**Waste 2019 Abstract Submission**

The cost of abandonment

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

🞎 Aboriginal community waste management 🞎 Overseas experiences

🞎 Circular economy (inc implemented case studies & 🞎 Problem & hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical

requisite legislation) & medical, e-waste, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc)

🞎 Collection (inc MUD’s successes/innovation, transient 🞎 Procurement

population areas) 🞎 Product stewardship & extended producer

🞎 CDS (innovation, learning & successes) responsibility

🞎 Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, ✓ Recycling & resource recovery (inc Impact of

statistics, monitoring performance) National Sword, and reduced commodity prices, glass,

✓ Education (inc behaviour change, community engagement, reuse case studies, CRC’s)

social media) 🞎 Regional issues (inc collaboration, amalgamations)

🞎 Grants (major waste grants, outcomes and processes) 🞎 Regulations & levies (inc monitoring &

🞎 Infrastructure & planning (inc C&D guidelines, EfW, AWT enforcement, legal decisions, packaging waste)

& outputs) ✓ Social enterprise (inc case studies)

🞎 Innovative projects (inc artificial intelligence, case studies) 🞎 State based issues (inc media coverage,

🞎 Landfill transportation between states, waste crime)

🞎 Litter & illegal dumping (inc new innovative & smart ✓ Strategic waste planning & policy

initiatives, surveillance) 🞎 Technology

🞎 National waste policies & programs 🞎 Tenders & contracts

🞎 Organics (inc food waste, national food waste 🞎 Other

strategy collection, processing, pilot results)

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Dee Davidian and Meredith Gee

**Presenter position:** Senior Environmental Consultant (s)

**Presenter organisation:** MRA Consulting Group Pty Ltd

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**Biography**

**Dee Davidian**

Dee is an experienced environmental professional having worked extensively across all tiers of government, overseas and the private sector in waste and environmental management.

Since joining MRA, Dee has worked on the City of Sydney Illegal Dumping Strategy, Edward River Council Waste Management Strategy, the Waste Management and Landfill Strategy for Hilltops Council, WSROC Bulk Waste Options Analysis, and other projects for a range of commercial and local government clients.

Dee has strong skills in community consultation and stakeholder engagement. Dee has worked on research, evaluations and program design for the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, and delivered strategic initiatives for a range of organisations and clients.

Dee has a diverse range of knowledge and skills that allows her to provide customised solutions for a broad range of clients to achieve their waste and sustainability goals. She is an effective as a collaborator in complex settings, and synthesizing the technical, social, environmental and delivery aspects of projects.

**Meredith Gee**

Meredith is an experienced environmental professional with over 8 years of experience in both the public and private sectors in waste management, contaminated land, landfill and transfer station design, and construction.

Prior to joining MRA, Meredith worked as a senior environmental consultant at Meinhardt NSW, where she managed and conducted the environmental monitoring of eight landfills for six regional NSW councils. Meredith has also worked in sustainability behaviour change research for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, waste strategy development, including community engagement, for a booming regional municipality, and as a consulting environmental engineer in waste and contaminated land.

Over her career, Meredith has demonstrated her capability to utilise her professional expertise, personal skills and enthusiasm to achieve positive outcomes for clients, the community and the environment.

**Abstract Summary**

Efficient bulky waste management can assist Councils meet overall targets to divert 75% waste from landfill by 2021. This presentation will look at ways Councils can extract more of the treasure from one person’s trash, and suggest how Council strategies can head in the right direction towards incorporating reuse and recycling as a high performance and low risk/cost solution. We will look at lessons of the past, current trends, and future solutions.

**Abstract**

Unlike Municipal Solid Waste, or commingled recycling, the composition of bulky waste is ill-defined, and there is large variation in collection methods, accepted waste types, processing methods, processing facility and types of service providers.

Currently there are no specific targets for bulky waste management in NSW. In 2014-15, 248,606 tonnes were collected in clean-up collections, with 125,434 tonnes per annum being “bulky waste” as reported to the NSW EPA. The majority of this material ended up in landfill. Efficient bulky waste management can assist Councils meet overall targets to divert 75% waste from landfill by 2021.

Reuse and recycling are key avenues for diverting waste from landfill. More recently energy recovery has provided Australia with a means for improving diversion from landfill for residual waste remaining from recycling operations.

MRA has undertaken extensive research to investigate how Council systems can better maximise reuse and recycling. MRA investigated how to deliver in-house or contracted services considering factors such as community education, bulk waste collection, treatment and processing.

Large scale council reuse systems currently have practical limitations that prevent widespread uptake in comparison to municipal waste and recycling collection. For example, reuse at a council-level requires responsive and integrated reverse logistics systems to return a used product to a facility that can store, repair where necessary, exhibit for sale (either in a shop front or online) and transport to the new owner.

The collection phase of the bulky waste supply chain is of key importance to determine whether items can be reused/repaired. In order for bulky waste items to be reused or repaired (rather than recycled or remanufactured), they cannot be damaged. To maximise diversion, the collection phase has the ability to determine whether goods are repairable/reusable or if they need to be sent for recycling/processing. Collection design is influenced by available collection contractors, transfer station or sorting facilities, State waste legislation and EPR programs.

This presentation will look at ways Councils can extract more of the treasure from one person’s trash, and suggest how Council strategies can head in the right direction towards incorporating reuse and recycling as a high performance and low risk/cost solution. We will look at lessons of the past, current trends, and future solutions.