

## Waste 2017 Abstract Submission

### Improving Customer Safety and Resource Recovery at Waste Transfer Stations

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circular economy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas experiences   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collection (inc MUD's, transient population areas)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem/Hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical & medical, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Container Deposit Schemes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Stewardship  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, monitoring performance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (inc community engagement)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling (inc CRC's, collection)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Waste  | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations and levies   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants (outcomes and processes)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social enterprise  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure (inc major waste grants, EfW, organics)      | <input type="checkbox"/> State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovative projects (case studies preferred)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill (inc operations, regulations)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenders and contracts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organics (inc collection, processing)                                  |   |

#### **Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Peter Windley

**Presenter position:** Coordinator Waste Operations

**Presenter organisation:** Shoalhaven City Council

**Presenter email address:** Peter.Windley@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

**Presenter mobile number:** 0427 367 597

#### **Biography**

Peter Windley is the Waste Co-ordinator for one of the largest council regions in New South Wales. Peter is leading a dynamic team of 58 staff implementing considerable changes in waste operations for Shoalhaven City Council. Peter coordinates 10 transfer stations, 2 landfills and other waste and recycling operations in the region. Peter has been integral in enabling changes to safety at the 10 waste transfer stations since an unfortunate accident at the West Nowra waste transfer station in 2014. Peter has vast experience in project management, earthmoving equipment and WHS, he and his team have also facilitated significant changes to the way the West Nowra landfill is currently operated to meet increasing compliance pressure.

## “Improving Customer Safety and Resource Recovery at Waste Transfer Stations”

The elevated saw tooth transfer station is the most widely used waste transfer system utilised by councils and other waste facility operators at public drop-off areas. Wider research has revealed that there have been numerous serious injuries or fatalities at these raised waste transfer stations both internationally and within Australia, but relatively few details are able to be easily accessed or utilised in assisting risk analysis. Predominantly, this style of public drop-off area is valued because of its simplicity in design and ease of customer use. This approach comes with several costs, primarily an increased safety risk, but also increased transport costs and a high potential for lost revenue in reduced recyclable/resource recovery.

In 2014, Shoalhaven City Council experienced an unfortunate accident resulting in a fatality at the elevated saw tooth public drop-off area at West Nowra recycling and waste transfer station. Shoalhaven City Council has since spent a considerable amount of time and money through investigations, site improvements, increased staff supervision, detailed procedures and equipment to eliminate the potential of this occurring again.

Work Safe NSW have been very proactive in assisting Shoalhaven City Council through the assessment of these changes and providing feedback. Prior to this accident, Council had implemented safe customer drop off area operation protocol based on a dynamic risk assessment approach. Council had used all information available to build the risk profile and implement control measures at the 10 elevated customer drop off transfer areas that they operate, but sourcing reliable statistics to support risk analysis proved challenging.

Shoalhaven City Council has since been working hard to design new facilities that are first and foremost safe for the user and staff. Council has been reviewing innovative approaches such as the flat floor transfer stations and the L-Bin waste transfer system to improve safety, compliance and increase rates of recycling and resource recovery. The L-Bin waste transfer system was selected for a case study at the Ulladulla Waste Recycling and Waste facility.

