

SACC Sustainability Committee Circular Economy Forum

18 June 2024

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Planet Ark's Vision

A world where people thrive in balance with nature

This will be achieved by transitioning to a carbon neutral and circular economy and connecting people with nature

Circular Economy is just common sense

Circular bioeconomy is the oldest concept on the planet Earth. Nature is organised according to circularity principles - **nothing is lost, and everything is cycled endlessly.** So, the only question we humans need to ask ourselves is:

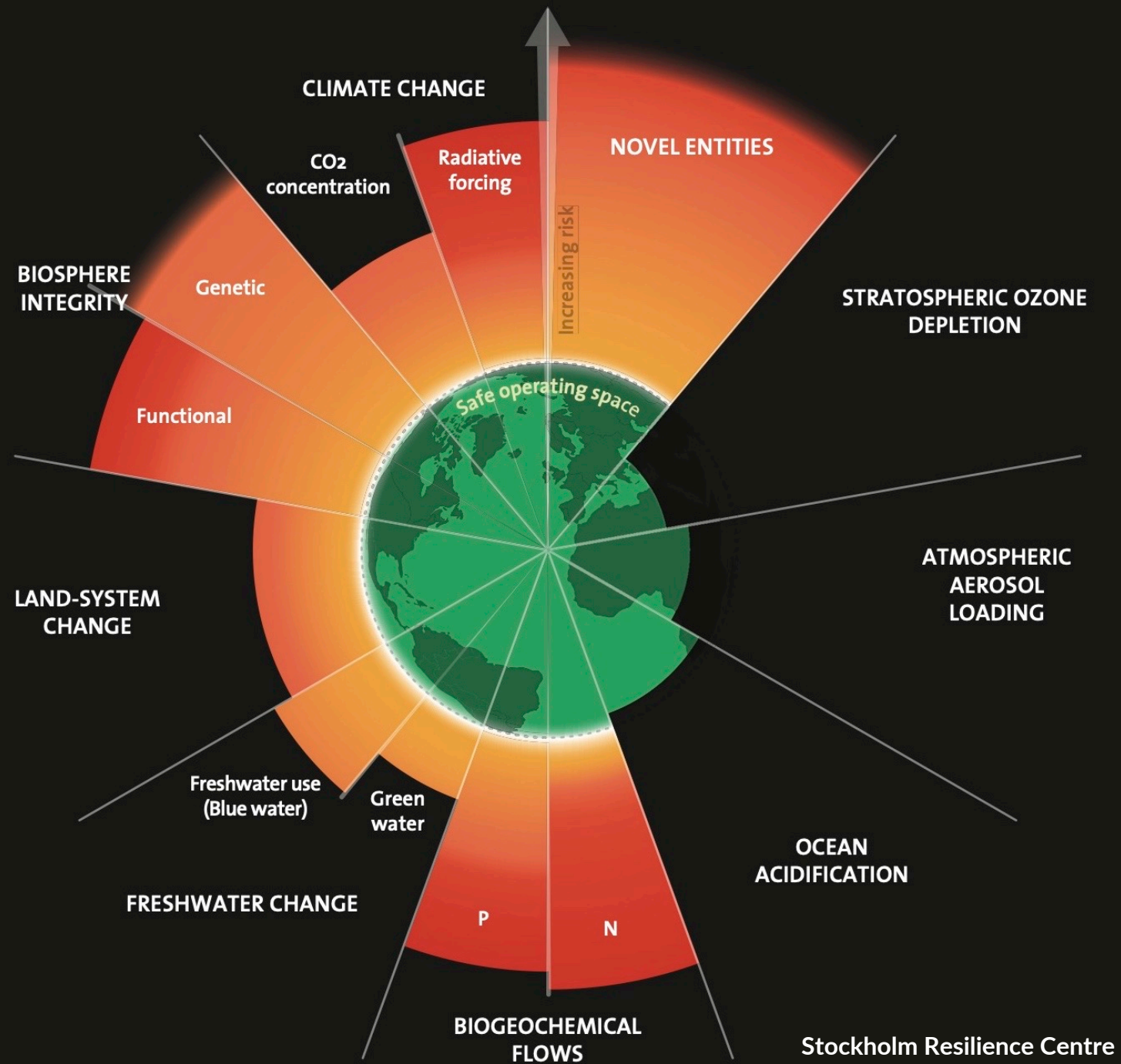
Do we consider ourselves part of nature?



What is the end state we need ?

To meet humanity's reasonable needs while staying within planetary boundaries.

Efficiency & Sufficiency are the key principles needed to achieve the crucial transition to a Carbon Neutral Circular Economy.



From 'Waste' to a 'Circular Economy'

National Waste Policy
Includes circular economy principles, but focussed on waste reduction

New recycling legislation

- Establish waste export bans
- Domestic recycling infrastructure
- Product stewardship

Environment Ministers commit to a circular economy transition

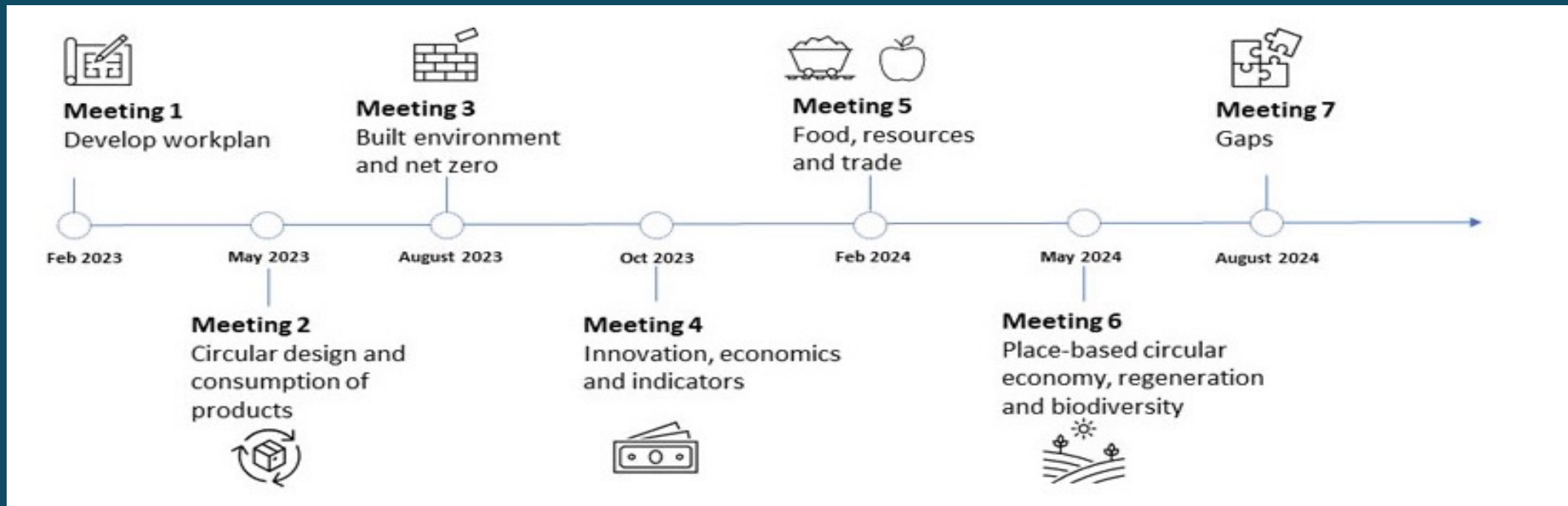
CE MAG submits final report

National Circular Economy Framework to be released



CIRCULAR ECONOMY MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP

- This Advisory Group has been established to guide Australia's transition to a more circular economy, by 2030.
- The Advisory Group advises the whole of the Australian Government, through the Minister for the Environment and Water, on:
 - **opportunities associated** with Australia's circular economy transition
 - **regulatory, commercial and other barriers** to a more circular economy
 - **best practice initiatives** that show promise for adoption and/or expansion in Australia
 - **circular economy research, development and innovation needs**
 - **effective measurement and communication** about progress towards Australia's circular economy.



The need for National CE Framework and supporting policies

- **Australia has a wasteful and inefficient economy.**
 - Australia has the 3rd highest material footprint per capita and 4th lowest rate of material productivity in the OECD.
 - We only generate US\$1.20 of economic output for every kg of materials consumed, under half the OECD benchmark of US\$2.50.
 - Has a circularity rate of 4% vs global 7%
 - Is in the top 10 for GG emissions per capita – over 3X the global average
- Every year Australian firms **spend \$1.4 billion sending \$26.5 billion worth of material to landfill.**
- To transition to a more efficient low carbon circular economy it is essential that there is federal government leadership via overarching policy and supporting legislation and incentives
- This is evidenced with countries with the most advanced circular economy activity such as the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden having supportive policy environment
- In fact 75% of the G20 have an overarching circular economy policy, strategy or framework.
- Australia is one the 5 countries that don't have one but it will soon!



CIRCULAR ECONOMY
MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Interim report

Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group

April 2024

“Dear Minister Plibersek
One year on from Australia’s step-change in commitment to a circular economy, I am pleased to present this interim report, summarising the early findings of the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group. The Advisory Group's expert advice outlines strategic interventions for the Australian Government to drive the circular economy transformation forward.”

[Please read and provide feedback for final report](#)

Some key recommendations to date

- The \$15bn National Reconstruction Fund now has circular economy/sustainability principles included in its investment mandate
- Include circular economy in the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy and Green Bonds Framework
- Create a National Circular Economy Framework which sets the national direction and vision for a circular economy in Australia
- Embed circular economy principles and actions across key climate policies including all Net Zero Sector Plans due later this year.
- Developing national and sector-based targets and indicators for a circular economy to drive and measure Australia's transition

Current and future activity

- Last meeting focused on Food & Resources in late April
- Commenced work on blueprint for National CE Framework
- Next meeting Place-based, Water, and First Nations – August
- Final report due Oct/Nov 24 TBC
- Key outcome is to create a National Circular Economy Framework which sets the **national direction and vision for a circular economy in Australia**
- This would operate as an **overarching framework for setting specific circularity requirements**, including for products, materials, and services.
- Australian Government will use this power to set or adopt national circular economy standards for products and materials or create relevant directives that drive circularity.

Environmentally Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Policy

Purpose: The ESP policy will stimulate industry investment and innovation in sustainable goods and services by generating stable demand at scale.

Measures:

1. Emissions reduction
2. Increase in circular economy principles
3. Number of suppliers that have a Supplier Environmental Sustainability Plan (SESP)

Rollout:

- ☐ **Phase 1:** 1 July 2024 – Construction over \$7.5 million
- ☐ **Phase 2:** 1 July 2025 – Furniture, fittings, equipment, ICT, textiles over \$1 million

Focus Areas	Climate	Environment	Circularity
Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• minimise greenhouse gas emissions• optimise energy efficiency• use low emissions materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• optimise water efficiency• use safe and renewable inputs• safely use and dispose of chemicals• actively minimise the creation of waste and the amount that is sent to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• buildings and fit-outs use less materials, minimise waste, can be deconstructed and reused, are designed for adaptability and flexibility• goods are durable, repairable, reusable and/or recyclable• goods have been refurbished or existing goods are reused• goods contain recycled content /recycled materials are used• goods are recycled at the end of useful life• goods are returned for resource recovery through a take-back or end of life scheme• goods are available for lease, rent or product-as-a-service as an alternative to buying outright

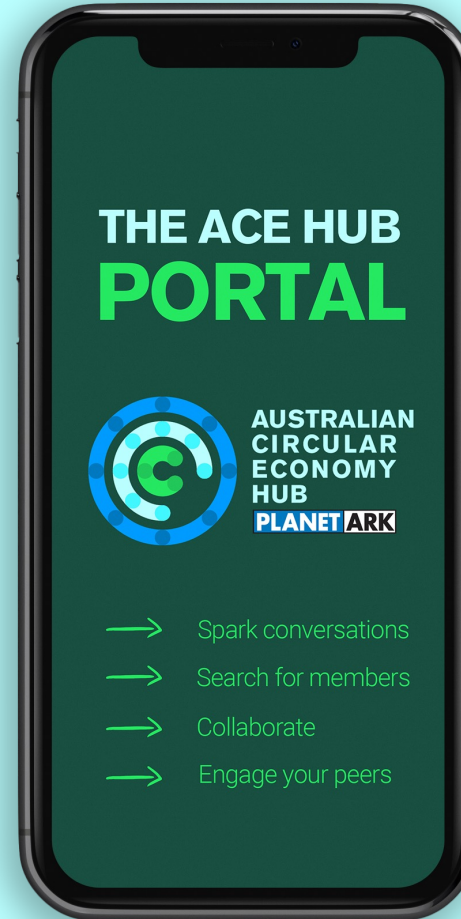


“The complexity of the circular economy is immense and therefore a hard challenge to solve.

I believe the only way forward is to join forces and help each other make this transition.”

- Prof Jacqueline Cramer, 2020

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**circular economy
transition**

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