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

1. Uncertainty around the viability of end markets (MWOO decision has led to uncertainty around FOGO and other organic end markets, commodity markets for plastic recyclables, etc. have fluctuated since China Sword etc.)
2. Lack of clear direction / investment from Federal and State Governments
3. Disconnect between manufacturers and the waste industry (lack of accountability / responsibility)
4. Community disengagement around waste, community confidence is low but there is also the expectation that the issue will be sorted out by someone else, whereas significant improvements will also require action at a consumer / user level.

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

1. The significance of investment required and the uncertainty around returns on that investment
2. The need to change consumer / community behaviours

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

1. Mandate packaging requirements (covering imported and locally made goods)
2. Ban the use of nominated single use plastics

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

1. Set minimum requirements for all MRFs in order to establish uniformity in the materials accepted in commingled recycling bins.
2. Improve labelling on products / packaging regarding their recyclability
3. Revisit the classification of 'waste' in terms of recycled product so that barriers around the volumes of recyclate (i.e. recycled glass) able to be stockpiled matches the manufacturing needs of the products being produced with that material.
4. Expand Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for key waste streams to provide a financial link between manufacturers and the end of life of their products.

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

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