Closing the Loop:
FOGO, Soft Plastics and the Circular Economy

2026 KAB NSW SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR

9:00am - 12:30pm,
Thursday 12 November 2026
Hornsby RSL



Join us for this half-day seminar exploring two key areas shaping the future of sustainable waste and resource management: FOGO rollouts and circular solutions for soft plastics.

The first session will focus on the opportunities and challenges of creating circular solutions for soft plastics, exploring how councils and industry are working to recover, reuse and find new applications for this challenging material stream.

The second session will explore the practical realities of introducing and expanding FOGO services, including lessons from councils at different stages of implementation.

Whether you are working in waste, sustainability, procurement, infrastructure or community engagement, this seminar will provide valuable insights, real-world examples and practical ideas to help advance circularity and resource recovery across your organisation.

After the seminar, we invite you to join us for lunch* and celebrate the achievements of councils, businesses and community groups from across Greater Sydney at the 2026 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards luncheon.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS & EVENT SPONSORS

HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL · nsw SOCO · snowy hydro · red energy

*additional ticket fee applies for the awards luncheon

THU 12 NOVEMBER 2026
9:00am - 12:30pm
Hornsby RSL
4 High St, Hornsby

REGISTRATION
All prices include GST

Early:
- KABNSW Member $140
- Non Member $180

Standard:
- KABNSW Member $160
- Non Member $200

Early pricing ends 9 Oct 2026.
Ticket sales close 4 Nov 2026

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER >

https://events.humanitix.com/kabnsw-sc26

BOOKING ENQUIRIES
T: 02 8594 4000 or
E: events@kabnsw.org.au

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

0900 REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE

0930	**Welcome and housekeeping**		**Rupert Saville** Director | Marmaduke Project	

CLOSING THE LOOP ON SOFT PLASTICS: CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS, VALUE CHAINS & PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

0935	**Circular Soft Plastics - CRC Buy Back Program**		**Michael Neville** Team Leader - Strategy, Projects and Education | Hornsby Shire Council	In a concerted effort to close the loop and boost demand for recycled content products, Hornsby Council now sells a variety of recycled plastic products back to our community. Available at Thornleigh CRC, these are made with 100% recycled content. That contains up to 35% soft plastics.
0950	**Activating Council Demand for Australian-Recycled Soft Plastics**		**Justin Bonsey** Managing Director | Tidal Circular	The barrier to a circular soft plastics economy isn't recycling - it's procurement. This session shares how a statewide NSW project tackled it head-on, building a public directory, whole-of-life business-case tools and demand pooling to make Australian-recycled products visible, comparable and procurable.
1005	**Positive Community Outcome from Resource Recovery Programs**		**Mitchell Copas** Coordinator Waste Services | Wingecarribee Shire Council	This presentation explores successful community-focused initiatives, including soft plastics recycling and the operations of Council's Upcycle Centre, highlighting actionable strategies to minimise landfill waste and promote a circular local economy.
1020	**Questions and discussion**			

1040 MORNING TEA BREAK

CLOSING THE LOOP ON ORGANICS: FOGO ROLLOUT EXPERIENCES, MODELS & PRACTICAL LESSONS

1100	**Getting FOGO Right: Support for NSW Councils**		**Elizabeth Craggs** A/ Senior Project Officer | NSW Environment Protection Authority	
1115	**Planning for the new Food Recycling and fourth bin service in the Hornsby Shire**		**Amanda Free** Senior Waste Programs Coordinator | Hornsby Shire Council	Hornsby Shire Council will become the second council in NSW to introduce a dedicated food recycling service, commencing July 2027. This presentation will explore the planning undertaken to date, including the rationale for selecting a separate fourth bin model, and key education and community engagement strategies being developed to support a successful rollout.
1130	**Our Food Waste Journey - Lane Cove Council**		**Bernadette Riad** Manager Sustainability and Resilience | Lane Cove Council	Bernadette will provide an overview of the journey Lane Cove Council has taken from planning through to delivery to implement their new Food Waste Service. Launched in March this year with stand-alone houses, the service has delivered outstanding early results, with low contamination and high levels of community support.
1145	**Battery Fires, where are the risks, and are we making any headway?**		**Brett Lemin** Executive Director | Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW	Battery fires threaten workers, vehicles and facilities across the waste and recycling sector. Brett Lemin examines where risks arise, whether prevention efforts are delivering results, and what gaps remain. The presentation explores education, collection systems, product stewardship and regulation, asking whether we are making headway and what must happen next.
1200	**Questions and discussion**			
1220	**Wrap Up**			

1230 END SEMINAR - AWARDS LUNCH COMMENCES

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.