**Waste 2024 Conference Abstract Submission**

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

The Global Plastics Treaty: a silver bullet for plastic pollution?

*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) | [x]  | **Plastics** (plastics recycling, plastics recovery schemes, small and large scale plastics projects) |
| [x]  | **Climate change** (new innovations, strategies & policies) | [x]  | **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) |
| [x]  | **Economics** (business cases, data gathering, planning for financial impacts, reviews & analyses) | [x]  | **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) |
| [x]  | **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:** Shannon Mead

**Presenter position:** Founder and Executive Director

**Presenter organisation:** No More Butts

**Presenter email address:** shannon@nomorebutts.org

**Presenter phone number:** 0411868275

**Presenter mobile number:** 0411868275

**Biography**

With a history in leadership roles across Asia Pacific for companies including Microsoft and Nokia, Shannon Mead resigned from corporate life in 2020 to register and operate environmental charity, No More Butts.

Drawing on 2 decades of roles across sales, operations, process optimization and analytics, Shannon has used the skills developed in his professional career to make a positive impact on the environment.

Joining many national and international working groups, Shannon has presented at multiple events and has networked across industry, all levels of Government and other NGOs to cement the role of No More Butts as a subject matter expert on the issue of tobacco product litter and waste.

**Abstract Summary**

Known as the Global Plastics Treaty, over the past two years, countries have been negotiating an agreement to effectively manage plastic pollution across its lifecycle. Fresh from the fourth session of negotiations, Australian-based United Nations accredited observer, No More Butts will provide insights and updates to conference attendees on the progress of discussions and what the next steps are likely to be.

**Abstract**

By the end of 2025, countries are due to conclude negotiations on a global agreement to end plastic, including in the marine environment.

In March 2022, countries agreed to commence negotiations for an International legally binding instrument (contract) that would set out the steps to end plastic pollution by 2040. This agreement, known as “resolution 5/14”, saw the establishment of a committee to negotiate a Plastics Treaty. This Treaty seeks to substantially eliminate the threats caused by plastic across the full lifecycle in recognition of the negative impacts that plastic has on all three elements of the triple planetary crisis.

Expected to cover the whole lifecycle of plastic, amongst several provisions, the Treaty is expected to address problematic and avoidable plastic products, as well as polymers and chemicals of concern. It will also address financial mechanisms, implementation plans and waste management. The Treaty also seeks to implement sustainable consumption, promote reuse, consider methods of recycling and define several key terms, such as the circular economy. Although products aren’t specifically mentioned in the text, there is a provision for definitions and criterion to include these lists later. Microplastics and abandoned fishing gear do feature in certain sections though.

After the completion of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in November 2023, member states and observers are now taking stock of the progress made so far. The third session ended without significant progress in creating a draft, nor agreeing to work to take place before INC4 in April to advance key topics.

There is a growing concern amongst many countries and organisations that some countries that are heavy reliant on oil production may not see the opportunity to consider sustainable alternatives and will not agree to mandatory targets on the production of new plastics.

With limited NGOs holding observer status via accreditation to the United National Environment Assembly globally, No More Butts is fortunate enough to be one of these organisations. We have been in attendance at the past two events and will be in Canada for INC4, just prior to Waste 2024.

In this presentation, we will unpack the background of the Treaty, discuss the High Ambition Coalition, review Australia’s role in negotiations so far, as well deliver a summary of the current status, fresh from the negotiating table.

With some actions already taking place in Australian States and Territories across many types of plastic products, LGAs, Peak Bodies and Government Departments are welcomed to receive a briefing on the progress. There is no doubt that domestic action remains critical, but it could be well informed by the status of this global action.