

KAB NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

30 & 31 July 2025
Pavilion, Regents Park (Sydney)



Picking Up the Pieces: Local Solutions to a National Problem



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE
PART OF THE SOLUTION - REGISTER TODAY!

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS END 25 JUNE 2025

Invitation



On behalf of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW), I take great pleasure in inviting you to join us for the KAB NSW Annual Conference 2025: *Picking Up the Pieces: Local Solutions to a National Problem*, to be held at Dooleys Regent St. Pavilion on 30 and 31 July 2025.

This year, our conference theme is *Picking Up the Pieces: Local Solutions to a National Problem*, highlighting the crucial role of waste management, litter prevention, and environmental stewardship in creating a sustainable future.

Join us as we bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including experts, advocates, policymakers, and industry leaders, to collaborate and innovate towards finding sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. This conference is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, learn from others, and make a difference in our communities.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of the solution. Register now to reserve your seat.

I look forward to welcoming you to 2025 KAB NSW Annual Conference.



Val Southam
Chief Executive and Executive Director
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- EnviroMentors® environmental education program
- KAB NSW Annual Conference
- Local Govt Litter Index
- Adopt-a-Patch (corporate volunteer days)



Venue

**Pavilion - Regent St.
67 Regent St
Regents Park NSW 2143**

Nestled within the vibrant community of Regents Park, the recently refurbished Regent St. Pavilion features spacious meeting rooms and a new outdoor alfresco dining space on the green.

Regent St. Pavilion is conveniently located in Western Sydney, just a short five-minute walk from the Regents Park Train Station. Complimentary parking is also available onsite.

Preliminary Program

Wednesday 30th July 2025

0800	Registration, tea and coffee	1215	Lunch
OPENING PLENARY		ADDRESSING TOBACCO AND VAPE LITTER CHALLENGES	
0900	Welcome and housekeeping Matt Taylor, Master of Ceremonies	1315	Unfiltered: The regulatory issues affecting the reduction of cigarette butt litter. Speaker to be advised
	Welcome from KAB NSW Val Southam, CEO - Keep Australia Beautiful NSW		Presentation to be advised Speaker to be advised
	An update on the NSW Litter Prevention Strategy John Lavarack, NSW Environment Protection Authority		Collaborating for state-wide action on tobacco waste Shannon Mead, No More Butts
	Presentation to be advised Speaker to be advised		Cigarette butts remain one of the most littered items in NSW and in Australia. With the EPA having a milestone of a 50% observed reduction in cigarette butt littering by 2030, No More Butts has been working with councils and partners to identify methods to hit this target.
	LitterLotto Val Southam, CEO - Keep Australia Beautiful NSW LitterLotto is an innovative, award-winning app that gamifies and rewards responsible litter disposal, encouraging community engagement and environmental responsibility.		Discussion and questions
	Discussion and questions	1500	Afternoon tea break
1030	Morning tea break	THE ROLE OF ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION IN LITTER MANAGEMENT	
CHANGING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PLASTICS		1530	Enforcement - If there are no consequences, why would you change your behaviour? Brendon Andrei, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
1100	Certified Bioplastics: Part of the solution to managing waste Martine Poulain, Australasian Bioplastics Association The ABA represent the interests of the bioplastics industry in ANZ and is committed to building and strengthening a supportive policy environment in the region for certified biobased, compostable and soil biodegradable products to thrive.		Littering fines are an effective intervention in the litter prevention arsenal, but they are rarely issued. How can we build momentum in the litter enforcement space to drive down littering rates?
	Rapid appraisal of microplastic loss mitigation measures from synthetic fields Dr Scott Wilson, Australian Microplastic Assessment Project This presentation describes a rapid assessment technique to enable councils to identify where management of waste from synthetic turf can be improved. The talk will describe the toolbox method used and the findings to date to support councils in best practice approaches.		Presentation - Stopping Plastic Feedstock Pollution: Operation Clean Sweep Australia in action Heidi Tait, Tangaroa Blue Foundation Explore how Operation Clean Sweep helps prevent plastic feedstock pollution through education and enforcement. The program supports compliance with NSW EPA requirements under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, helping councils and communities reduce microplastic pollution at the source.
	Presentation to be advised Speaker to be advised		Presentation to be advised Speaker to be advised
	Discussion and questions		Discussion and questions Day one wrap up
		1715	Close day 1
		1715	Networking function

Thursday 31st July 2025

0830 Registration, tea and coffee

SOLUTIONS FOR CLEANER WATERWAYS

0900 Day two welcome and housekeeping

Matt Taylor, Master of Ceremonies

The Pollution Divide: Comparing Urban Litter and Stormwater Pollution

Daniel Rider, Ocean Protect & Kenneth Fitzgerald, Blacktown City Council

This presentation shares insights from a short-term exploratory study conducted by Blacktown City Council and Ocean Protect. The study compared litter and stormwater pollution on a commercial site in Western Sydney. Blacktown City Council surveyed the site for litter, while Ocean Protect monitored stormwater pit inserts to assess stormwater pollution.

From Pollution to Participation: The Satyaam Ghat Story **Sam Nasser & Laura Parent, Liverpool City Council**

This session showcases the Satyaam Ghat activation project, highlighting how culturally sensitive engagement, education, and collaborative action led to a 70% litter reduction and renewed community ownership. It explores lessons learned in empowering diverse communities to protect urban waterways through inclusive, place-based environmental initiatives.

Caring for Woollahra's harbour beaches with corporate volunteering

Michelle Rose, Woollahra Council

Litter in Sydney Harbour is a significant problem. To reduce litter on our beaches and raise awareness of plastic pollution Woollahra Council established our HarbourCare program. The program has evolved from attracting a handful of individual volunteers in 2017 to enabling 65 corporate clean-ups in 2024 with over 1,200 participants.

Tackling recreational fishing litter in NSW

Emma Kark, OzFish Unlimited

OzFish is tackling recreational fishing litter with community-driven programs that influence ideal behaviours for litter prevention. Collaborating with community, councils and key industry stakeholders, the project addresses barriers from manufacturing, usage, and then disposal, working towards a circular economy.

Gladesville Litter Reduction Project

Kylie McMahon, City of Ryde

The Gladesville Litter Reduction Project was a catchment based project targeting the removal of gross pollutants impacting the waterway health of the Parramatta River. The grant project combined infrastructure installation, targeted litter hotspots and mixed engagementcommunity education connecting urban impacts to water quality issues.

Discussion and questions

1100 Morning tea break

TRANSFORMING MATTRESS DISPOSAL

1130 The Croc: Liverpool City Council's journey to circularity

Jason Breton, Liverpool City Council

This presentation is about Liverpool City Council's journey to circularity. How Liverpool City Council turned an ongoing waste problem into a golden opportunity.

Discussion and questions

Workshop: Product Stewardship in Practice: Supporting councils in a circular economy

Krisandra Knight & Kylie Roberts-Frost, Australian Bedding Stewardship Council

How can voluntary product stewardship help bridge the gap between federal circular economy policy and local government reality? This collaborative session explores practical, council-focused solutions - reducing dumping, easing bulky waste pressure, and co-designing reuse and recycling models that work on the ground, not just on paper.

1300 Lunch

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC PLACE LITTER AND DISPOSAL MANAGEMENT

1400 Community First, Plastic Last: Ecoliving Festival meets Maroubra Beach Markets

Helen Morrison, Randwick City Council - Sustainability

By partnering with Maroubra Beach Markets, Randwick Council reimagined its Eco Living Festival, increasing attendance by 150% and reaching new audiences. The event featured a successful reusable cup trial, waste diversion initiatives, and interactive experiences—creating a replicable model for embedding and normalising sustainable practices within popular community events while driving lasting behaviour change.

Solved! Public place recycling in Sutherland

Corinne Glennan, Sutherland Shire Council

Delivering a successful public place recycling service that is adopted by community, has low contamination, and compliments current public waste services. A 12-month trial ended in finding a successful way to deliver public place recycling in a Sydney council area.

Presentation to be advised

Speaker to be advised

Discussion and questions

Wrap up and closing remarks

Val Southam, CEO - Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

1600 Conference close

Presenters



Matt Taylor

Master of Ceremonies

Matt is a seasoned Master of Ceremonies (MC) with extensive experience hosting and leading a wide range of non-profit and corporate events. Matt supports several local organisations including President of the Newcastle Business Club, Chair of Go circular and volunteer for Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and the Annual Ride for Sick Kids to support Ronald McDonald House



Val Southam

CEO

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Val is a senior executive with 30 years of experience in the environment industry. She has held CEO and Executive Director roles at KAB NSW, executive positions in major packaging corporates, and led the Waste Management Association of Australia for 15 years. Val also participates in various boards and government advisory committees.



John Lavarack

Senior Project Officer

NSW Environment Protection Authority

John has been with the Litter Prevention team at the NSW EPA since 2017, working on strategic initiatives, including development of the Litter Data Framework. In the decades prior, John worked in local government and university roles based in Sydney, including research in local government policy at University of Technology, Sydney, and in information systems at the University of Sydney. Specialising in community and organisational learning, John works as a communicator and strategist to build capacity in environmental protection.



Martine Poulain

CEO

Australasian Bioplastics Association

Martine Poulain is the Chief Executive Officer of The Australasian Bioplastics Association, where she promotes the understanding and appropriate use of bioplastics. With extensive experience in association management, she is dedicated to increasing awareness of the ABA's certification scheme for sustainable packaging options, driving industry growth and environmental responsibility. Her leadership fosters collaboration and innovation within the bioplastics sector.



Dr Scott Wilson

Research Director

Australian Microplastic Assessment Project

Dr Scott Wilson is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Macquarie University and the Research Director of the Total Environment Centre's Australian Microplastic Assessment Project, a citizen science driven data collection and education program designed to raise awareness and offer solutions on microplastic pollution. He is an ecotoxicologist and over the last 20 years has researched the impacts of plastics and marine debris in aquatic environments both in Australia and internationally.



Shannon Mead

Executive Director

No More Butts

Shannon Mead resigned from corporate life in 2020 to establish the environmental charity "No More Butts." With two decades of experience in sales, operations, and analytics, he previously held leadership roles at Microsoft and Nokia. Shannon has participated in national and international working groups, presented at numerous events, and built a robust network across various sectors. In 2024, he received the Queensland Environmental Philanthropist of the Year award.



Brendon Andrei

Regional Litter Prevention Officer
**Western Sydney Regional
Organisation of Councils**

Brendon is a seasoned project and enforcement officer in the environmental industry with 19 years of experience. As the Regional Litter Prevention Officer at WSROC, he collaborates with 7 councils to manage the Western Sydney Regional Litter Prevention Program. Prior to this role, he held positions at Blacktown City Council, focusing on natural resource management, litter prevention, illegal dumping, and overseeing strategies, projects, campaigns, and investigations.



Heidi Tait

CEO
Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Heidi Tait is the CEO of Tangaroa Blue Foundation and the Program Manager for Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) Australia, which has been part of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative's source reduction programs since its launch in 2015. Heidi has worked with the NSW and VIC EPAs, local governments, and the plastics industry to integrate OCS into operations across the plastics supply chain, reducing plastic feedstock loss and marine pollution.



Daniel Rider

Water Sensitive Urban
Design Specialist
Ocean Protect

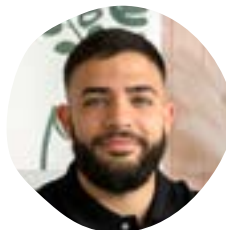
Daniel Rider is the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Specialist at Ocean Protect. Following his pivotal role in the Australian leading Blacktown City Council WSUD Compliance Program, he joined Ocean Protect to lead the development of the WSUD Maintenance Compliance Framework. To assist with the development of this Framework, he also started the National WSUD Compliance Network, a platform that has brought together over 100 professionals, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on WSUD compliance.



Kenneth Fitzgerald

Resource Management
Enforcement Officer
Blacktown City Council

Kenneth Barratt-Fitzgerald is a Resource Management Enforcement Officer at Blacktown City Council with extensive experience in environmental compliance, investigating illegal dumping, community education, and leading waste reduction initiatives. He is skilled in surveillance, enforcement, and advocacy, holding qualifications in Health & Environment, Leadership & Management, and Regulatory Services. Kenneth is actively involved in environmental projects, shares insights at events, and advocates for pollution prevention and meaningful change in urban waste and sustainability efforts.



Sam Nasser

Catchment Management Officer
Liverpool City Council

Sam is a Catchment Management Officer at Liverpool City Council with a background in environmental science and community engagement. He leads major urban waterway projects, including the activation of culturally significant sites like Satyaam Ghat. With a passion for inclusive, place-based solutions, Sam specialises in integrating environmental health with community-driven outcomes. His work bridges policy, science, and lived experience to deliver sustainable, culturally respectful improvements to public spaces and waterways.



Laura Parent

Project Officer
Liverpool City Council

Laura is a Project Officer at Liverpool City Council with experience in community engagement, placemaking, and environmental projects. She played a key role in supporting the activation of Satyaam Ghat, helping coordinate stakeholders, develop educational materials, and ensure the project reflected the community's cultural values. Laura is passionate about delivering inclusive, locally informed initiatives that create lasting environmental and social impact across diverse communities.

Presenters



Michelle Rose

Environmental Education Officer
Woollahra Council

Michelle is an environmental educator with a passion for strengthening community connections to our amazing natural areas. Collaborating with local community, corporate and school groups she facilitates projects that support sustainability action and protect natural areas. Her appreciation for the NSW coast began in childhood, exploring beaches, sand dunes, bays and estuaries, and continues today through snorkelling and coastal walks.



Emma Kark

Special Projects Manager
Tackling Litter
OzFish Unlimited

Emma is the Tackling Litter Project Manager at OzFish, a role she has held for 9 months. Previously, she served as a Waste Project Officer at Hornsby Shire Council, implementing behavioral change programs to minimize waste and litter. Emma also founded The Bear Minimum, which successfully developed a single-use reduction plan in Banff, Canada.



Kylie McMahon

Executive Officer, City Resilience
City of Ryde

Kylie leads the City Resilience department at the City of Ryde Council working to minimise the impacts of climate change and natural environment impacts through delivery of behavioural change programs, strategy and projects. Her diverse background includes natural area management, climate change and sustainability through to waterway management. She is part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's Executive Team who developed the Parramatta River Masterplan to clean up the river and improve waterway health.



Jason Breton

Acting CEO
Liverpool City Council

Jason brings 30 years of extensive leadership experience in both public and private sectors, holding senior positions in government, transport, infrastructure, and law enforcement. Currently the Acting CEO at Liverpool City Council, he has overseen transformative projects, including major rail bids and city-shaping developments. His expertise in operations, strategic planning, and governance is further demonstrated through roles at Hitachi Rail, Metro Trains, Downer, and a notable 24-year career with NSW Police.



Krisandra Knight

Director - Stakeholder Engagement
Australian Bedding Stewardship Council

Krisandra Knight is a seasoned leader with over 20 years of experience in stakeholder engagement and change management at global firms like Maersk and Reuters. Known for her inclusive and empathetic approach, she drives collaborations supporting sustainability and circular economy goals at ABSC. Passionate about transformative partnerships, Krisandra is focused on authentic engagement and circular solutions for bedding and mattresses.



Kylie Roberts-Frost

CEO
Australian Bedding Stewardship Council

Kylie Roberts-Frost is the CEO of the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council, overseeing a federally authorized scheme to tackle Australia's mattress waste problem. With expertise in strategy, operations, and global logistics, she takes a unique approach to circular economy challenges. Committed to developing practical, scalable solutions through design, innovation, and partnerships, Kylie's leadership has led to impactful projects that reduce waste, support local government, and redefine voluntary stewardship.



Helen Morrison

Senior Sustainability Officer -
Community
Randwick City Council

Helen Morrison is an experienced sustainability professional with 18 years of expertise in environmental community engagement, education and behaviour change programs. She is currently the Senior Sustainability Officer for Community Programs at Randwick City Council. Deeply committed to the power of everyday actions, Helen is inspired by the idea that we each make on average 35,000 decisions a day - each one presenting an opportunity to make a positive impact on shaping better outcomes for our planet.



Corinne Glennan

Waste Technical Officer
Sutherland Shire Council

Corinne is a behaviour change expert with over two decades in local government waste services, specialising in waste management. Her unwavering passion for behaviour change and data-driven innovation has led to the creation of groundbreaking initiatives that have transformed the communities she serves. Corinne's exceptional skills in delivering successful programs have resulted in positive and sustained changes, particularly in working in changing social norms and habits around recycling, illegal dumping, and littering.



The Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Awards serve as a platform for recognising and celebrating the remarkable achievements in sustainability across our communities.

Enter the awards and showcase your sustainability efforts and initiatives for a chance to receive recognition, networking opportunities, leadership development, and inspiration.

ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025

Details @ www.kabnsw.org.au/awards



General information

HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations must be completed through the online booking form available at <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/conference/register/>.

The registration process takes approximately 5 minutes and payment can be made using Visa, MasterCard or AMEX (please note there may be a 1.1% surcharge for AMEX). The option to request an invoice and pay by EFT will be available up until 9 July 2025. Please note that registrations won't be confirmed until they are paid in full.

KAB NSW Members
KAB NSW Members, please email info@kabnsw.org.au to request your access code to access discounted member tickets.

REGISTRATION

Registration includes:

- Attendance at all sessions
- Morning/afternoon tea and lunches as per the program
- 1 x Networking Event ticket
- Event program
- Access to conference papers

Conference registrations cannot be shared. Strictly one delegate per registration only.

PAYMENT

Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received in full

All fees are in Australian Dollars \$AUD and are inclusive of 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST)

DRESS CODE

The dress standard for the event is business/smart casual.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this brochure as accurately as possible. The organisers reserve the right to change, without notice, any or all of these details.

LOCATION

Pavilion - Regent St.
67 Regent St, Regents Park

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Pavilion is located 500m walk from Regents Park Train Station.

PARKING

Complimentary parking is available onsite. Enter via 67 Regent Street, Regents Park..

NETWORKING EVENT (5:15 – 7:30pm, Wed 30 July)

To minimise food waste generated at the event, we request that you confirm your attendance at the Networking Event when you register. If you wish to update your attendance, please email events@kabnsw.org.au.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation of your registration must be advised in writing to events@kabnsw.org.au.

Cancellations received on or before 30 May 2025 will receive a full refund less a \$165 administration fee, cancellations received after this date will not receive a refund, however, we will accept delegate name changes at any time leading up to the event (differences in registration fees may be applicable).

DIETARY AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please advise on your registration form if you have any dietary or special requirements.

PRIVACY

In registering for this event, relevant details may be incorporated into a delegate list for the benefit of all delegates (name, organisation and title) and may be made available to parties directly related to the event including KAB NSW and sponsors (subject to conditions). If you do not wish to be included in the delegate list please email events@kabnsw.org.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDING

By registering for the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Annual Conference you consent and grant permission to KAB NSW, its agents and others working under its authority, to take and to have full and free use of video/photographs containing your image/likeness. These images and recordings may be used for promotional, news, online/multimedia, research and/or educational purposes by and for KAB NSW. Copies of the event photographs will be made available to the attendees after the event.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about the conference or Keep Australia Beautiful NSW please contact us using the details below:

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