

Our File: HCC08/257.001
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To whom it may concern,

**RE: SUBMISSION BY HUME CITY COUNCIL ON OPPORTUNITIES IN
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Hume City Council (HCC) has substantial experience in collaborating with the local business community and developing internal initiatives in the Circular Economy (CE) field since 2018. HCC acts as a trusted neutral broker, able to bridge between local businesses, council, state and federal government programs to support CE adoption. Council also engages as a participant in tertiary sector research through collaboration with institutions such as RMIT University and Victoria University.

HCC commissioned an analysis of potential scenarios CE in the municipality in 2021, and how each one would impact different elements such as revenue generation, employment opportunities, reduction of landfill disposal and attendant GHGe, etc. The associated report, developed by KPMG, is attached to this letter. Support is also provided in education and promotion of circular activities and waste reduction through Council delivered Circular Economy webinars along with training programs, events and workshops, with local business and broader community interacting on a regular basis.

Through the HCC Circular Business Network, it also helps share information and promote networking opportunities, including state/local government initiatives and from other organizations such as Sustainability Victoria, private businesses and NGOs. For example, Hume Council hosted a Sustainability Victoria's "Buy Recycled" event in 2024. Through this event, government and local businesses met in person and shared experiences through the showcasing of circular materials and initiatives.

Some examples of local businesses in Hume that have embraced and applied circular concepts in their operations and/or products include:

- Integra Systems
- Downer EDI
- Eagle Lighting
- Enable IT
- IPS
- Foamex
- Great Wrap
- Kingspan Insulation
- Sussex Taps

Local Government may adopt also Circular Economy principles itself using different levers. One example is through the implementation of policies such as the HCC Climate Action plan ([Climate Action Plan 2023 – 2028 - Hume City Council](#)). Others may include Circular Procurement, Circular Asset Disposal and Circular Design guidelines, principles and policies. Councils may also use Local Planning Schemes to Influence development of infrastructure, commercial/industrial and residential construction to follow circular design and construction principles.

However, it should be noted that Local Government Areas are diverse, so each has a different capacity to engage/influence the CE due to demographics, council structure, resources and location. HCC has been able to collaborate with a wide variety of stakeholders that play a significant role in the Melbourne's North and has taken significant steps to engage with the private sector in circular economy discussions. An example of how Local Government collaborates with each other to have a greater impact and reach a wider community is the Victorian Local Government Professional (LGPro) Special Interest Group on the Circular Economy which meets online monthly to hear from speakers with 15-20 different Councils regularly attending.

There is, however, a significant lack of industry-wide data on how resources and waste are managed, as it is often private sector information. There are some existing resources (e.g. EPA records, online platforms such as Aspire), but a global system to share data in these areas more effectively would help local government make more informed decisions and focus on specific areas of work. Such a system would also encourage further collaboration with local and state government and better understand opportunities in the circular economy from a state-wide perspective, not only by municipality.

Hume considers the following are key actions to improve CE engagement across the business community and Local Government:

- Education/development programs for Local Government, business and the community.
- Gathering and sharing relevant waste management data from the private sector in terms of resources flow, waste management, etc.
- Working with local business, community and council teams to develop CE application projects. This can be done through networking, introductions, council using local circular materials, procurement processes that are explained and available to all stakeholders, etc.
- CE Inclusion in Climate Action Plans.
- Adoption of Circular Procurement across LGA.
- Adoption of Circular Design across LGA.
- Adoption of Circular practice in Asset Disposal Policies across LGA.

For more information please contact George Osborne, Manager Economic Development

Yours sincerely,

SHEENA FROST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER