

# National Environmental Science Program

Sustainable Community and Waste Hub research plan 2025 – Attachment B project plans-IP6



# Contents

<b>National Environmental Science Program</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Sustainable Community and Waste Hub research plan 2025 – Attachment B project plans-IP6..1</b>	
Project IP6.05.01 – Safe circular economy .....	3
Pathway to impact.....	4
Project description .....	7
Indigenous consultation and engagement.....	18
Project milestones.....	19
Data and information management .....	20
Location of research .....	21
Project keywords.....	22

# Project IP6.05.01 – Safe circular economy

<b>Project type:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hub research project</li></ul>	
<b>Project status:</b> Existing project seeking amendment and new sub project submitted for approval	
<b>Cross-cutting initiative:</b>	No
<b>Project start date:</b> Upon DCCEEW approval	<b>Project end date:</b> 30/12/2026
<b>Project leader details:</b>	Name: Professor Matthew Kearnes Organisation: UNSW Sydney  <b>IP6.05.01-C</b> Name: Dr Stefan Kaufman Organisation: Sustainability Transitions Lab, Faculty of Business & Economics, Monash University

# Pathway to impact

Outcomes
<p>The project outcomes will be identified after finalising the scoping project. The outcomes may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resource Development:</b> Collaborate with First Nation, Civil society organisations and local and regional economic leaders, to develop resources that demonstrate the value and benefits of safe circular economy practices, including financial savings, health improvements, community benefits, emission reductions, and social advantages. The delivery of resources specific to the four priority sectors - industry, built environment, food and agriculture and resources - identified in Australia’s Circular Economy Framework will also be prioritised. Tools for businesses and partners to demonstrate operational CE benefits.</li> <li>• <b>Awareness and Action:</b> Ensure that local and regional economic leaders are aware of the actions they can take to develop and implement safe circularity principles within their contexts.</li> <li>• <b>Expert Network Access:</b> Provide local and regional economic leaders with access to a network of experts and practitioners in safe circular economy practices, facilitating knowledge sharing and support.</li> <li>• <b>Implementation Tools:</b> Equip businesses and communities with the necessary tools to implement safe circular practices effectively.</li> <li>• <b>Capability uplift:</b> Clear, accessible templates that reduce the cost and complexity of transition.</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration ecosystem alignment:</b> Shared analysis and frameworks supporting harmonised practices across sectors.</li> <li>• <b>Implementation support:</b> Ready-to-use tools that feed back into national CE Framework targets.</li> <li>• <b>Knowledge translation:</b> Online platform for national access to curated transition tools</li> </ul>

Research-user	Engagement and communication	Impact on management action	Outputs
Chemicals and Atmosphere Branch, Circular Economy Division (DCCEEW)	<p>Engagement and communication are integral parts of this project. Here’s how we plan to address these aspects:</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement</b> Engaging stakeholders from the outset is crucial to ensure their input and buy-in.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement</b> Community engagement will be enhanced through awareness campaigns that educate the community about the benefits of a circular economy and the</p>	<p>The findings from this project will have a significant impact on decision-making and on-ground action. Here are some specific examples:</p> <p><b>Strategic Planning</b> Effective management action begins with strategic planning. This involves setting clear objectives, defining the scope of the project, and establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress.</p> <p><b>Resource Allocation</b> Allocating resources efficiently is crucial for the success of the</p>	<p>This project will deliver several key outputs to assist in the uptake of research and informed action:</p> <p><b>Research Publications</b> The project will produce a series of research publications that document the findings, methodologies, and outcomes of the circular economy initiatives.</p> <p><b>Best Practice Guidelines</b> Developing best practice guidelines will be a key output of the project.</p>

Research-user	Engagement and communication	Impact on management action	Outputs
	<p>specific goals of the project.</p> <p><b>Communication Strategies</b> Clear and consistent messaging is essential to communicate the project's vision, goals, and benefits.</p> <p><b>Capacity Building</b> Capacity building will be supported through training workshops for local businesses, government officials, and community leaders to build their capacity in circular economy practices.</p> <p>By implementing these comprehensive engagement and communication strategies, the project will ensure active participation, foster a sense of ownership among stakeholders, and build a strong foundation for the successful transition to a circular economy. This approach will also enhance the project's visibility and credibility, attracting further support and investment.</p>	<p>project. This includes financial resources and human capital. Ensuring that resources are directed towards high-impact areas will maximise the project's effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Risk Management</b> Identifying and managing risks is a key component of effective management action. This involves conducting thorough risk assessments to identify potential challenges and developing mitigation strategies to address them.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Coordination</b> Coordinating with stakeholders is essential for ensuring that all parties are aligned and working towards common goals.</p> <p><b>Capacity Building</b> Building the capacity of the project team and stakeholders is essential for ensuring long-term success.</p> <p><b>Communication and Reporting</b> Effective communication and reporting are vital for maintaining transparency and accountability. This involves regularly updating stakeholders on project progress, sharing successes and challenges, and providing clear and concise reports.</p> <p>By implementing these comprehensive management actions, the project will ensure effective planning,</p>	<p><b>Case Studies</b> The project will generate comprehensive case studies that showcase successful implementations of circular economy models.</p> <p><b>Policy Recommendations</b> The project will produce policy recommendations aimed at local, regional, and national governments.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement Reports</b> The project will produce community engagement reports that document the processes and outcomes of stakeholder engagement activities.</p> <p>By delivering these outputs, the project will provide valuable resources, tools, and knowledge to support the transition to a circular economy.</p>

Research-user	Engagement and communication	Impact on management action	Outputs
		resource allocation, risk management, stakeholder coordination, performance monitoring, capacity building, communication, and adaptive management.	
Additional outputs			

# Project description

## Project summary

Broad community engagement is increasingly recognised as an essential dimension of accelerating progress toward the circular economy. However, the potential for adverse public responses to specific circular economy (CE) initiatives, coupled with increasingly stringent regulatory responses to the recirculation of hazardous materials, constitutes a key challenge for the CE.

This project will serve as a continuation of the scoping project, using its outcomes to guide the direction and focus areas of the broader initiative. The scoping project will inform the umbrella project through reviewing relevant scholarly and policy literatures, in combination with community engagement and co-design approaches. Through these activities the directions for IP6 research will be scoped out in alignment with community needs and identified research gaps. The aim is to establish an umbrella project that defines guidelines and directions for selecting various sub-projects also includes the delivery of these yet-to-be-determined sub-projects. These sub-projects will collectively enable us to achieve the overarching objective of promoting safe circularity.

By providing a structured framework for project selection, this initiative will ensure that all efforts align with the broader aspects of safe circularity, addressing both community engagement and regulatory compliance. This approach will help mitigate potential challenges and accelerate the transition towards a sustainable circular economy.

This project will be modified and completed after scoping project has been done and sub-project has been identified.

### **Activities:**

- Develop a framework for evaluating potential sub-projects.
- Establish criteria for assessing the alignment of sub-projects with the broader goals of safe circularity.
- Define procedures for stakeholder engagement in the project selection process.

## Project description

This project aims to establish a comprehensive framework for selecting and implementing sub-projects that align with the broader objectives of safe circularity. The selection process will be guided by the outcomes of the initial scoping project, ensuring that all efforts are strategically focused and impactful.

### **Framework and Selection Process:**

#### **1. Utilising Scoping Project Outcomes:**

- The initial scoping project will provide valuable insights and data, which will be used to define a set of guidelines for the required sub-projects.
- These guidelines will be developed in consultation with research users to ensure they address real-world challenges and opportunities.

#### **2. Defining Required Projects:**

- Based on the established guidelines, we will identify and define the necessary sub-projects.
- Collaboration with researchers and Impact Priority areas within the SCaW hub will be essential to create simple project proposals. These proposals will

outline the objectives, alignment with the main project goals, and the outcomes of the scoping project.

**3. Ensuring Alignment with Overall Objectives:**

- We will work closely with research users to ensure that each proposed sub-project is well-aligned with the overall objectives of the main project.
- This collaborative approach will help to refine the proposals and ensure they meet the needs of all stakeholders.

**4. Approval Process:**

- Once the project proposals are finalised, they will be submitted to the Hub leader for approval.
- Following the Hub leader's approval, the proposals will be sent to the steering committee members for their out-of-session approval.

**5. Budget Allocation and Project Initiation:**

- Upon receiving approval from the steering committee, the necessary budget will be allocated to each sub-project.
- The projects will then be initiated immediately, ensuring a swift transition from planning to implementation.

This structured approach will ensure that all sub-projects are strategically selected, well-aligned with the main objectives, and effectively contribute to the advancement of safe circularity. By engaging with research users and stakeholders throughout the process, we will create impactful solutions that address both community needs and regulatory requirements.

## **IP6.05.01A- CE<sup>2</sup>: Community Engagement for the Circular Economy Transition**

### ***Subproject summary***

**Project Focus:** This project aims to establish a comprehensive, empirically grounded framework for a ‘people-centred’ approach to transitioning to a circular economy.

#### **Project Components:**

- Collaborative social science research documenting community engagement practices in the context of circular economy transitions – including research interviews, workshops, and desk-based research;
- Mapping touchpoints between national frameworks and local initiatives, engaging with civil society and government agencies alongside key circular economy stakeholders;
- Piloting innovative community engagement methodologies including direct and place-based engagement approaches with 400 community members across four geographic regions and locations;
- Production of a *Circular Economy Community Engagement Framework* and a *Best Practice Guide for Community Engagement*;
- Completion and publication of appropriate and targeted research outputs.

### ***Background***

This project aims to establish a comprehensive, empirically grounded framework for a ‘people-centred’ approach to transitioning to a circular economy. Meeting or exceeding Australia’s Circular Economy transition targets, which includes doubling the circularity rate by 2035 – will necessitate profound changes in how Australian citizens and consumers participate in planning, regional economic development, and in the production and consumption of food and clothing, shelter, packaging and manufactured goods. It is now widely recognised that individuals and communities play a vital role in advancing circular economy transitions. Empowering consumers, citizens, and communities to actively participate in these processes is essential to achieving meaningful and inclusive outcomes. Equally important is ensuring that circular economy initiatives—particularly those involving infrastructure planning, decision-making, and investment priorities—are underpinned by robust community engagement practices. These practices should be designed to foster social licence, strengthen public trust, and deliver tangible co-benefits for communities.

For this reason, a ‘people-centred’ approach to circular economy transitions that we aim to pursue in this subproject recognises that the public must be active agents of change in decision making and implementation in the transition to a Circular Economy, if positive change is to be maximised, and unintended consequences avoided and managed. The project will identify the underlying societal factors that may contribute to adverse public reactions to circular economy initiatives; for example: leveraging comparative insights from around the societal responses to broader processes of environmental change – while also mechanisms for building the public value of the circular economy transition. The project will therefore offer strategic insights regarding the expectations of communities and emerging tensions with respect to the capabilities of public institutions to respond. In addition, the project will unearth the connection points between now and 2035 where the National Circular Economy Framework can be implemented within communities, while also dovetailing with place-based analyses of circular economy innovations being undertaken through IP5. This will be achieved through desk-based research together with qualitative and quantitative community engagement methodologies.

### **Aims**

This project aims to establish a comprehensive, empirically grounded framework for a ‘people-centred’ approach to transitioning to a circular economy.

Meeting or exceeding Australia’s Circular Economy transition targets, including doubling the circularity rate by 2035, represents not only a technical or economic challenge, of potentially nation-building scale, but also a profound transformation in how diverse Australian communities participate in planning and regional economic development. Shifts in the production and consumption of food, clothing, shelter, packaging, and manufactured goods are not simply logistical adjustments but changes to social identity and collective purpose. Such a transition requires a deep commitment to understanding how different stakeholders interpret and envision their role in this fundamental reconfiguration of Australian society. A people-centred approach recognises that the public must be active agents of change in both decision making and implementation if positive outcomes are to be maximised and unintended consequences avoided or managed. To achieve this, the project will focus on three core components that account for the major players in the transition:

1. **Experts** who have developed the circular economy framework and are responsible for its implementation;
2. **Operational individuals** who are at the coalface of circular economy transitions, working within programs, industries, and service delivery;
3. **Publics** who encounter, negotiate, and adapt to circular economy changes in everyday life.

The aim is to examine how each of these groups understands the circular economy and the role of community engagement in realising the transition. By comparing and connecting these perspectives, the project will identify both alignments and tensions at the key interfaces that will be decisive for achieving national targets.

The project will leverage innovative community engagement methodologies conducted in locations that reflect economic, commercial and industrial sectors identified as priorities for Australia's circular economy transition. This will include both qualitative researcher with existing community engagement practitioners and capabilities and the coordination of people-centred community engagement methods in metropolitan, regional and rural locations. The project will contribute to the production of a *Circular Economy Community Engagement Framework* which will provide a best practice guide in empowering communities in navigating the circular economy transition, ensuring that circular economy initiatives are sustained by robust social licence and community co-benefit outcomes. This output will constitute a vital resource for aligning diverse strategies of engagement and action between different levels of government across regulation, planning and program funding with circular economy goals. In addition, the framework will provide a useful guide for how to facilitate conversations across, national, state and local government, with industry and communities and across urban, regional and rural places.

The proposed project will have the following key objectives:

**Objective 1: Develop an empirically grounded framework for community engagement in the circular economy**

- Interviews and workshops with community engagement and policy/program leads working on Circular Economy transitions at Federal, State and local levels across Australia
- Conduct desk-based research to review existing community engagement models in circular economy and related fields, including the energy transition.
- Identify key gaps and opportunities for improving engagement within the National Circular Economy Framework.
- Synthesise learnings into a draft conceptual framework tailored to the broad community context of the CE transition.
- Build relationships for co-producing later phases.

**Objective 2: Map connection points between the National Circular Economy Framework and place-based, people-centred implementation**

- Linking with ongoing research conducted in the context of IP5 work, analyse policy and program documents in leading place-based initiatives to extract relevant touchpoints for community engagement.
- Conduct place-based analysis within the IP5 case studies to connect national priorities with both local community-led, and community-engaged, initiatives
- Identify leverage points for scaling or replicating local innovations, and/or escalating challenges and barriers for action, in other places, and at state and federal levels
- Build relationships for co-producing later phases.

**Objective 3: Apply innovative qualitative and quantitative community engagement methodologies**

- Design and pilot innovative community engagement methodologies (e.g., workshops, surveys, participatory mapping).
- Gather insights from diverse communities across urban, regional, and rural contexts, including at least one urban and one regional depth study including direct engagement with 400 plus citizens regarding the circular economy.

- Evaluate effectiveness of current better practice engagement methods in building relational connections and capabilities.

#### **Objective 4: Produce an Integrated Circular Economy Community Engagement Framework and Best Practice Guide**

- Develop a roadmap for mapping relational connections between communities, governments, and industry.
- Define capability-building pathways for effective community engagement.
- Document best practices and lessons learned from research and engagement pilots.
- Incorporate structured guidelines for cross-government (national, state, local) and cross-sector (industry, community) conversations.
- Provide recommendations for harmonising engagement strategies to reduce duplication and fragmentation.
- Ensure the framework provides adaptable guidance across diverse contexts (urban, regional, rural) and governance levels.

#### **Objective 5: Co-production and integration into policy and practice**

- Co-produce each objective's design and implementation with government and community partners.
- Present findings through accessible formats (reports, workshops, digital tools).
- Engage policy stakeholders to integrate the framework into broader circular economy strategies.

#### **Summary of Subproject Outputs**

**Community Engagement Framework:** We envisage this output will summarise the higher-level, empirically grounded output that consolidates the totality of the work. It will integrate findings from interviews, workshops, and desk-based research, mapping national frameworks to local initiatives and identifying areas where there is disconnection. The framework will set out the conceptual logic, categories, and principles of effective engagement in the circular economy transition, noting any challenges unique to the issue.

**Best Practice Guide:** We envisage this output will be an applied and accessible document, translating the framework into actionable guidance for community engagement practice. It will draw on the proposed methodology and offer concrete examples, case studies, and recommended practices for practitioners.

#### **Audiences**

**Framework:** Policymakers, researchers, and strategic planners who need a robust, evidence-based structure for understanding how community engagement aligns with national CE strategies.

**Best Practice Guide:** Practitioners in local councils, community organisations, NGOs, and industry partners who want clear, usable advice on 'what works' in practice.

#### **Accessibility vs Academic Nature**

The **framework** will lean toward an academic and policy audience, with detail suitable for those developing or evaluating CE strategies at a systems level.

The **best practice guide** will be highly practical, accessible, and visually engaging (checklists, diagrams, step-by-step methods), so communities and organisations can adopt the lessons directly.

**In short:** one product is the evidence-based architecture (framework), the other is the translation into practice (guide). Together, they ensure both intellectual rigour and real-world usability.

### ***Subproject Pathways to Impact***

The impact pathways for *IP6.05.01A- CE2: Community Engagement for the Circular Economy Transition* will include:

- **Resource Development:** Engagement with civil society organisations and local and regional economic leaders, in the development of resources that demonstrate the value and benefits of circular economy practices
- **Awareness and Action:** Engagement with civil society organisations and local and regional economic leaders, in addition to members of the wider community to identify actions they can take to develop and implement safe circularity principles within their contexts.
- **Expert Network Access:** Provide local and regional economic leaders with access to a network of experts and practitioners and their wider community in circular economy practices, facilitating knowledge sharing and support.
- **Implementation Tools:** Equip businesses and communities with the necessary tools to implement circular practices effectively.

## **IP6.05.03C- Practical support for business circular economy transitions**

**Subproject summary:** This subproject will help operationalise Australia's Circular Economy Framework by developing practical, sector-specific tools, templates and guidance materials for priority CE sectors: Industry, Built Environment, Food & Agriculture, and Resources. It targets businesses, and NGOS, councils and communities working with them, providing actionable tools that translate high-level policy into practice. The project will produce open-access toolkits, behaviour-informed guidance, and curated materials to accelerate CE adoption and align with national targets.

**Project Focus:** This project aims to identify key business transition needs raised by the goals and targets of the national CE framework<sup>1</sup> and associated policy leadership, and co-produce practical tools and frameworks to address them.

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<sup>1</sup> See the [final report of the CE MAC and the government response](#) for more background on considerations and inputs to the framework, especially re: detail on the 4 sectors.

### **Project Components:**

- Engagement to identify stakeholder needs, gaps and emerging responses across priority sectors.
- Beyond needs for direct investment, the project explores opportunities for cross-sector learning, market development and collaboration, regulatory and policy reform, community engagement (IP6SP1) and working across levels of governance nationally, and on a place based basis (IP5SP2).
- Support industry transition by developing practical workshop-based guidance and open-access resources for businesses and organisations engaging in circular practices.
- Codify outputs into practical, easy-to-apply tools so that businesses and communities can use them directly, avoiding overly complex or overly policy-oriented frameworks.
- Provide actionable next steps, including clear “what now” guidance for businesses seeking to adopt circular approaches.

### **Background**

Sub-Project 3 will build on the existing National Circular Economy Framework and its four identified priority sectors (Industry, Food and Agriculture, Built Environment, Resources). The project responds to the need for practical, actionable support for industries and communities transitioning toward a circular economy. Unlike previous efforts that emphasised frameworks and high-level policy, this project focuses on the broad scale implementation of circular economy models, developing tools and resources that communities, businesses and decision-makers can readily apply.

This project aims to establish a comprehensive, empirically grounded framework for a ‘business-centred’ approach to transitioning to a circular economy. Meeting or exceeding Australia’s Circular Economy transition targets, which includes increasing materials productivity by 30% – will necessitate profound changes in how business is done in the four priority sectors (and broader economy)<sup>2</sup>. Australia’s Circular Economy Framework (2024) and Circular Advantage Report identify the need for practical, implementation-ready tools. The Productivity Commissions interim report on CE opportunities (2025) highlights the need for regulatory reform, government coordination and information sharing, and improved consumer and policy outcome monitoring information<sup>3</sup>. Businesses, communities and councils face barriers including fragmented standards, limited capability and lack of accessible guidance. Through this project, we engage with these barriers and opportunities, identify key roles, existing transition brokers and gaps, and organise the resulting insights in Transition Pathways (i.e. back casting from successful implementation of NCEF goals and targets and sector priorities) and end-user behaviour change dependencies. This project responds to sectoral CE transition needs by designing practical sectoral toolkits, behaviour-informed guidance, and templates that reduce complexity and support consistent CE adoption across Australia.

### **Aims**

1. Identify practical transition needs across priority sectors.
2. Develop workshop-based guidance, templates and models.
3. Codify outputs into easy-to-apply tools.

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<sup>2 2</sup> See [Modelling CE Reduction Targets](#) Report, CSIRO.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries-and-research/circular-economy/interim/>

4. Map “target picture” end-user behaviours.
5. Curate existing tools into a CE Transition Practice Platform.
6. Align tools with national CE targets and indicators.

The proposed project will have the following key objectives:

- Objective 1 – Sector Needs & Gaps Analysis - with key actors, roles and transition brokers in the four priority sectors
- Objective 2 – Review & Benchmark of Existing Tools - Scan of current and emerging toolkits, frameworks and resources to identify gaps and platforms
- Objective 3 – Co-Design of Sector Toolkit Prototypes
- Objective 4 – End-User Behaviour & Transition Pathways Development
- Objective 5 – Integration & Public Release

### ***Summary of expected outputs***

- **Sector Toolkit Suite (for each)**
  - Gap & opportunity analysis tool
  - Priorities for tool development
  - Prototypes.
  - End-user Behaviour & Transition Pathways
- **Capability Building and Educational Materials**
  - Brief guides on transition dynamics and behaviour to support strategic business planning
  - Tool walkthroughs / adoption guides (4)
  - Individual Sector summaries for SMEs and councils (4)
  - Mid-point and Final webinar/videos
  - Peer reviewed publications reporting benefits of bridging research and practice
- **CE Transition Practice Platform**

A curated online archive of tools, both existing and newly developed.

### ***Activities to produce outputs***

#### ***1. Needs Analysis***

Stakeholder interviews and sector consultation to map:

- operational gaps
- cross-sector learning
- demand for tools
- unmet capability needs

#### ***2. Review & Benchmarking***

- Scan existing toolkits, cases, and CE frameworks for relevance and adaptation needs.
- Includes insights from IP5.2.3 place-based innovation work.

#### ***3. Sector Workshops***

Four engagement workshop streams (one stream per sector, online) to define:

- Collaboration ecosystems
- transition pathways (backcasting) and target behaviours
- desired tools
- business model gaps
- enablers and system blockers

We will also opportunistically scan early in 2026 for sector specific meetings and gatherings (e.g. Transform Construction March 2026, World Sustainable Built Environment Conference, Melbourne June 2026) and explore if in person workshops are viable.

#### **4. Target Picture Modelling Of End User Behaviour & Transition Pathways**

For each sector:

- identify future-state end-user behaviours
- map actors, influences and causal loops
- identify leverage points and links to transition pathways

#### **5. Tool Development & Pilot Testing**

- 1 -3 tool prototypes for each sector (depending on feasibility). E.g. only - might reflect any one or more of
  - *CE product design & traceability templates*
  - *Procurement & specification models*
  - *Material passport templates*
  - *Food loss & waste measurement tools*
  - *By-product exchange & reprocessing playbooks*
  - *Disassembly guides*
  - *Modular business model options*
  - *Regional shared-infrastructure playbooks*
  - *Precinct/regional initiative guide*
- Co-design tools with end users; iterative refinement (pending stakeholder ownership).
- Integration with behavioural insights and system maps insights.

#### **6. Digital Curation**

- Develop an online repository of existing tools and new prototypes.
- Potential long-term hosting with DCCEEW.

### **Is this a cross-hub project?**

IP6.05.01A: No

IP6.05.01C: No

**Does this project contribute to a cross-cutting initiative?**

IP6.05.01A: No

IP6.05.01C: No

# Indigenous consultation and engagement

Indigenous consultation and engagement are integral to our project. Our hub’s Indigenous partnerships strategy will be applied to this project. Based on a scoping study, we will identify Indigenous-focused projects and the Indigenous communities to work with. This will help us determine the most relevant and required Indigenous consultation and engagement strategy. We will work closely with our Indigenous facilitator and hub researchers who have engaged with different Indigenous communities as part of their projects. Their knowledge and lessons will ensure these projects are relevant and use the most appropriate approach for maximum benefits.

The project will foster collaboration by integrating traditional ecological knowledge, conducting culturally appropriate workshops, and strengthening communication through Indigenous storytelling. This storytelling style could be adopted in the reporting, and we will create factsheets of the reports in a simpler form. By working closely with government organisation groups such as:

- Northern Territory: Land council roles and contacts | [NT.GOV.AU](http://NT.GOV.AU)
- New South Wales: Land Council - NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Queensland: Native title representative bodies | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | Queensland Government
- Victoria: Victoria's Registered Aboriginal Parties | [aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au](http://aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au)
- Australian Capital Territory: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - ACT Government

We will ensure that our communications are culturally appropriate, respectful, and accessible to Indigenous communities. This will enable us to effectively demonstrate the impact of our hub’s work and its contributions to sustainable community development and waste management.

Which updated Three-category approach the project meets IP6.05.01A; IP6.05.01C	<b>Communicate (3)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Co-design (2)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Indigenous led (1)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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# Project milestones

Project milestones are crucial for tracking progress and ensuring that the project stays on schedule. They provide clear goals and deadlines, helping to keep everyone involved in the project aligned. Here are the key milestones for this project.

## IP6.05.01A- CE<sup>2</sup>: Community Engagement for the Circular Economy Transition

Milestones	Due date	Responsible person
Milestone 1 – Publication: Evidence & Practice Review on CE (OB1)	31 March 2026	Matthew Kearnes/ Stefan Kaufman
Milestone 2 – Publication: community led, place-based CE innovation (OB2)	31 August 2026	Stefan Kaufman/ Matthew Kearnes
Milestone 2 – Conduct of community engagement project methods (OB3)	31 October 2026	Brian Cook/Matthew Kearnes
Milestone 4 – Draft National CE2 Framework (OB 4)	28 November 2026	Matthew Kearnes/ Stefan Kaufman/ Brian Cook
Milestone 5 – Summit workshop finalising and soft-launching guide	15 December 2026	Matthew Kearnes/ Stefan Kaufman/ Brian Cook

## IP6.05.03C- Practical support for business circular economy transitions

Milestones	Due date	Responsible person
Milestone 1 – Sector Needs Report & Toolkits Scan (Objectives 1&2)	February 2026	Garofano / Geissdoerfer
Milestone 2 – Sector Workshop Series Completed	August 2026	Sharp / Garofano
Milestone 3 – Co-designed Sector Toolkits (Objective 3)	October 2026	Darren Sharp/ Martin Geissdoerfer / Stefan Kaufman/ Nicole Garofano
Milestone 4 – Target Picture Analyses (Objective 4)	November 2026	Stefan Kaufman
Milestone 5 – Online CE Practice Platform (Objective 5)	November 2026	Sharp / Garofano
Milestone 6- Final Toolkit Suite & Launch	December 2026	Darren Sharp/ Martin Geissdoerfer / Stefan Kaufman/ Nicole Garofano

# Data and information management

Knowledge products, co-designed with stakeholders and the Hub knowledge broker, that are generated through the project phase will be made publicly available through the Hub website, and in accordance with the Hub data management and communications strategies, and subject to ethics approvals and any relevant Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) arrangements. The co-design process identified, and will continue to identify, detailed knowledge products to be delivered over the life of the projects and detailed data and information management plans will be developed for each of these. The data products developed through this project and beyond will be co-designed with the Data Wrangler and Knowledge Broker to meet the FAIR and CARE guiding principles.

Project output	Data management and accessibility
Reports/brief/outcomes reviewing the current state of knowledge on the multiple benefits arising from the project	<p>According to the Hub's data management strategy, information will be made publicly available on website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that these will be derived from publicly available information, and there should be limited sensitives</li> </ul>
Reports and other written documentation	<p>According to the Hub's data management strategy, information will be made publicly available on-website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report / document will be identified by a unique code for identification. Dates and other metadata should follow ISO standards. Key words should also be included in the title and included as 'tags' to improve findability. Metadata should also clearly define the type of document, such as whether it is a report, a fact sheet etc.</li> <li>The metadata may include a preview picture to improve findability if appropriate.</li> <li>Each type of document (report, fact sheet, etc) will follow relevant standards in terms of structure, identification, and format. This will streamline how the documents are presented and increase interoperability.</li> <li>The reports should include publicly available information to prevent sensitive information from spreading and to maximise accessibility. A data usage license should be included on the website and referenced at the beginning of the document to clarify reusability.</li> <li>Where data cannot be accessed without authorisation, a clearly defined procedure will be outlined to provide a methodology for requesting authorisation and providing the data securely. Specific safeguards will be implemented to protect privacy and data security. A data usage license should be included on the website and referenced at the beginning of the document to clarify reusability.</li> <li>A separate spreadsheet will be included providing raw data in an organised and clearly defined format, following a selected standard in terms of data organisation and identification.</li> <li>All documents will be communicated under the relevant sections on the website in consultation with the knowledge broker and communications manager.</li> <li>A title page should be appended to the beginning of each document, providing detailed metadata including globally unique and persistent identifier, related data spreadsheet with its own unique and persistent identifier, data usage license reference, domain-relevant community standards and detailed provenance.</li> <li>Indigenous data gathered for regional and remote communities will be co-designed with the Indigenous facilitator to ensure compliance with CARE principles and ICIP.</li> </ul>

## Location of research

The table below describes the scale at which the project will be working, and the location/s where the majority of the project research will be conducted.

The majority of work will be undertaken remotely using online facilities to conduct meetings and desktop-based activities, at UNSW, Sydney, plus at Monash University, and Melbourne University, both Melbourne.

At which spatial scale is the project working	National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Location(s) – gazetted region /place name	<b>This will be updated after selection of projects</b> IP6.05.03C : Newcastle/Hunter (pilot), plus 3-5 additional regions (see project documentation).		
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander nation or traditional place name(s)	Newcaslte: Mulubinba (traiditionally owned by the Awabakal and Worimi peoples)		

# Project keywords

Safe circular economy, waste, rural/remote, safe circularity, community engagement.

Business, toolkits, design, transitions, behaviour, systems.