

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FACILITATORS, SPEAKERS AND PANEL



**Dr. Heinz Schandl – Facilitator  
CSIRO**

Heinz is CSIRO's Circular Economy lead and an international science leader for sustainable materials management and the decoupling of economic activity from environmental pressures and impacts.



**Dr Colleen MacMillan – Facilitator  
CSIRO**

Colleen is a Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO and co-Deputy of the Circular Economy Research and Industry Collaboration, with a focus on strategy, sustainable fibres and materials, and community collaboration.



**Andrew Taylor – Speaker  
Regional Circularity Co-operative (RCC)**

Andrew has been the CEO of the RCC since late 2022. He has over 20 years' experience across the fields of sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, biosecurity, animal health, emergency management and community development.



**Anthony McMahon – Panellist  
Bega Valley Shire Council**

Anthony started with Bega Valley Shire Council in 2018, before becoming its CEO in April 2022. He has extensive local government experience having previously worked at Boorowa and Hilltops Councils.



**Barry Irvin – Speaker & Panellist  
Bega Group and RCC**

Barry is the Executive Chairman of Bega Group and Chair of the RCC; he is recognised globally for his extensive experience in the dairy industry and was instrumental in the establishment of the RCC and Bega Circular Valley program.



**Gavin Hughes – Panellist  
North of Eden Distillery**

Gavin is the Head Distiller and co-owner of North of Eden Distillery, a Bega Valley business that has been on an evolving circularity journey since 2018. Gavin has over 35 years' experience in FMCG manufacturing and was previously the CEO of the Biofuels Association of Australia.



**Liz Dixon – Panellist  
NSW DPIRD**

Liz is a Deputy Director in the NSW Dept. of Primary Industries & Regional Development. She leads a team of Economic Development specialists in the South East region, helping businesses to grow. With a background in sustainability and environmental planning, she is a passionate advocate for circularity.



**Russell Fitpatrick – Speaker  
Bega Valley Shire Council**

Russell has served as a Councillor in the Bega Valley Shire since 2009 and has held the position of Mayor since 2021. He also serves as the Chair of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation Executive and Deputy Chair of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.



**Vanessa Spinelli – Panellist  
Grow the Future (GTF)**

Vanessa is the Chief Operating Officer at Grow The Future, a social enterprise offering hands-on training, engagement and employment opportunities to local youth. Further detail about GTF's circularity journey will be available at the workshop.

We will also be joined by Aunty Glenda Dixon who will undertake a welcome to country and Aunty Ellen Mundy who will share some of the region's indigenous circularity story.