

Submission Date	9/23/2019 2:30:00 PM
Name	Tim Silverwood
Role or organisation	Co founder & CEO of Take 3 for the Sea

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

Community expectations are not being met by government, the waste & resource recovery sector & businesses. It appears a lack of transparency, foresight, responsibility & leadership has led this to becoming a highly contentious issue on the back of increased awareness around the impacts of consumption on the natural environment.

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

The current systems and behaviours have no doubt evolved over a long time and generated a status quo and market functions that will be very difficult to change. We will require profound leadership, time and adequate resourcing to shift the focus to a sustainable, circular economy model. This represents a profound economic opportunity.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

1. Follow the lead of the EU & other jurisdictions in banning problem single use plastics.
2. Focus on organic waste collection for food waste and compostable packaging to support a circular organics economy & regenerative agriculture.
3. Significant stimulus and support for circular economy initiatives broadly.
4. Significant investment and support for existing & new recyclers to evolve into supplying the circular economy.
5. Stimulate the recycling sector through procurement policies requiring recycled content.
6. Support innovation and emerging start ups to develop new solutions to waste reduction, recycling and clean up efforts.
7. Support and enhance extended producer responsibility schemes for e-waste and problem items.
8. Support a national / coordinated container deposit schemes
9. Support large scale education and awareness campaigns for community and business (particularly small businesses with high waste outputs)
10. Support Pacific Island and neighbouring nations through international diplomacy and aid/funding.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

A major enquiry is required (e.g. Senate enquiry) into the recycling sector to assess what has got us into this mess and what needs to happen to create a genuine closed loop model to support the circular economy.

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

The economic and employment benefits of the circular economy need to be fully assessed and celebrated as the centrepiece of strong political leadership. The environmental value of ecosystem services and functions with a focus on carbon pollution reduction should support the above.

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

Plastic pollution, microplastics and run off (stormwater especially) will continue to increase as issues of major concern for the NSW community. Coupled with the devastating truths of our waste and recycling crisis these are issues that must be addressed. I am pleased to see this intent and I'd be happy to be involved in future discussions.