



Metrics Working Group Meeting

2 March 2021 Communique

The inaugural meeting of the Australian Circular Economy Hub (ACE Hub) Metrics Working Group was conducted on March 2nd to officially announce the working group members. The meeting also served to define the role the group will fulfill in providing strategic direction and leadership on circular economy metrics to all levels of Australian government, industry and other relevant organisations.

The meeting was led by the Metrics Working Group Chair and Senior Science Leader at CSIRO Dr. Heinz Schandl. Dr. Schandl's current work investigates the co-evolution of social and ecological systems and their transition to sustainability, including measuring, modelling, and integrated analysis and assessment of sustainability.

The primary purpose of the Metrics Working Group is to ensure a coordinated best practice system for circular economy metrics development and implementation across Australia, specifically, but not limited to, matters including:

- Providing strategic direction and leadership on circular economy metrics.
- Advising on research and data requirements.
- Evaluating circularity measurement tools and expertise.
- Encouraging the development and improvement of metrics to determine circularity.
- Coordinating a Circularity Gap report for Australia.
- Collaborating to feed Australian data into the Global Circularity Gap Report.

The opening meeting was an introduction to the group's members and an opportunity for them to share perspectives on circularity metrics and potential areas for development to drive the circular economy. The following is a synthesis of the group's output.

- There were a range of views on the specific metrics and targets that could be focused on, there needs to be clarity on what the best measures are, and for what purpose.
- Waste data is seen as a key focus but is not consistent across regions or mandated leading to interpretation issues.
- Measurement should be of both material flows and the metrics of impact (benefits) from maintaining their value in the system.
- Metrics should not just focus solely on waste and recycling; social factors should also be a focus. For example, reuse is a key component to measure within a circular economy.

- What metrics are relevant to manufacturers and how can these links through the group and wider impacts?
- How can metrics, impact, policy and jobs be brought together?

The Metrics Working Group members have a range of technical expertise with knowledge of metrics across a broad range of functions and systems. Working Group members include:

- Heinz Schandl (Board Chair) – CSIRO Senior Science Leader
- Jonas Bengtsson – Edge Environment Founder and CEO
- Jodie Bricout – University of Adelaide Adjunct Senior Lecturer and PhD Candidate / Lifecycles Circular Economy Manager
- Nick Florin – University of Technology Sydney Institute of Sustainable Futures Research Director
- Kat Heinrich – Rawtech Director
- Dr. Ruth Lane – Monash University Associate Professor
- Jamos McAlester – Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources Senior Policy Officer
- Sean O'Malley (Observer) – Planet Ark Head of Research
- Ian Overton – Green Industries South Australia Chief Executive
- Joe Pickin – Blue Environment Director
- Jordan Pye – ACT NoWaste Senior Project Officer
- Kar Mei Tang – NSW Circular Chief Circular Economist
- Cate Turner – Sustainability Victoria Manager of Data Insights & Intelligence – Strategic Foresight & Research

The group also includes two non-attending members:

- Rachael Hanna – QLD Department of Environment and Sciences Team Leader
- Thomas Wiedmann – University of New South Wales Professor

More information on the ACE Hub Metrics Working Group members and regularly updated meeting summaries can be found at <https://acehub.org.au/our-work/working-groups/metrics>.