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

- The NSW waste system creates a strong financial incentive to invest the minimum amount (or less than the minimum amount) required to divert waste from landfill (to avoid landfill disposal costs)
- Businesses interested in investing in producing value-added products derived from waste can rarely compete (for supply of waste) with businesses who do the minimum to comply with regulations or don't comply with regulations
- Inconsistent enforcement of regulations discourages private investment and tempts non-compliance for financial gain
- NSW has no end-of-waste code/criteria, and therefore discourages circular economic activity
- NSW largely relies on the private sector to provide resource recovery infrastructure and services BUT Enforcement of regulations does not actively take into consideration the commercial implications of enforcement activities (e.g. Will this regulation/enforcement activity increase or decrease certainty around private investment?)
- Local government procurement for recycling services:
 - o Rarely set, require or audit against output/product standards (or standards for resource recovery generally)
 - o Rely on state government regulation of resource recovery facilities and application to land of outputs
 - o Usually transfers contamination risks to contractors rather than taking some responsibility for reducing contamination

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

- Lengthy and expensive development application and licensing processes for resource recovery infrastructure
- State government resource recovery infrastructure planning that has not translated to coherent policy and actions
- Poor local government procurement processes and contracts for resource recovery
- Poor enforcement of contractual agreements relating to output/product quality and value
- Poor and inconsistent enforcement of regulations leading to perverse commercial outcomes - (which leads to) Lack of investment in resource recovery and poor-quality recycled product

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

- By maintaining a Waste Levy and aligning it with other states
- By further investing in and expanding food waste avoidance education programs such as Love Food Hate Waste
- By expanding existing national product stewardship schemes and regulations
- By imposing deposits (like those on packaging containers) on a wider range of materials with short lifetimes in the economy
- By otherwise restricting manufacture and import of products that don't have end-of-life reuse and recycling options

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

- By directly addressing the barriers listed above
- By maintaining a Waste Levy and aligning it with other states

- By further investing in and expanding education programs and systems for source separation, including contamination reduction
- Through ongoing government investment in resource recovery infrastructure

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

- Introduce an end-of-waste code/criteria to promote a circular economy
- Waste cannot always be a waste, at some point it must become a product otherwise we can't create a circular economy
- Produce revised and improved model local government tender documents for procurement of resource recovery services
- Educate local government staff regarding suitable resource recovery procurement processes and contracts in the context of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy and local government procurement regulations
- Increase resources in local and state government to monitor and enforce regulations and contractual conditions
- When regulating the waste and resource recovery sector actively consider the commercial implications of regulation and enforcement
- Train officers on the commercial implications of regulation and their enforcement activities
- Over time transition to higher standards for facility operations and products

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