

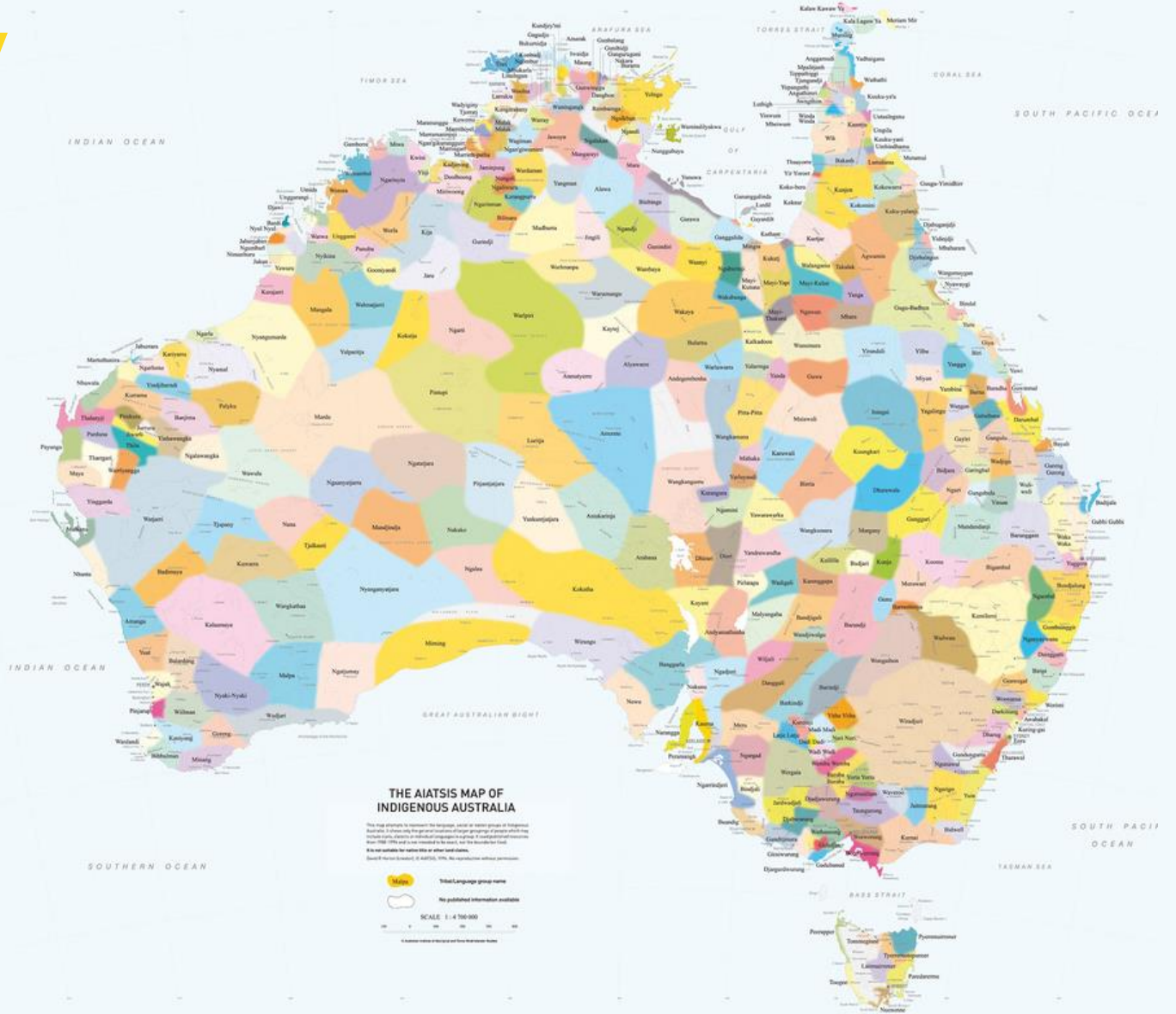
An Australian perspective on circular economy catching up with Europe or carving our own path to circular?

Jodie Bricout 30 September 2021

Acknowledgement of Country

I begin by acknowledging the Kuarna people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which I stand today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other indigenous peoples here today.



Australia's circular economy faces logistical challenges...

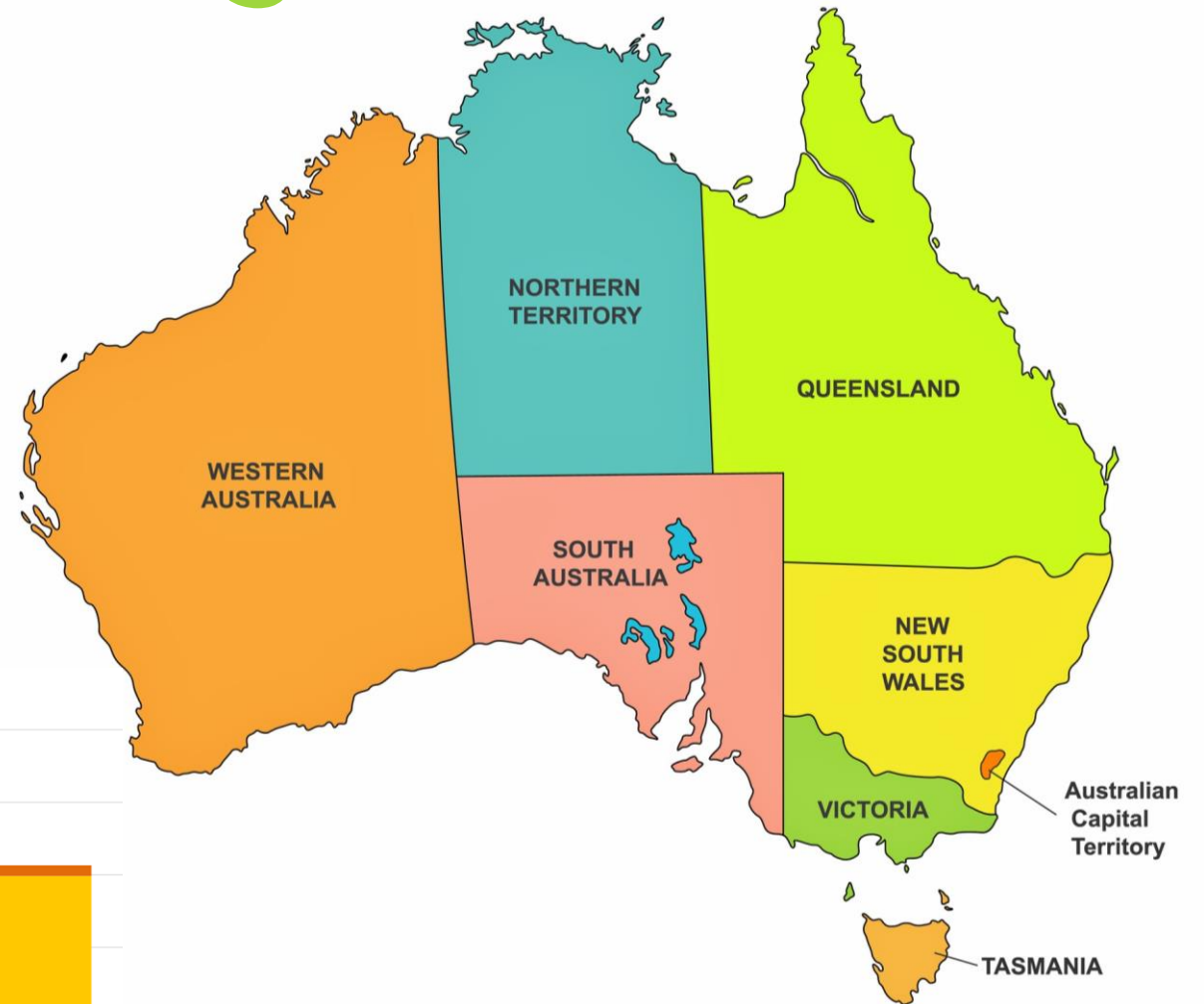


Population = 25 million
Area = 7.7 million km²
Almost 4,000 km wide

...and political challenges

Examples of differences between individual States and Territories:

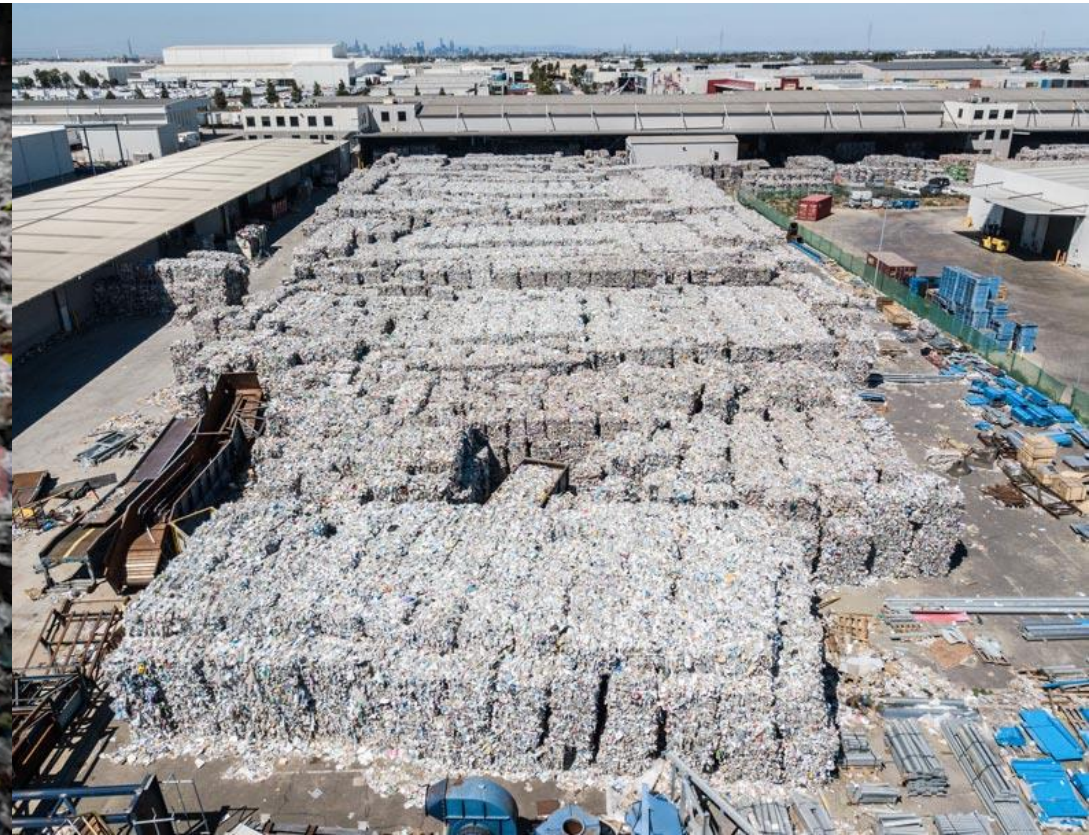
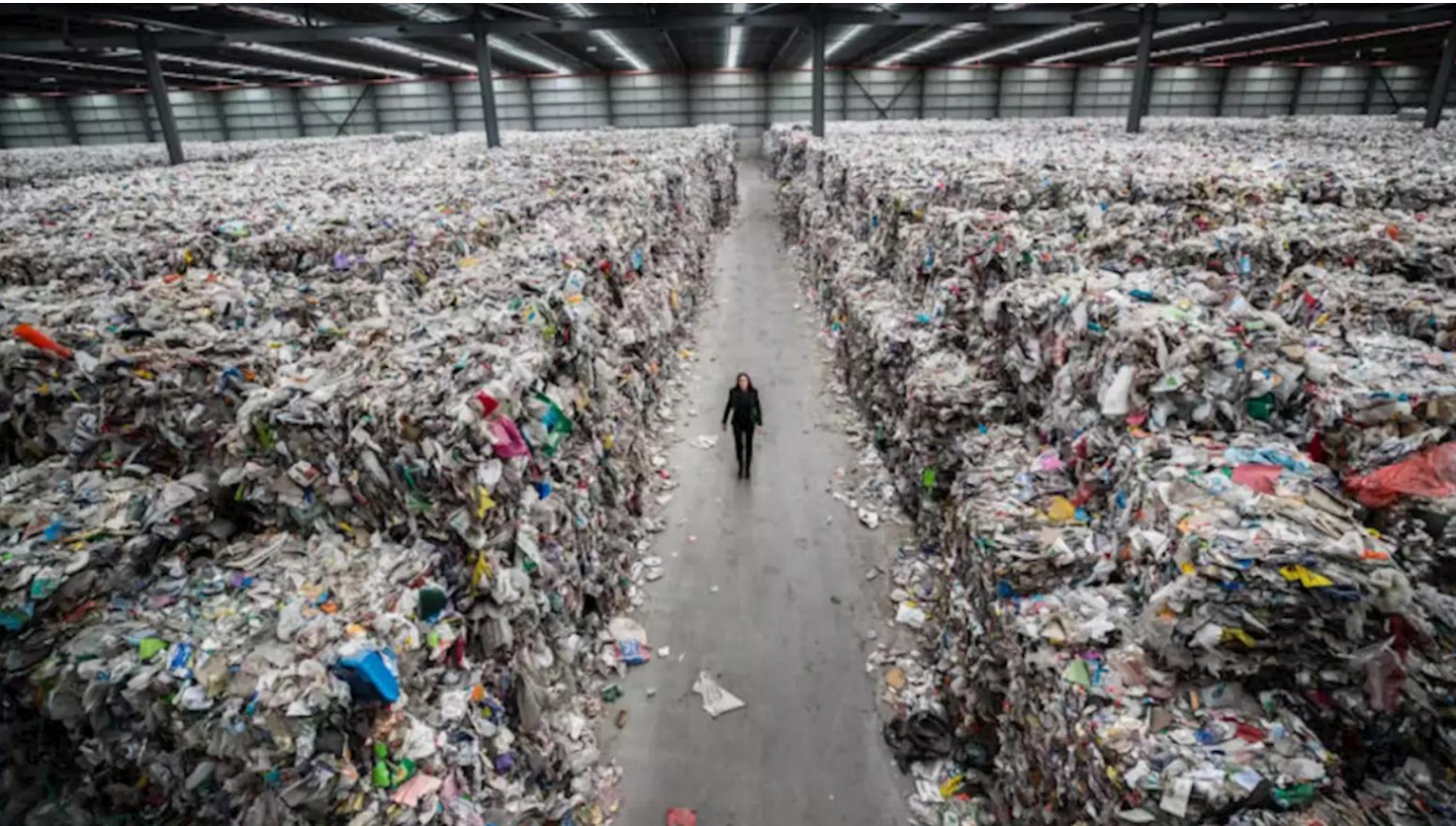
- Landfill levies
- Landfill bans (e.g. e-waste)
- Container deposit schemes
- Operational requirements (e.g. organic wastes/waste water sludge)
- Single-use plastic bans



● Recycling rate ● Energy recovery rate

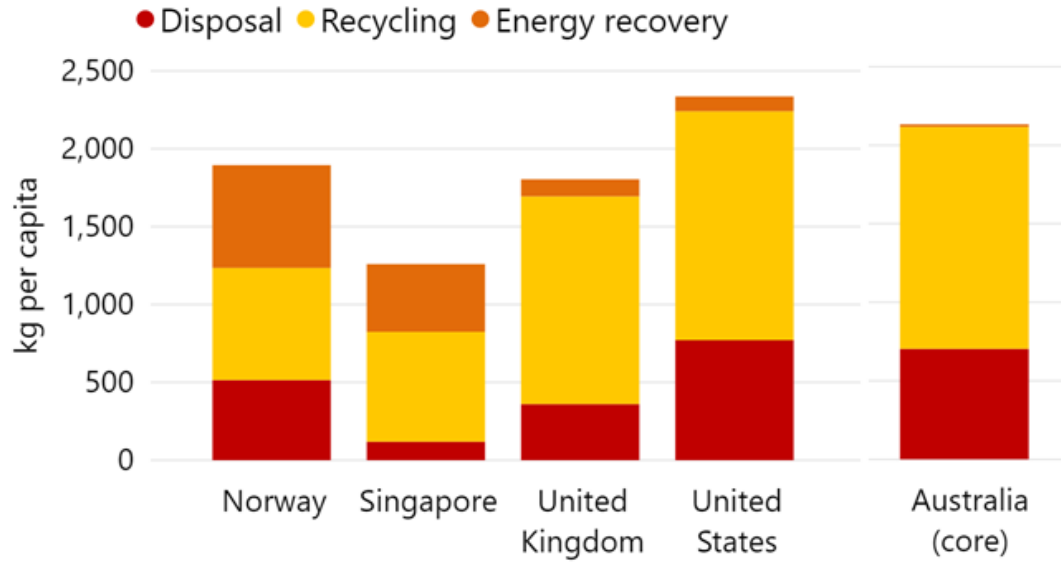


Our recycling industry was decimated by China National Sword



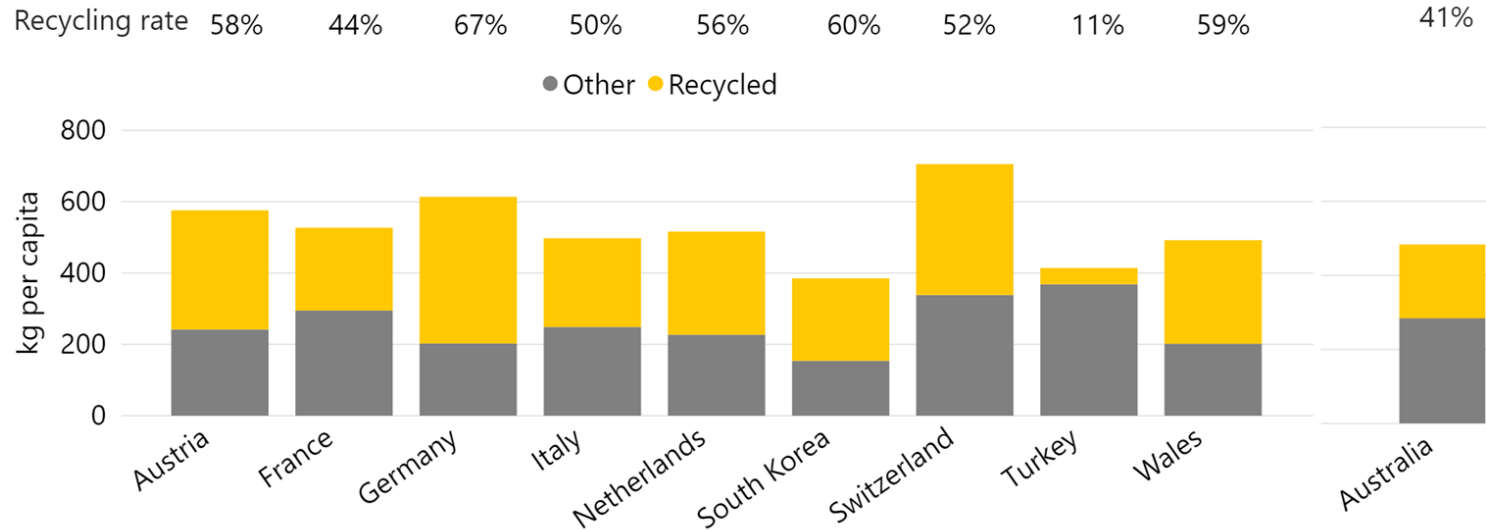
(2019)

Recovery rate	73%	91%	80%	67%	67%
Recycling rate	38%	56%	74%	63%	66%



Comparison of annual waste generation and fate
(excluding hazardous waste, ash and landfill gas energy recovery)

Comparison of MSW generation and recycling rates



Governments have responded

State governments

- Formal circular economy strategies, policies or legislation in South Australia, Victoria and NSW
- Container deposit schemes planned for all states (after 40 years)
- Various 'problematic' plastic bans
- Increasing organic recycling capacity
- Major funding of recycling capacity (infrastructure)
- Increasing demand for recycled materials

Commonwealth government

- Ban on waste exports
- Expanding extended producer responsibility schemes
- Recycling targets across the board, and particular schemes for food waste and packaging
- Major funding of recycling capacity (infrastructure)

"circular" is now in governments' vocabulary - although it still often refers to recycling

A business-government-research ecosystem is emerging

(even without EU funding!)

**Accelerating a
circular and
climate-resilient
economy**

Welcome to the Circular Economy Business
Innovation Centre (CEBIC).

About us



AUSTRALIAN
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
HUB
PLANETARK



VICTORIAN
CIRCULAR

activator



NSW
Circular

Businesses are leading the way



Our charities and not-for-profits are incredible resources



3,000+

charity and social
enterprise retailers



10,000

charity collection bins



5,295

full-time employees



33,500

volunteers



And our circular economy is creating opportunities for indigenous Australians



Thank you

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