



An Australian Government Initiative



Government of South Australia
Green Industries SA

Circular Economy Opportunities: Information Session

Regional Development
Australia Yorke & Mid North



Welcome & Agenda

5:30 pm — Welcome & Housekeeping, Introductions

Muriel, RDA YMN

5:40 pm — Introduction to the Circular Economy

Jarvis, Rawtec

6:10 pm — Practical examples of a circular economy

Meg & Jarvis, Rawtec

6:40 pm — Circular Economy Initiative Development Program (Round 2)

Meg, Rawtec

6:50-7:30 pm — Close, followed by Networking

Jarvis, Rawtec



Acknowledgement of Country



Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North, and Rawtec acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Housekeeping



Amenities



In case of emergency



Drink on arrival and
finger food provided



Opportunity for
questions at the end
of the presentations

RDA Yorke and Mid North

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North (RDAYMN) is a not-for-profit organisation funded by Federal, State and Local Governments.

Our purpose

Facilitate growth in economic prosperity within our region and improve the liveability of our communities

Our vision

Leverage our regional advantages to deliver and grow a resilient, attractive and secure future

Our partners

- 11 Local Governments
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Businesses
- Community groups
- Individuals





*Some of our current
and past clients:*

About Rawtec

- Independent consultancy helping to reduce waste and transition to a circular economy.
- Established in 2007, based in Somerton Park, but work with clients Australia-wide.
- Multidisciplinary – our team have backgrounds in economics, chemical engineering, soil science, and environmental science.



Government of South Australia

Green Industries SA



R. M. WILLIAMS

EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA



What is the Circular Economy?

Jarvis Webb, Rawtec



The state of the current linear economy

(take, make, dispose)



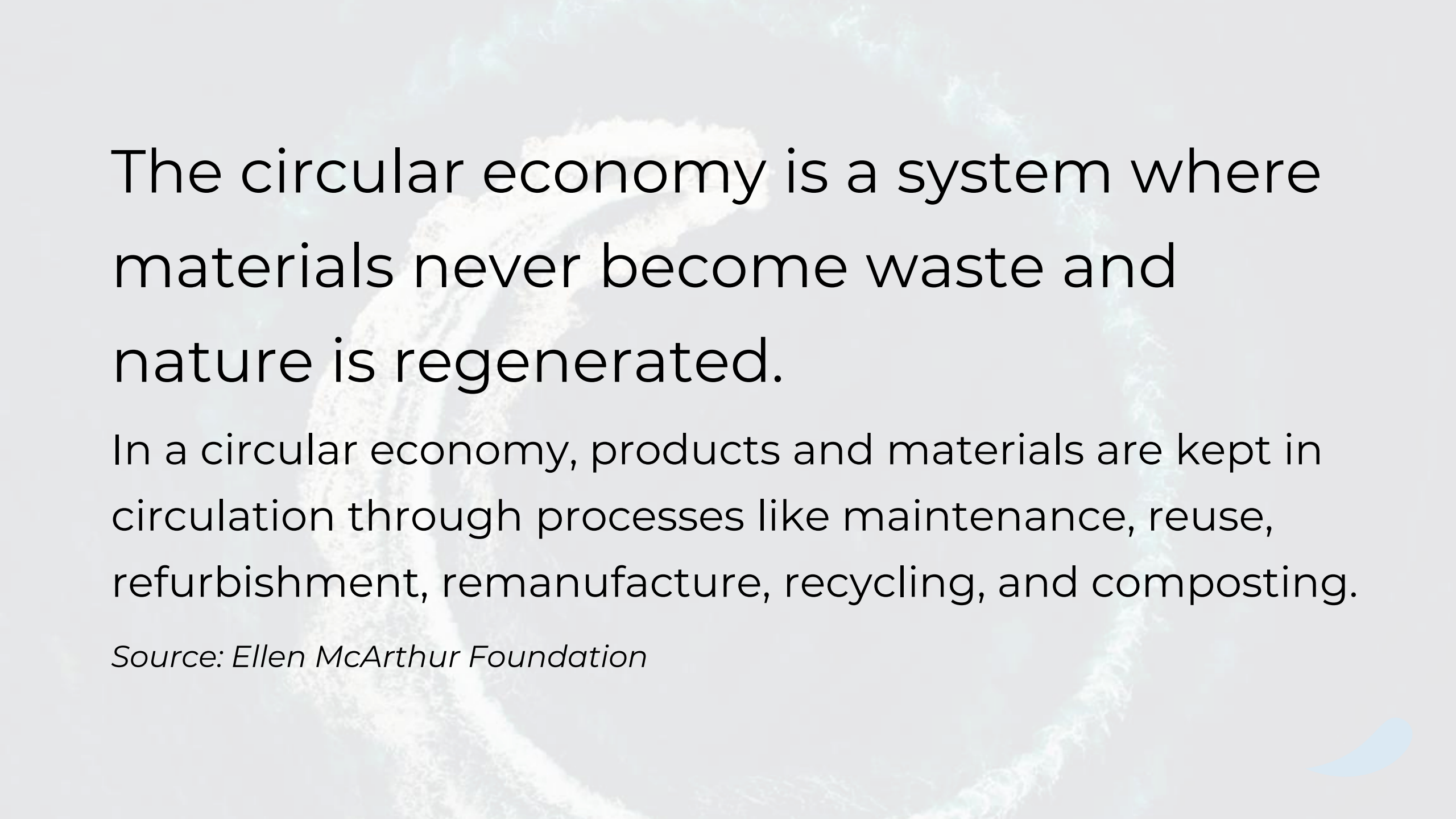
A third of all food grown is wasted.



Short lifespan of products and packaging.



The linear economy is having massive climate and biodiversity impacts.



The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated.

In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting.

Source: Ellen McArthur Foundation

Principles of the circular economy

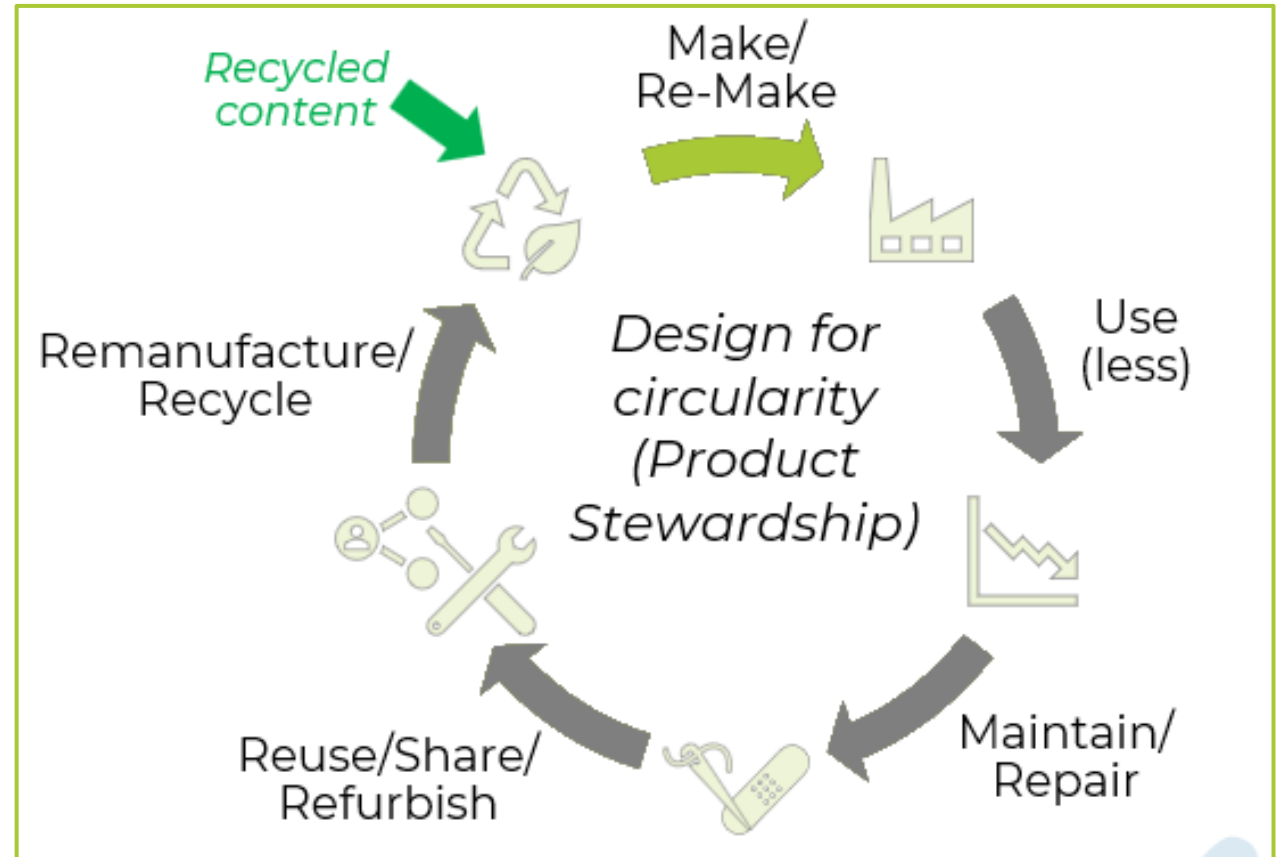
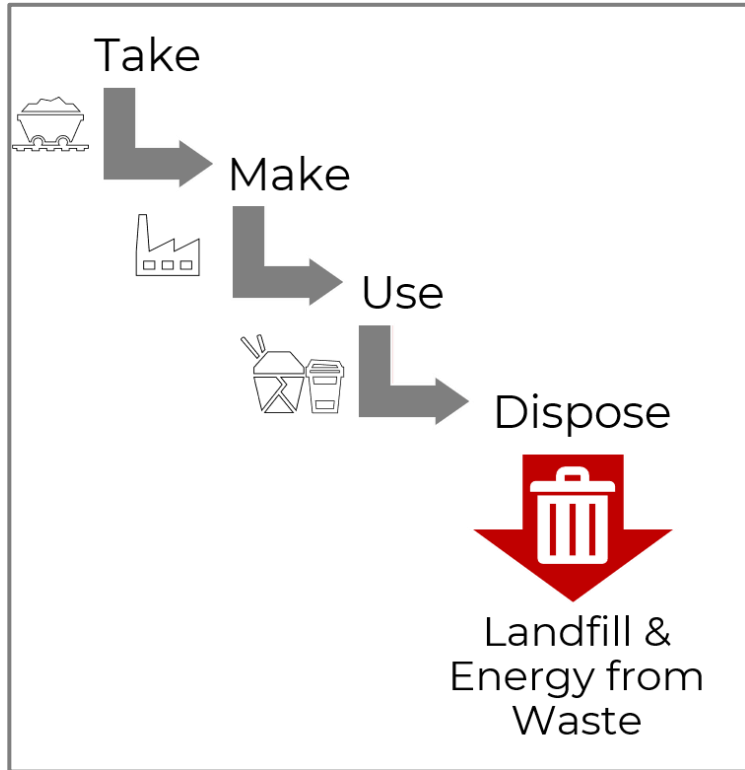


1. Design out waste and pollution

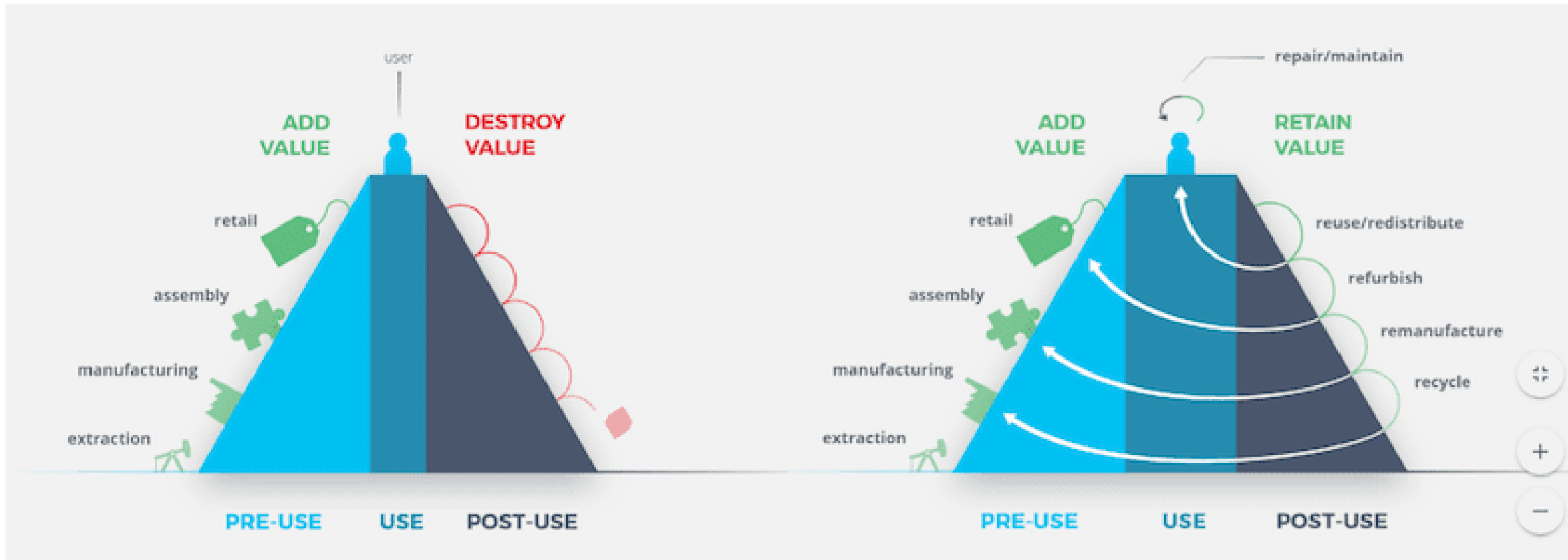
2. Keep products and materials in use at their highest value

3. Conserve natural resources and regenerate nature

Linear economy VS Circular economy



Why it matters (benefits)



Benefits of a circular economy for your business

- ✓ Waste reduction
- ✓ Cost savings
- ✓ Reduces dependence on virgin materials
- ✓ Reduces environment impact
- ✓ Job creation
- ✓ Strengthens the local economy and communities
- ✓ Encourages innovation and collaboration

Circular business models



Circular
supplies

Product
as a
service

Sharing
platforms

Product
life
extension

Resource
recovery

Potential benefits to SA of the circular economy

Green Industries SA commissioned a study to identify the potential benefits of a circular economy in SA.

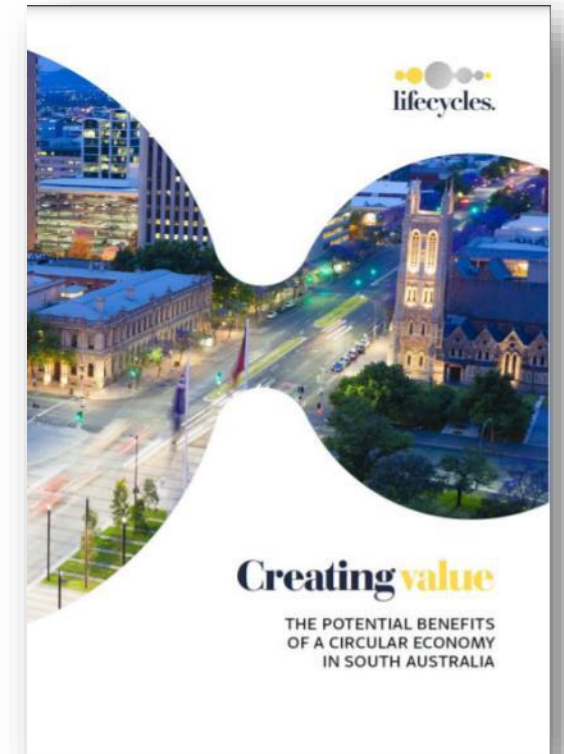
Compared to a 'business as usual' scenario, a more circular economy could deliver significant job creation and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

It could create:

- an additional 25,700 full time equivalent jobs.

It could reduce:

- South Australia's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 27% or 7.7 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent.



SA Government Policy

Green Industries SA released SA's 2025-2030 waste strategy.

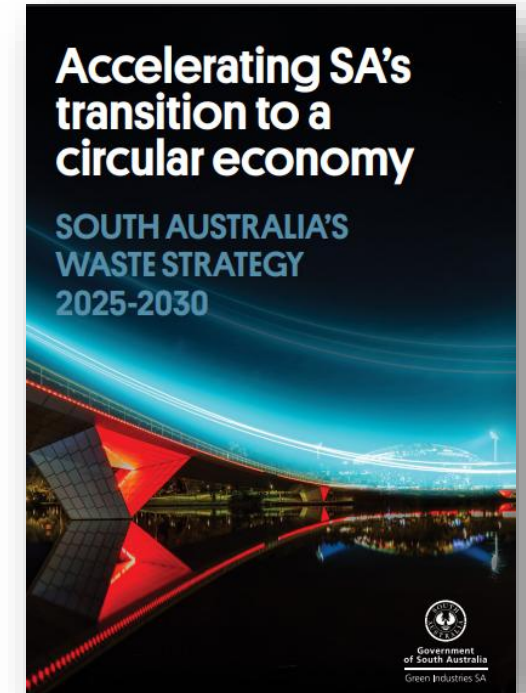
Key goals and targets include:

- Double SA's circularity rate by 2035 (from 4.4%)
- 10% reduction in material footprint by 2035
- Increase resource recovery and reduce contamination
- 50% reduction in organics sent to landfill
- Increase circular consumption activities
- Maximise material circularity

Focus area: Develop and support circular markets and businesses

Industry support includes:

- Circular Business and Market Development Grants
- Assess-Implement-Monitor (AIM) grants
- Lead-Educate-Assist-Promote (LEAP) grant **(this project)**
- Recycling modernisation fund



Practical Examples of a Circular Economy



Textiles

Australian brand Assembly Label established Re-Worn, a take-back service designed to extend the life of their garments.

How it works:

- Customers return their used garments to Assembly Label are gifted 20% off their next purchase
- Items are laundered and repaired where needed
- Re-worn collections are available to shop online or at pop-up shops
- Garments that are not fit for reuse are recycled through SCR Group

Through this program:

1,810 items
laundered/
repaired

3,221kg recycled

805 Re-worn
pieces sold



Food waste

McCracken Resort is a premier accommodation provider in the Fleurieu region. Supported through the Business Victor Harbor Food Waste Program.

A full food waste audit across prep, buffet, and plate waste revealed:

- **164g** of food waste per meal on average
- **6,000+ kg** of food waste per year
- **\$16,000+** in annual value lost

Actions McCracken has taken

- Switched to à la carte breakfasts during low-occupancy periods, cutting buffet waste
- Refined portion sizes, delivering noticeable reductions in plate waste
- Investigating an on-site bio-digester to turn food waste into valuable compost
- Investigating an aquaponics system to grow micro-herbs and sustainably farm fish

Reusables – Front of House



Adelaide-based Reusably is on a mission to eliminate single-use takeaway packaging. They provide reusable alternatives without sacrificing convenience or affordability.

How it works

- Customers pay an app subscription fee of \$3.99 per month
- Customers order takeaway as normal, using the Reusably app to check out containers
- Used containers are rinsed and returned to any partner venue, which handles cleaning
- Venues pay no set-up fees and are invoiced quarterly
- Reusably shares stock between venues
- Customers no longer need to remember their personal keep cups!

**As of 2023, 600
single-use containers
had been saved from
use**

**Venues can track
usage and
environmental
impact**

**Complements SA's
single-use plastics
bans and circular
economy targets**

Reusables – Back of House

- Adelaide Zoo set out to find an alternative to BOH single-use plastic milk bottles
- Collaborating with Fleurieu Milk, they introduced The Udder Way, an 18-litre milk keg
- One keg use replaces 9 single-use plastic milk bottles
- Kegs have a lifespan of 8–10 years and are fully recyclable at the end of life

After only 4 months of use, Adelaide Zoo has:

- Avoided over 4,000 single-use bottles
- Received positive reactions from customers and zoo visitors
- Made coffee-making more efficient through precise milk measurements

"Introducing the milk-on-tap system achieved the company's shared goals of improving customer experience and showcasing our commitment to sustainability and the zoo's conservation efforts."



Tyres



Bridgestone Bandag retreads

Bandag retreads extend the life of truck tyres by replacing the worn tread while retaining the original tyre casing. This keeps high-value materials in use for longer and reduces the need to manufacture new tyres.

- Extends the useful life of truck tyre casings, reducing tyre waste and avoids premature disposal
- Lower raw materials and manufacturing energy per tyre
- Supports lower cost-per-kilometre for transport operators
- Maintains product value through repair, renewal, and reuse
- Shows circular economy is about life extension, not just end-of-life recycling

Up to 51%

lower manufacturing emissions

Up to 75%

of tyre reused

Up to 69%

less lifecycle solid waste

292 t CO₂

saved by Lindsay yearly

Source: Green Industries SA, Bridgestone-Bandag case study

Building & Construction



76% recycled

compared to 10% with skips

Cleaner sites

No overflowing skips

Premier Insulation — Precycle

South Australian service that separates and recovers building materials from home construction sites before they become contaminated mixed waste in skips, destined for landfill

The service brings circular economy practice into residential construction and makes material recovery practical for busy builders and trades.

Six recovery stages:

- Foundations: steel bar, mesh, locks and pins
- Frames: timber, cardboard, plastics and metals
- Roof / gutter / fascia: roofing materials and packaging
- Bricks / cladding: bricks and associated waste
- Insulation / plasterboard: off-cuts and clean plasterboard
- Final clearance: cardboard, unused materials and miscellaneous waste

Repair



Lifetime design

designed to last since 2932

6-8 weeks

estimated repair time

Repair

before replacement

R.M. Williams boot repair

R.M. Williams boots are designed for long-term use, with repair services that restore worn components rather than replacing the whole product. This keeps quality leather and materials in use for longer and reduces premature disposal.

- Repairs include resoling, re-heeling, elastic replacement and tug replacement
- Extends product life and reduces footwear waste, keeping high-value leather and materials in use for longer.
- Encourages customers to repair and maintain rather than replace, which builds lifetime customer brand value
- Shows circular economy through product stewardship and life extension



Featured on Dr Karl's
How Things Work



The Circular Economy Initiative Development Program (Round 2)

Meg Ellis, Rawtec

What is the Circular Economy Initiative Development Program?

- In collaboration with Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North, and Green Industries SA.
- Delivered by Rawtec.
- Supporting businesses in uncovering circular opportunities that align with their business goals.
- Consultation support valued at **up to \$9,000**, provided to each business.



About Round 1

An information session in Port Pirie revealed a strong appetite for circular economy support across the region.

Three businesses were selected to receive tailored one-on-one support:

- Kelly Tillage
- CLM Quarries
- Magnetite Mines

Each business:

- Engaged in a series of workshops and site visits
- Developed an action plan to improve circularity, deliver environmental benefits, and achieve cost savings
- Will receive continued support from RDA Yorke and Mid North



*“It has been a great process and very well directed and driven”
– Kelly Tillage*

What is involved in the program?

The program is designed around **three collaborative workshops** that will include:

*1. Understanding
your business &
exploring your
opportunities*

*2. Refining your
opportunities*

*3. Developing
your action plan*

What types of businesses?

Round 2 is open to **all types** of businesses, including:



Agriculture and
horticulture



Wine and food
production



Retail and service
businesses



Tourism and
hospitality

And more!



How to apply?

This is your chance to start your circular economy journey.

If you and your business would like to apply, please fill out an expression of interest using the QR code.

Applications will be closing on **Friday 14th of August 2026.**

For any questions about the program, please contact:

Rawtec

- Jarvis Webb (Jarvis.webb@rawtec.com.au)
- Meg Ellis (meg.ellis@rawtec.com.au)

RDA

- Muriel Scholz (mscholz@yorkeandmidnorth.com.au)



Thank you &
Questions

