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Question 1 - What are the key issues facing the NSW waste system?

Lack of Waste Infrastructure: The NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Waste and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2014-21 sets targets for the diversion of waste from landfill, increasing from 63% in 2014/15 to 75% by 2021. To achieve these targets significant investment is required to develop the infrastructure needed to process the increased volume of waste forecast to be generated across the state. Planning for infrastructure faces many hurdles and takes 8-10 years to develop a facility. This timeframe exceeds the need for new facilities across NSW. Lack of strong policy direction: Changes to legislation and policies which have occurred with a lack of consultation has limited waste disposal options. This has led to a lack of innovation and uncertainty within the industry. Recycling Markets: When faced with the 'China Sword' trade restrictions, Australia has been short in options for manufacturing our own products from recycled materials. It will take time for Australia to build up its industry to use the supply of recycled materials that is now available. However, Australia needs to build its industry for the kerbside recycling to continue achieving positive outcomes. Greater procurement of recycled content items Lack of circular economy principles embedded in procurement at all levels of government. Building Design: With population growth comes increase waste generation. The predicted dwelling growth will involve a large portion of high-rise dwellings. If waste services are not planned or incorporated into masterplans for areas, the servicing of these building could become extremely difficult and impact on the neighbouring areas. Having the buildings waste management system seamlessly integrate into the fabric of the building will ensure there are minimal impact on the residents and surrounding areas and enable the servicing of the block to be undertaken without major issues. Dealing with waste on-site and options for increased source separation needs to be considered early on and imbedded into planning requirements. Legislation does not encourage onsite processing of organics at scale for large developments.

Other Issues: The waste levy

Illegal dumping

Interstate transportation of waste

Question 2 - What are the main barriers to improving the NSW waste system?

Lack of data for all areas including availability of up-to-date data. Lack of Infrastructure

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Greater investment in waste education and avoidance programs Ensure, as much as possible, waste is treated/ reused on site eg organics

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Consistent education message. Standards for packaging development and not using mixed products for packaging Expand Product Stewardship and Extender producer responsibility Expand CDS system to include other glass products

Question 5 - What are the main opportunities for improving the NSW waste system?

Support Innovation

Developing the circular economy
Procurement of recycled content products
High quality, consistent recycling
Value organics
Mainstream product stewardship
Responsible packaging
Support re-use and repair
Better design of products

Question 6 - Any other information that you would like to contribute to the waste strategy initiative?