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

The largest single issue facing the NSW waste system is the continued emphasis on the word waste. The word itself is immediately associated with the following connotations: The resources under discussion have little or no value. By extension, this means having no value to anyone and the primary consideration for such materials is the focus upon disposal. The historical and existing waste processing sector operates on a business model based on deriving income from collection and uplift fees and/or gate fees at processing facilities. Income derived from the sale of quality recyclates is minimal, and this has created the existing supply push situation. To achieve a fully functioning circular economy outcome, the emphasis must transition to market pull such that the brands or product designers can be confident in ordering and relying on quality recyclates from a retooled processing sector and that brands can reliably procure such virgin replacement materials, confident that a mature and retooled processing sector can supply reliably. Engineering this outcome must initially be a key role for Government. A welcome start to engineering the resource revolution required would be to commence engineering a change in mindset to one that actively acknowledges materials/resources have value and have uses beyond their creation from virgin materials and the ultimate objective is to optimise resource management. The above introductory statements could easily be dismissed as being merely naive idealism. However, the AIEN urges the reader(s) of these responses to take the time to read the attached AIEN submission letter outlining how such a revolutionary social transition might be engineered within the context of the 20 YWS. These concepts are no longer merely naively optimistic. However, Government and industry must expand upon the number and breadth of the voices countenanced and consulted. Although remaining important actors in resource management systems, the traditional waste industry and their more traditional industry associations will never achieve these outcomes in isolation, irrespective of how much money is provided to them. The AIEN is hopeful the NSW Government through the 20 YWS is genuinely seeking something significantly better than perpetuating the status quo.

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

To achieve the outcomes (above) this intergenerational transition will need Government to develop the required transformational policies, strategies and road maps and in so doing draw on the widest possible advice and input, rather than rely predominantly on the potentially self-interested or compromised suggestions from the incumbent waste processing sector. The AIEN urges the reader(s) of these responses to take the time to read the accompanying AIEN submission letter (sent by email) outlining how such a revolutionary social transition might be engineered within the context of the 20 YWS. N.B. The AIEN, as a completely neutral but professional and expert party would be pleased to make a much more detailed submission on request.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

A fully functioning circular economy would manage all such materials as resources, to be managed to achieve their highest net resource value (HNRV). The AIEN urges the reader(s) of these responses to take the time to read the attached AIEN submission letter. The concept and principles in achieving and retaining the HNRV for resources is outlined therein. Development of such a strategy could/should adopt some very basic but proven system designs and strategies: Focus strategy implementation on the obvious choke points in the flow of such urban waste streams. Points where the smallest number of people or parties can have the greatest amount of influence. For example, the product designer teams within each brand and the simplification of available material discard options for the community, to optimise productive participation. ? Design the system to achieve

HNRV rather than being satisfied with down cycling short termism. Ultimately down cycling will lead to the creation of stranded investments?, which will further hamper the systematic creation of a circular economy. The post-consumer materials recovery activities should be designed to achieve a streaming/cascading capability, such that resources, can be applied to a hierarchy of best then default to next best process options, as the material quality or market condition dictates. By this approach waste is avoided at all times. (See attached AIEN submission letter. The streaming/cascading concepts in relation to HNRV are outlined therein.) Value add materials before transport and avoid excessive transport to value add. Strive for nationally consistent systems and infrastructure (only confusion and reduced participation is achieved where each jurisdiction adopts different systems).

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

As above, once market pull is established and the appropriate value for resources is being achieved, the recycling sector will self-manage.

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

As above and as outlined within the accompanying AIEN letter/submission.

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

The AIEN urges the reader(s) of these responses to take the time to read the accompanying AIEN submission letter outlining how such a revolutionary social transition might be engineered within the context of the 20 YWS. In particular, the requisite shift in society's mindset in relation to the resource management/waste management narrative cannot be over emphasised. The AIEN requests the reader(s) to honestly assess the terminology/phraseology used in composing these six questions. With all due respect, the AIEN suggests even the questions being posed as an element of this 20 YWS consultation process, are not the correct questions to be posed if a revolution in resource management is to be realised in NSW.