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

Recycling markets, management of asbestos waste and impending disposal of ageing solar panels.

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

Regional areas require transport subsidies. There needs to be more product stewardship programs i.e. solar panels. Identify waste streams that could be a feedstock for other industries in regional areas to avoid the typical waste to landfill model.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Reduce packaging, include a mandatory recycling component in manufactured goods and include purchasing of mandated recyclable component goods in procurement policies.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

As above include a percentage of recyclable material in new goods and provide information on packaging that indicates what the item may be remanufactured as in the future.

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

Introduce more product stewardship programs to ensure imported materials and locally manufactured goods are dealt with properly at end of life.

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

Food waste needs to be addressed on holistic basis - if 40% of food produced is dumped there is a need to reduce production which will drive reduced water use (strain on rivers/dams), less transport etc. Single use plastics should be reduced/banned.