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

Availability of mixed solid waste processing facilities and location of facilities, appropriate planning for such facilities within the Sydney basin, planning for waste management in new population centres. Location of such facilities is a significant factor in cost for services. Availability of landfill for residuals.

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

Lack of urgency. Waste management not being considered and planned for as an essential service as water, sewer, power, communications. Confusion on what can be recycled and undermining of community confidence as news reports show recyclables being stockpiled, refused, landfilled.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Improve resource recovery industry locally. All levels of government buy products made from recovered resources. Enforce packaging design to be compatible with resource recovery.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Keep it simple and provide education support to the community and businesses to allow people to sort their waste easily. There is great confusion in the community as there are different rules where-ever you go. The market issue for recycling commodities is undermining consumer confidence and it important that this matter be treated with urgency so that the good work of the last 20-25 years is not lost.

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

Have all levels of government and large infrastructure projects use recycled product as a priority. This will help create and stabilise markets and uses for these products. With new population growth plans for western Sydney around the airport, dedicate land for waste processing and recycling to ensure these services can remain low cost and minimise transport costs (and carbon impact).

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

The circular economy concept is not new. It takes space and thought and must be planned for. Retrofitting is very difficult in Sydney where land space is not only limited but not financially viable to acquire.