**Waste 2017 Abstract Submission**

**<<Insert Presentation Title Here>>**

*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:** Helen Lewis

**Presenter position:** Principal

**Presenter organisation:** Helen Lewis Research

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**Biography**

Dr Helen Lewis is an environmental consultant specialising in product stewardship and packaging sustainability. Until October 2016 years she was CEO of the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative, a position she held for six and a half years. Through her consulting business Helen has worked for a wide range of clients including the Australian Packaging Covenant, government agencies, industry associations and individual brand owners on product and packaging-related environmental strategies. She is the author of *Product stewardship in action*, published in November 2016, and co-author of *Packaging for sustainability* (2012) and *Design + Environment* (2001). [www.helenlewisresearch.com.au](http://www.helenlewisresearch.com.au)

**Abstract Summary**

The presentation will use local and overseas case studies to show what product stewardship means in practice for both industry and local government, and why collaboration is essential to success.

**Abstract**

‘Product stewardship’ – the principle that manufacturers are responsible to some degree for product impacts that occur in its supply chain, during use, and at end of life – is now widely accepted. Most well-known brands have made a public commitment to reduce the environmental and social impacts of their products and packaging, for example through procurement policies, design for sustainability, or take back strategies at end of life. Putting these commitments into practice is never easy, however.

This presentation will explain some of the basic principles of products stewardship, and what it means for brand owners, retailers, recyclers and local councils. A life cycle approach requires collaboration with multiple parties along the product chain to resolve particular problems or challenges. Successful schemes are based on genuine dialogue and effective engagement with stakeholders, and a clear understanding of each party’s role and responsibilities.

The presentation will include local and international case studies that demonstrate how successful product stewardship schemes use collaborative partnerships to reduce waste.