

# CIRCULAR

ISSUE NO 8 2025

## WELCOME!

### FROM HOLE TO HUB! MOVING TOWARDS CIRCULARITY

In this edition of *In the Circular*, we're excited to share how AHRWMA is working towards increasing circularity across the region to secure a bright future for the Authority and the state.

Recently, we hosted the Mayor and CEO Strategic Planning Day, where key stakeholders came together to discuss the future of waste management and circular economy initiatives in South Australia.

Our Knowledge Sharing forum at CAWRA also provided valuable insights into kerbside collection and the importance of reducing contamination rates.

Additionally, we witnessed the positive impact of sustainable practices with the donation of large tree stumps to the White Rhinos at Monarto Zoo.

These efforts are part of AHRWMA's ongoing commitment to driving sustainability and advancing the transition to a circular economy for the benefit of our communities and our environment.

## OUT AND ABOUT

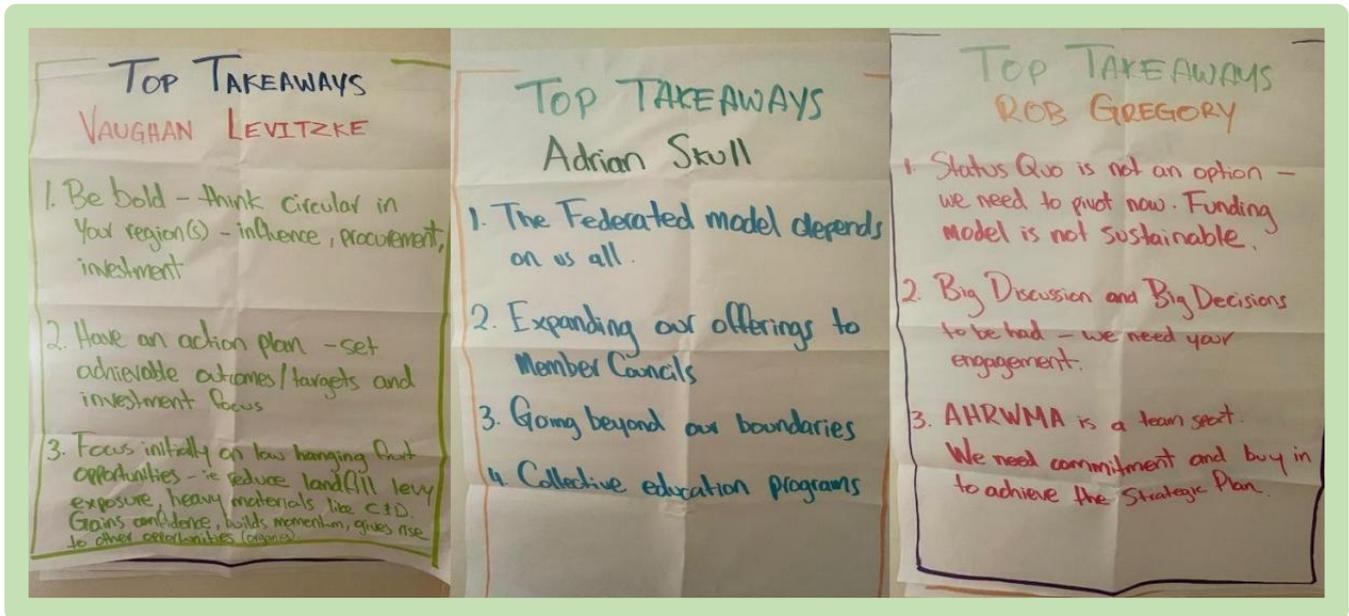
### KNOWLEDGE SHARING FORUM: CAWRA

Staff from AHRWMA and Member Councils recently visited CAWRA to gain a deeper understanding of kerbside collection and the processing of recyclable materials. During the visit, attendees were educated on the methods of sorting recyclables and the crucial 'next step' in their journey toward reuse.

The group also learned about the importance of reducing contamination rates in kerbside bins to improve the efficiency of recycling efforts. This visit provided valuable insights into optimising recycling practices for better sustainability outcomes.



# ANNUAL MAYOR AND CEO STRATEGY DAY



## ‘FROM HOLE TO HUB’: MOVING BEYOND LANDFILL

AHRWMA recently hosted a strategic planning day for the mayors and CEOs of its Member Councils, with the goal of shaping the future direction of the Authority. The event was expertly facilitated by Brian Cunningham, the former Chair of East Waste and NAWMA. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity for key stakeholders to collaborate on strategies that will guide AHRWMA in its evolution towards a more sustainable future.

Vaughan Levitzke (PSM), with extensive experience in circular economy and advancing sustainability initiatives across South Australia., presented on the strategic drivers necessary for transitioning South Australia towards a circular economy. His presentation focused on the key principles of circularity, highlighting how these can be integrated into local governance and operational practices. Attendees gained valuable insights into how adopting circular economy strategies can drive environmental and economic benefits across the region.

Independent Board Chair, Adrian Skull, also took the floor to present on the Authority's goals moving forward. His presentation provided clarity on the specific targets AHRWMA aims to achieve in the coming years. It was an informative session that outlined the steps necessary to ensure AHRWMA's continued leadership in waste management and recycling efforts, and its commitment to fostering a circular economy within South Australia.

The day concluded with productive discussions on how AHRWMA can pivot from its current focus on landfill management towards becoming a leading figure in the Circular Economy sector. The potential for the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility to serve as a Circular Economy Hub was a key topic, with participants exploring how this vision can be realized through strategic partnerships and innovation. It was a day of forward-thinking dialogue, with a shared commitment to creating a more sustainable and circular future for the region.

## TREE-MENDOUS! A GIFT FOR MONARTO'S WHITE RHINOS

AHRWMA delivered a sustainable surprise to Monarto Zoo's beloved white rhinos—a truckload of aged wood stumps!

These stumps serve as both entertainment and enrichment, perfectly aligning with our commitment to sustainability and resource recovery.



Rhinos *Ibutho* (pictured), *Makena*, *Satara*, and *Kubwa* couldn't be happier, using the stumps to sharpen their uniquely shaped horns, playfully toss around their paddocks, and show off their impressive strength. There are fewer than 18,000 White rhinos left in the wild which makes conservation efforts critically important. These gentle giants have big personalities and deep bonds with their keepers, bounding over for pats and ear scratches at every chance.

For AHRWMA, this delivery is about more than stumps—it's about supporting conservation, community, and care. It's our second year bringing joy to the rhinos, a small way to give back while promoting sustainable practices in action.

Monarto Safari Park Assistant Curator of Ungulates, Mark Mills, said,

*"We're very grateful to the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority for their donation. The tree stumps have provided the Southern White Rhino crash with excellent enrichment opportunities, including our bull, Ibutho, who lives in our Wild Africa precinct."*

*"Rhino love being offered fresh, new items such as this. It allows them to use their strength and size to push them around, and the new smells on these stumps also provide very valuable olfactory enrichment as well. Being given the chance to use their senses like this is incredibly enriching for them – we offer all species a variety of enrichment opportunities, but often natural, large items like raw logs are especially valuable."*

*"What is great is that we can use the stumps throughout the park with different species, and hope to give Asian Elephants, Burma and Permai, a chance to check them out in the future."*

