



Forum Summary
5 December 2023



Thanks to Spacecubed's Innovative Society Initiative, supported by Lotterywest



Event details:

- 5th December 2023, Curtin University Bentley Campus
- Hosted by Good Sammy & Curtin University as an initiative of the Curtin led industry collaboration 'Closing the Loop on Clothing Textile Waste Locally'. Forum supported by all members: Curtin University, Good Sammy, South Metropolitan TAFE, Fibre Economy Queensland University of Technology.
- Forum initiated in response to WACFC 2023 report 'The State of Fashion and Textile Circularity in WA'.
- Funded by Spacecubed's Innovation Society Initiative, supported by Lotterywest.
- 79 attendees from across the WA textile industry - including textile supply chain, manufacturers, designers, educators, local government, charitable organisations and researchers.

Objectives

- Increase networking of organisations in the WA textile industry
- Identify next steps in implementing the 8 recommendations of the State of Fashion & Textile Circularity in WA report, launched Sept 2023

<https://www.curtin.edu.au/about/futures-platform/the-state-of-fashion-textile-circularity-in-wa/>

Closing the Loop on Clothing Textile Waste Locally Team:



Overarching Findings & Next Steps

Report Recommendation	Forum feedback	Next steps
1 Leadership – Establish a local industry body to provide advocacy and support for the action required	42 of the 79 forum attendees expressed an interest in being part of a future working group.	Formalise the WA Circular Fashion Consortium (WACFC) including interested members for the forum. Establish a meeting in February 2023.
2. Research – Provide funding for thorough data collection including state-wide material flow analysis and infrastructure	A long list of data and research needs was established during the discussion group. Various funding/ resourcing mechanisms are available through grants, industry and inkind support.	List of research needs to be circulated to the industry bodies, Waste Authority/ DWER the attending research bodies (Universities, TAFEs and consultants). WACFC to regularly report back on any research being undertaken
3. Cross Sector Collaboration – create regular forums and platform for dialogue and engagement	All forum survey respondents strongly agreed with the value in more of these networking and collaboration events	Future event program to be considered by the industry leadership body. Microsoft Teams channel to be established for ongoing informal collaboration
4. Consumer Education – include textile waste education in Waste Sorted resources and public education campaigns	Forum feedback was categorized by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel • Approaches • Messages Actions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific company • Local Government • State Government • Charities/retailers • Educators/Schools • Repairers/Upcyclers/ Stylists • Individuals • WACFC 	The suggested channels, approaches and messages relevant to each of the stakeholder groups have been summarised and will be provided to the relevant organisations. Preliminary meeting organised with Waste Sorted campaign staff for February 2024. Showroom-X to develop a collaborative campaign around valuing upcycling Waste Sorted Grants have funded a range of textile initiatives.

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<p>5 Financial incentives and funding – encouraging collection, processing, recycling and innovation.</p>	<p>Funding suggested to incentivise sustainable investment in the industry as current consumerism culture/ big fashion counteracts local sustainable action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of WA fashion industry is small business. • Distance to markets an issue in WA. • Appetite to bring back local industry 	<p>Available resources anticipated through Seamless, DWER Waste Sorted Infrastructure funding and some grant funding.</p> <p>Additional financial mechanisms to be considered through policy advocacy initiatives outlined below.</p>
<p>6. Industry Training – build capacity to design for circularity. Address skills shortage in local textile industry</p>	<p>Textile manufacturing/repair skills identified in national skill priority list.</p> <p>Also a need for home repairs to extend life of products.</p> <p>Majority agreed with the need to incentivise skill development at household and formal education levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments to consider incentives for people participating in repair courses. • Education Department to consider strengthening resourcing in school repair education/skills, including skilling up more teachers. • Waste Authority to encourage grants/ incentives to run repair workshops. • Federal Government to consider textile repair an essential skill and therefore provide course subsidies.
<p>7. Manufacturing – invest in infrastructure associated with local supply chain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to support local manufacturing as part of closing the loop and growing skills locally. • Mechanism to encourage this through procurement frameworks/guidelines • Collaboration and market development to ensure appropriate and correct scale facilities invested in locally to reduce duplication. 	<p>Available resources anticipated through Seamless, DWER Waste Sorted Infrastructure funding and some grant funding.</p> <p>Additional financial mechanisms to be considered through policy advocacy outlined below.</p>
<p>8. Policy reform – government to support sustainable procurement, reporting requirements and</p>	<p>Key recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • procurement frameworks to drive local markets, • bans or tariffs related to problematic textile types, 	<p>WACFC to provide recommendations letters to relevant stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA • Waste Authority/ DWER

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textile management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mechanisms to improve data collection more informative labelling/ brand accountability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dept of Finance Minister Plibersek Regarding potential policy reforms.
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Stakeholders:

Summary of attendees:

Category	No of Attendees	Proportion
Apparel & Fashion Design	6	8%
Apparel/ Textile Manufacturing	6	8%
Clothing Reuse/ Charitable Recycler	8	10%
Education & Training	14	18%
Government	13	16%
Research/ Consultant	8	10%
Repair & Alterations	4	5%
Textile repurposing/ upcycling	10	13%
Textile supply	3	4%
Stylists	3	4%
Workwear/uniform suppliers	4	5%
Total	79	100%

It was noted that some key stakeholders were not in attendance at the forum, particularly state government, other than Department of Finance, large manufacturers and large retailers. This was partly due to the event being over booked with just the targeted mailing list of local industry organisations. And also that the majority of large manufacturers and retailers being based on the east coast. WACFC hope to engage these stakeholders at future events.

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Curtin University

