," Mr Griffin said.

"I'm focused on boosting the circular economy even more to help support our environment through the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy, which begins implementation this year."

NSW Circular CEO Lisa McLean said collaboration is the key to solving the big challenges of transitioning to a circular economy.

"These research projects are proving there are new and better ways to reduce, recycle and reuse waste across many sectors - health, waste management, construction, infrastructure and finance," Ms McLean said.

MEDIA: Miki Nicholson | Minister Henskens | 0477 089 657
Imogen Brennan | Minister Griffin | 0437 481 114

2022 Circular Challenge Funding Scheme recipients:

Grants of \$200,000 were allocated to the following projects, with the lead companies pledging matching funding:

1. Achieving Circularity: *Development of a sustainable and scalable model to recycle and reduce the cost of polypropylene waste in hospitals*

State-of-the-art technology used for the first time in Australia, which will convert non-woven hospital waste, such as disposable surgical gowns, drapes, tray wraps, face masks and cubicle curtains, into plastic briquettes to be used for recycling into a wide range of products.

Partners: UTS, UNSW Sydney, Multigate Medical Products, 180 Waste Group, Allmoulds Plastic Group and South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD).

2. Repurposing recovered organic materials as alternative raw materials for brick production

Composted municipal organic waste is repurposed into bricks, reducing waste sent to landfill and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The project reduces fuel use in brick production and produces a durable, economically viable and environmentally friendly brick product.

Partners: Western Sydney University, Macquarie University, Global Renewables, Austral Brick Co, Parramatta City Council.

Get Involved

The Australian Circular Economy Forum has demonstrated some of the fantastic work across industry, research and government to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in NSW and Australia, as well as around the globe.

Everyone has a role to play in shifting from linear to circular, and NSW Circular looks forward to working with our network in the pursuit of circularity.

Find out more about how you can collaborate with NSW Circular below.

Circular Leaders

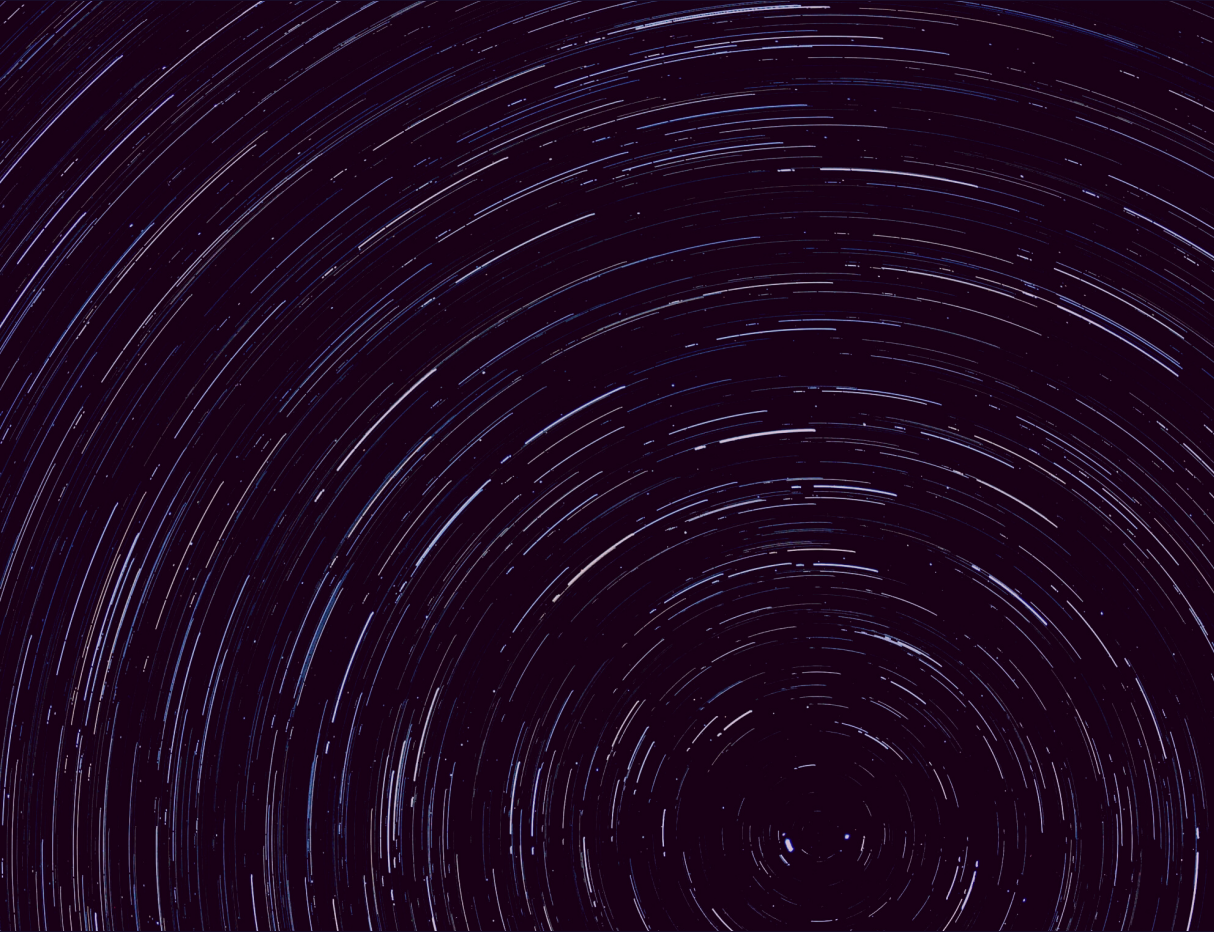
Circular Leaders are strategic partnerships to NSW Circular, available to organisations championing and leading work in developing and operating circular economy solutions. Circular Leaders represents the highest tier of partnership in our network, for a cohort of organisations who are already market leaders in the circular economy, and with whom we partner to accelerate the pace of change, influence and transition in their business and their sector.

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

Join our Taskforces

NSW Circular is building a national network of committed experts and organisations working to transition NSW and Australia to a circular economy. Our nationally leading circular economy Taskforces are key to achieving this mission, bringing together experts and innovators across finance, research, government, industry & infrastructure.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



**NSW
Circular**

