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

The industry is in limbo after the ban of mixed waste compost to land and the difficulties to place recyclables overseas. Also, only now have authorities and society started to acknowledge the environmental issues created by such recyclables exports overseas.

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

No clear direction for source separation while imposing hurdles to treating residual waste by energy from waste which doesn't exist anywhere worldwide.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

The long-term direction is required to improve product design and to ban certain one-way goods. Next follows source separation of recyclables and organics. Even then, there will always be a residual waste as an outcome of physical laws (entropy or ever-increasing disorder in the world). Such residual waste treatment should be thermally treated as done in Europe and Japan.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Harmonisation on a federal level of waste laws, regulations, stewardship programs. It not federal, at least on NSW State level.

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

Mandate source separation and harmonise collection for recyclables, organic waste (green and food waste), and residual waste for councils, commerce, and industry.

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

State Cabinet and EPA to visit leading waste management schemes in Europe and Japan as these countries are many years in advance to NSW.