**Waste 2024 Conference Abstract Submission**

**(for face-to-face Conference which includes live broadcast)**

What is the national state of disaster waste contingency planning?

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

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|  | **Aboriginal community waste management**  (projects, results, planning, what else to be done) |  | **National waste policies & programs** (new schemes, opportunities & recent results) |
|  | **CDS** (new schemes, new containers, innovations) |  | **Organics** (food only vs FOGO, implementation strategies, new services) |
|  | **Circular economy** (case studies, right to repair, trials, new materials targeted) |  | **Plastics** (plastics recycling, plastics recovery schemes, small and large scale plastics projects) |
|  | **Climate change** (new innovations, strategies & policies) |  | **Problem & hazardous waste** (asbestos, clinical & medical, illegally dumped hazardous waste, systems for managing hazardous materials) |
|  | **Collections** (innovations, new systems, vehicles, challenges) |  | **Procurement** (recent process developments, case studies, planning) |
|  | **Disaster waste management** (bushfires, floods, pandemic) |  | **Project Planning** (projects currently planned, challenges and barriers, planning controls and conditions, project management) |
|  | **Economics** (business cases, data gathering, planning for financial impacts, reviews & analyses) |  | **Product stewardship & extended producer responsibility** (current & planned schemes, new materials to be captured by schemes, local schemes for recovery) |
|  | **Education** (behaviour change, community engagement, social media, planning FOGO education) |  | **Recycling & resource recovery** (post China Sword, and export bans, market insights & updates) |
|  | **Energy from Waste** (projects, case studies) |  | **Regional issues** (regional responses to waste settings, collaboration, joint projects) |
|  | **Grants** (major waste grants, outcomes & processes) |  | **Social enterprise** (new entrants, recent endeavours, case studies) |
|  | **Infrastructure & planning** (FOGO capacity, new material recovery planning) |  | **State based issues** (policies, strategies, responses & challenges, border transitions) |
|  | **Innovative projects** (sustainability innovations, artificial intelligence, case studies) |  | **Strategic waste planning & policy** (stakeholder engagement, strategy development, waste policy impacts and opportunities) |
|  | **Landfill & facility management** (facility operations management, strategic planning, facility budgeting) |  | **Technology** (innovations, must haves, how technology will improve or assist with waste responsibilities, AI) |
|  | **Legislation, regulations & levies** (major updates, monitoring & enforcement, response to changes in regulations) |  | **Tenders & contracts** (planning, implementation, contract management, innovations, systems & approaches) |
|  | **Litter & illegal dumping** (prevention, new management systems & innovative & smart initiatives, surveillance) |  | **Waste projects** (planned waste infrastructure, how to plan & scope, budgeting, understanding what is required, governance & process planning, case studies) |
|  |  |  | **Other** |

**Proposed Panel Discussion** -Proposed topic & participants suitable for key issues that may be addressed by a Panel of presenters. For this category suggest your topic & who you will arrange to attend and present (maximum of 5 panel members).

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Tanya Henley

**Presenter position:** Principal Environmental Consultant

**Presenter organisation:** MRA Consulting Group

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**Biography**

Tanya has over 12 years’ project management and professional environmental consulting experience, specialising in waste and resource recovery. She joined the Strategy and Commercial team at MRA Consulting Group in mid-2022 after a period of maternity leave. She has worked for private and public sector clients undertaking technical waste studies and reports, engaging with stakeholders and developing strategies, roadmaps and implementation plans. Tanya has also delivered a range of visually effective communication material including fact sheets, case studies, guidelines, customer journey maps and service blueprints.

Tanya recently completed reporting on the NSW EPA’s Flood Recovery Land-based Clean-up Program, the first flood debris clean-up program of its kind in NSW. MRA and the EPA delivered the program, together with a crew of in-field site assessors and specialist waste contractors, as well as volunteers, community groups, landowners (councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, private landowners), industry associations and state and local government agencies, all key players in the disaster-response effort.

**Abstract Summary**

What is the national state of disaster waste contingency planning, what are the success stories and where can we further build on learnings from local and overseas case studies? This presentation will provide a comparison of the current state of published guidance and planning in each Australian State and Territory and provide a series of local and international case studies for reflection, as we continue to adapt to and plan for changing environments.

**Abstract**

The expression ‘building resilience’ is one we have all heard used extensively in recent times with disaster events intensifying. There is a lot of work being done to build resilience in our people, in our communities and the built environment, in our information access and communication networks, in our emergency and essential services, and in our governance and leadership systems.

Appropriate disaster waste contingency planning and development for our physical assets is a necessary part of this resilience building. Not only is it essential for the health and safety of our communities and the natural environment, but it also reduces significant pressures on our communities, emergency services and resources. It plays a significant role the speediness of our recovery immediately following a disaster event and over the longer term.

This review reflects on recent disaster events and their impacts including fires, floods, storms and cyclones. It includes insights from interviews with multiple stakeholders, including State and Territory authorities, government agencies, ROCs and JOs, councils (urban, remote and regional), waste and recycling contractors and reuse organisations. It will identify the gaps in our disaster waste contingency planning and development frameworks and provide examples of better practice being applied here and overseas. Pre-planning elements include effective design of physical assets, triggers for different degrees of disaster response, securing capacity for management and sorting of disaster debris, responding to landowner clean-up efforts ahead of potential disaster events, and collaboration and open dialogue needs.