

MOVING BEYOND TRANSITION
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ABSTRACT

Achieving 80% diversion by 2030. Aspirational or wishful thinking

Australia generates 65 MT of waste in 2021. Despite steady increases in the rate of recovery (av. 54%), the waste generated in the last decade grew by 40%, while population increased by only 10%. There are more of us, but we are consuming proportionally more each year per person. Australia’s waste generation is increasing at unproportionate rate compared to the population. This presentation will explore and identify key challenges and problems we currently face, while trying to achieve 80% diversion from landfill.

Three key takeaways

1. Australia’s waste generation is increasing at unproportionate rate compared to the population
2. Given the job creation potential of recycling, why does landfill continue to be the de facto method of waste disposal for 46% of what we generate? Why is 44% of waste still landfilled?
3. The good news is that we are recycling a lot more and recycling jobs are largely recession proof, green collar jobs. Recycling is probably the only growth area in the manufacturing sector in Australia. We create three jobs in recycling for every job in landfill

ESTHER HUGHES
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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Esther has been working in the waste and resource recovery sector for the past 8 years. She is a Principal Environmental Consultant at MRA Consulting Group, and leads the Planning and Approvals team. Her experience encompasses many types of materials and processes including waste to energy, recycling and sorting, organics composting, waste transfer, and remanufacturing.

Esther is interested in the integrated frameworks of economy, policy, and regulation and is passionate about environmental solutions that meet business demands.