**Waste 2017 Abstract Submission**

**Community Recycling Enterprises – A National Network**

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

🞎 Circular economy 🞎 Overseas experiences

🞎 Collection (inc MUD’s, transient population areas) 🞎 Problem/Hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical &

🞎 Container Deposit Schemes medical, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc)

🞎 Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, 🞎 Product Stewardship

monitoring performance) 🞎 Regional issues

🞎 Education (inc community engagement) 🞎 Recycling (inc CRC’s, collection)

🞎 E-Waste 🞎 Regulations and levies

🞎 Grants (outcomes and processes) 🗹 Social enterprise

🞎 Infrastructure (inc major waste grants, EfW, organics) 🞎 State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)

🞎 Innovative projects (case studies preferred) 🞎 Technology

🞎 Landfill (inc operations, regulations) 🞎 Tenders and contracts

🞎 Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives) 🞎 Other 🞎 Organics (inc collection, processing)

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Matt Allen

**Presenter position:** Convener, CRNA

**Presenter organisation:** Community Recycling Network of Australia (CRNA)

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**Biography**

Matt is the Convener of the Community Recycling Network of Australia, a national network of waste-management social enterprises. He has been involved in non-profit and social enterprise management for the past 12 years, most recently as the General Manager of Resource Work Cooperative in Hobart, Tasmania, and as Social Enterprise Project Officer for the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania). Matt is also a board member of Hobart social enterprise startup Hamlet Inc, and a current MBA (Social Impact) candidate at UNSW.

**Abstract Summary**

An overview of the diverse Community Recycling Enterprises (CREs) within the Community Recycling Network of Australia (CRNA) will be presented. CREs exist to reduce waste to landfill while creating jobs and volunteer positions through the sale of reusable and recyclable goods. They are led by a social, cultural or environmental mission, derive a substantial portion of their income from trade, and reinvest the majority of their profit in the fulfilment of their mission. From small tip shops in regional communities to large, multi-regional enterprises, CREs are a significant contributor to waste reduction across Australia.

**Abstract**

Community Recycling Enterprises (CREs) are often the drivers of innovation in waste management, being motivated by environmental and social impact in equal measure to financial gain. They are flexible and creative, operating across a number of ‘problem waste’ areas – including household bulky waste collections, mattress recycling, fabric re-processing and even hair recycling. Traditionally, these problem wastes have attracted limited interest from the for-profit sector and local government, and CREs have been at the forefront of efforts to find cost-effective solutions. CREs are resourceful, creative, and scalable enterprises that are mission-driven and committed to collaboration. They are also a discrete sub-sector of the sustainability focused social enterprise sector, with a collective identity and industry network – Community Recycling Network Australia – that supports coordinated activity.

In 2017, CRNA will commence a collaborative project across Greater Sydney, where individual CREs will be supported to build their collaboration to increase reuse across sites in Greater Sydney. This project is driven by a collaboration between CRNA and the Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC).

This presentation will provide an overview of the diverse enterprises in the CRNA network, including Green Collect in Melbourne, Green Connect in the Illawarra, Resource Co-op in Hobart, The Bower in Sydney, Reverse Garbage (Qld and Sydney) and national operators including Sustainable Salons Australia, Resource Recovery Australia and the Endeavour Foundation. And an introduction to the Greater Sydney project with SSROC.