



## Procurement Working Group Meeting Communique

**1 September 2021**

The inaugural meeting of the Australian Circular Economy Hub (ACE Hub) Procurement Working Group was conducted on September 1 to officially introduce the Working Group members. The meeting also served to define the group's role of providing policy, guidance, and learning resources about circular procurement to government and business in collaboration with the ACE Hub Advisory Board and Secretariat.

The meeting was led by interim chair Dr Nicole Garofano, Head of Circular Economy Development at Planet Ark, with future meetings to be led by the elected chairperson of the group Hayley Jarick, CEO of Supply Chain Sustainability School. Hayley's wide-ranging experience includes governance, strategic management, adult learning and advocacy. In her current role, she provides collaborative and accessible educational tools to improve environmental, social and economic outcomes across all sectors.

The primary objectives of the Procurement Working Group are:

- To evaluate existing circular procurement policies and opportunities in Australia.
- To identify suitable metrics for procurement to measure CE performance.
- To develop priority areas of work and a roadmap.
- To implement the roadmap.
- To develop proposal and secure funding for priority areas of work (procurement).

The kick-off meeting provided an introduction to the group members and an opportunity for them to share their background and goals for the group. The following is a summary of the key issues raised by members.

- There is a clear need for guidance, practical support and tools to help procurers start and navigate initiatives, with an opportunity for the group to help fill this gap within the procurement industry.
- Procurement is often seen as a barrier to progressing both circular and sustainability initiatives. Members are intent on determining the paths and mechanisms that will remove these perceived blockages.
- Cross-sector collaboration was brought up by several members who are eager to share learnings, assets and knowledge to lift the bar within their own companies and across Australia.
- Members expressed the need for Indigenous participation through input, knowledge sharing and guidance to help shape the conversation and output of the group.
- The group acknowledged the intersectional components of the circular economy and circular procurement, discussing how impacts and opportunities of both circular economy and existing procurement policies are influenced by social and political identity.

The Procurement Working Group members represent three main areas of expertise:

1. Procurement practitioners and professionals

2. Consultants and those with technical expertise
3. And government representatives and those with policy expertise.

The members are:

- Hayley Jarick (Group Chair) - Supply Chain Sustainability School CEO
- Joan Prummel (Strategic Advisor) - Rijkswaterstaat International Strategic Advisor
- Tony Aloisio – Major Transport Infrastructure Authority EcologiQ Program Director
- Catherine Caldwell – Commonwealth Sustainable Procurement Advocacy and Resource Centre (C-SPARC) Acting Director
- Dr. Nicole Garofano (Observer) - Planet Ark Head of Circular Economy Development
- Jean-Louise Haie – KPMG France
- Laura Harkins-Small – Infrastructure Sustainability Council Head of Advocacy
- Tanya Harris – Edge Environment Senior Sustainability Consultant
- Sujata Karandikar – Point Advisory Senior Manager Sustainable Procurement
- Kyla Kerkow – ACT Government, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Senior Director Procurement Policy
- Tania Lalor – Local Government Procurement P/L Senior Consultant Sustainable Procurement
- Kanish Nadarajah – Coles Group Head of Strategic, Sustainable, and Responsible Sourcing
- Debbie O’Byrne – Macquarie City Council Circular Economy Lead
- Guy Raithby-Veall – Aristocrat Senior Manager Group Sustainability
- Fiona Sergi – Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts, and Regions (DJPR) Manager Social Procurement
- Inderjeet Viridi – Australian Supply Chain Institute Board Secretary/Representative

More information on the ACE Hub Procurement Working Group members and meeting summaries [can be found here.](#)