

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



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

**additional ticket fee applies for the awards luncheon*

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

0900 REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE

0930	Welcome and housekeeping		Jeanne-Vida Douglas Head of Innovation Property Industry Foundation
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CLOSING THE LOOP ON SOFT PLASTICS: CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS, VALUE CHAINS & PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

0940	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.
0955	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.
1010	Closing the Loop on Soft Plastics: From Collection to New Products		Mitchell Copas Coordinator Waste Services Wingecarribee Shire Council	
1025	Questions and discussion			

1050 MORNING TEA BREAK

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

1115	Getting FOGO Right: Support for NSW Councils		Speaker TBA	
1130	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.
1145	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.

1200 Questions and discussion

1220 Wrap Up

1230 END SEMINAR - AWARDS LUNCH COMMENCES