

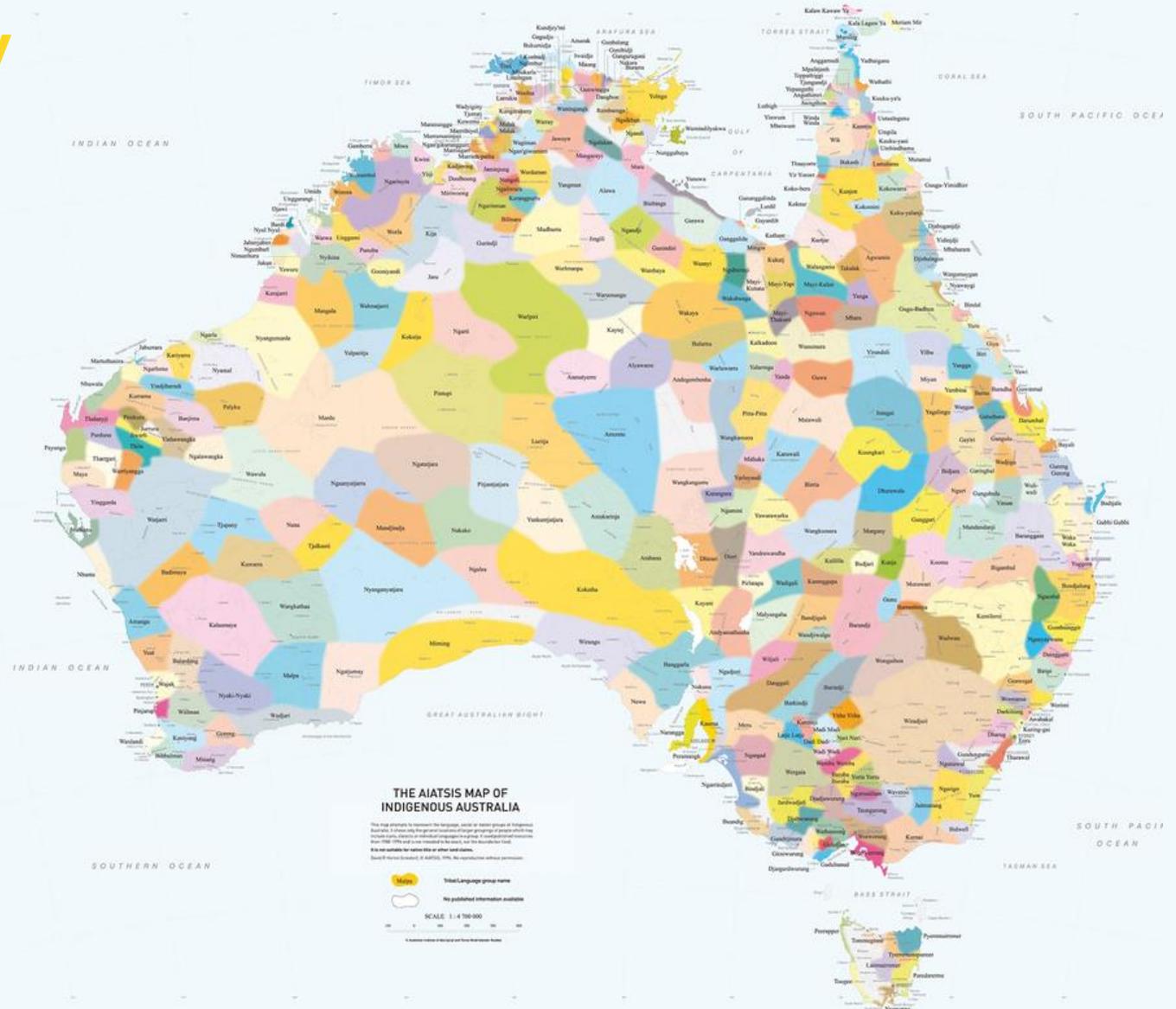
An Australian perspective on circular economy catching up with Europe or carving our own path to circular?

Jodie Bricout 30 September 2021

Acknowledgement of Country

I begin by acknowledging the Kuarna people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which I stand today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other indigenous peoples here today.



Australia's circular economy faces logistical challenges...

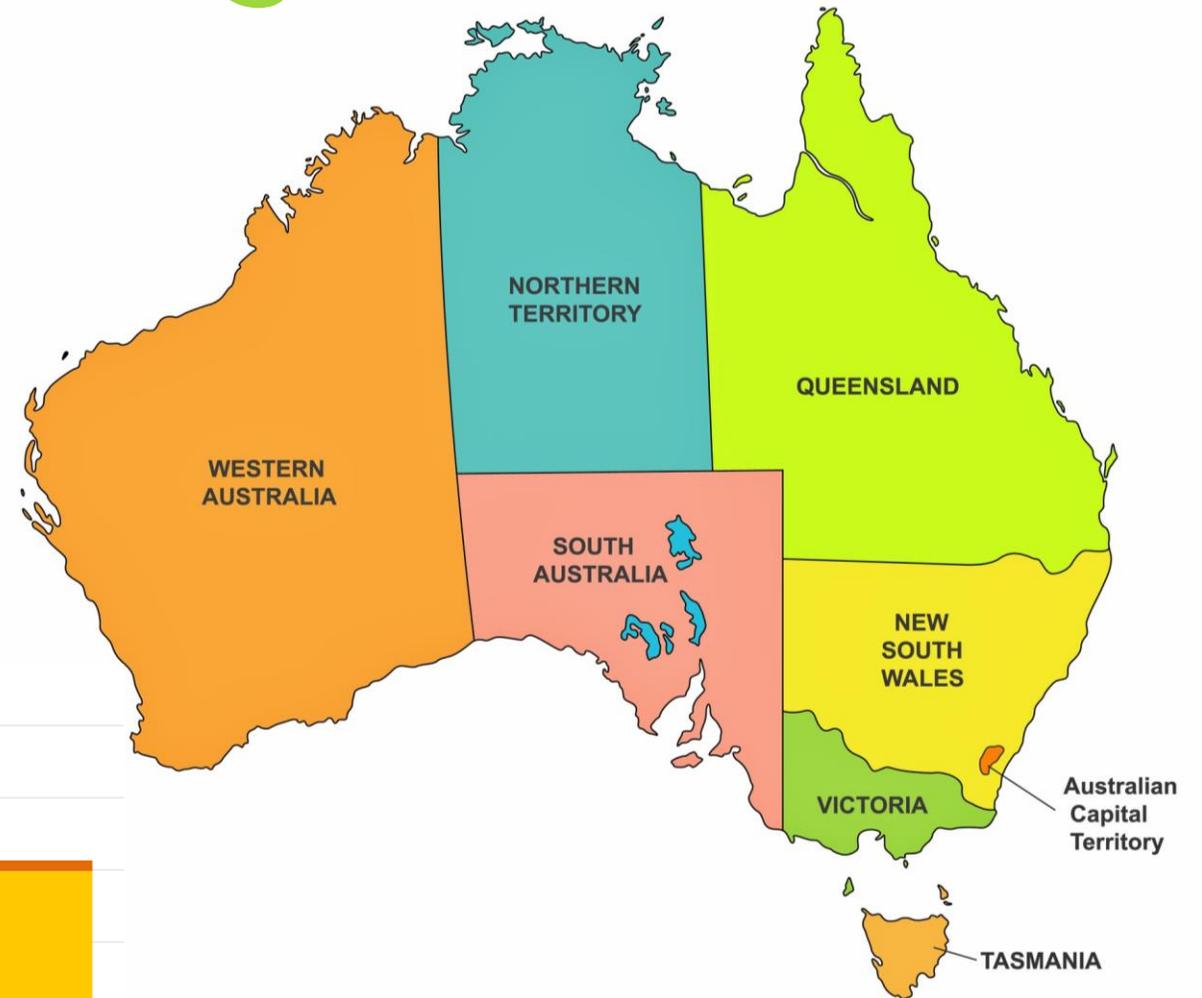


Population = 25 million
Area = 7.7 million km²
Almost 4,000 km wide

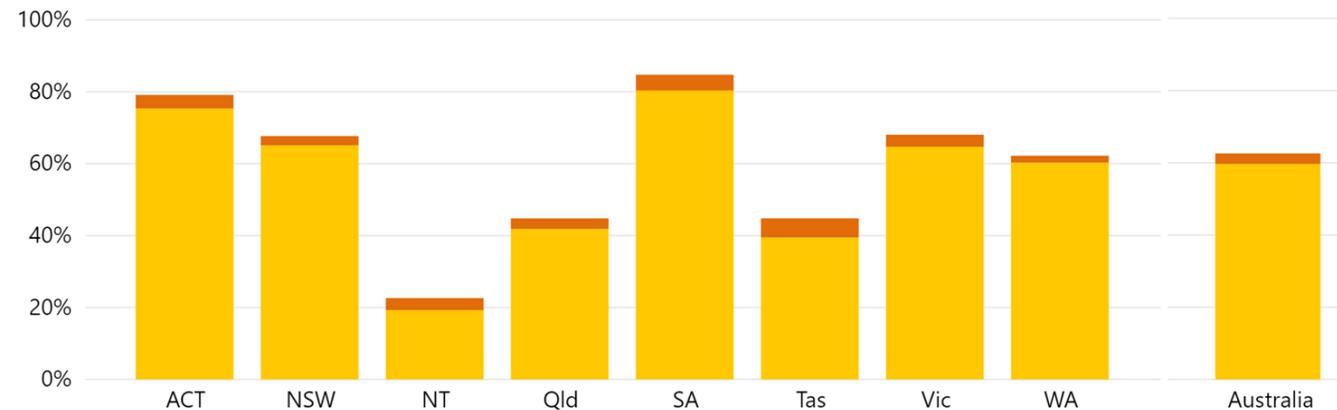
...and political challenges

Examples of differences between individual States and Territories:

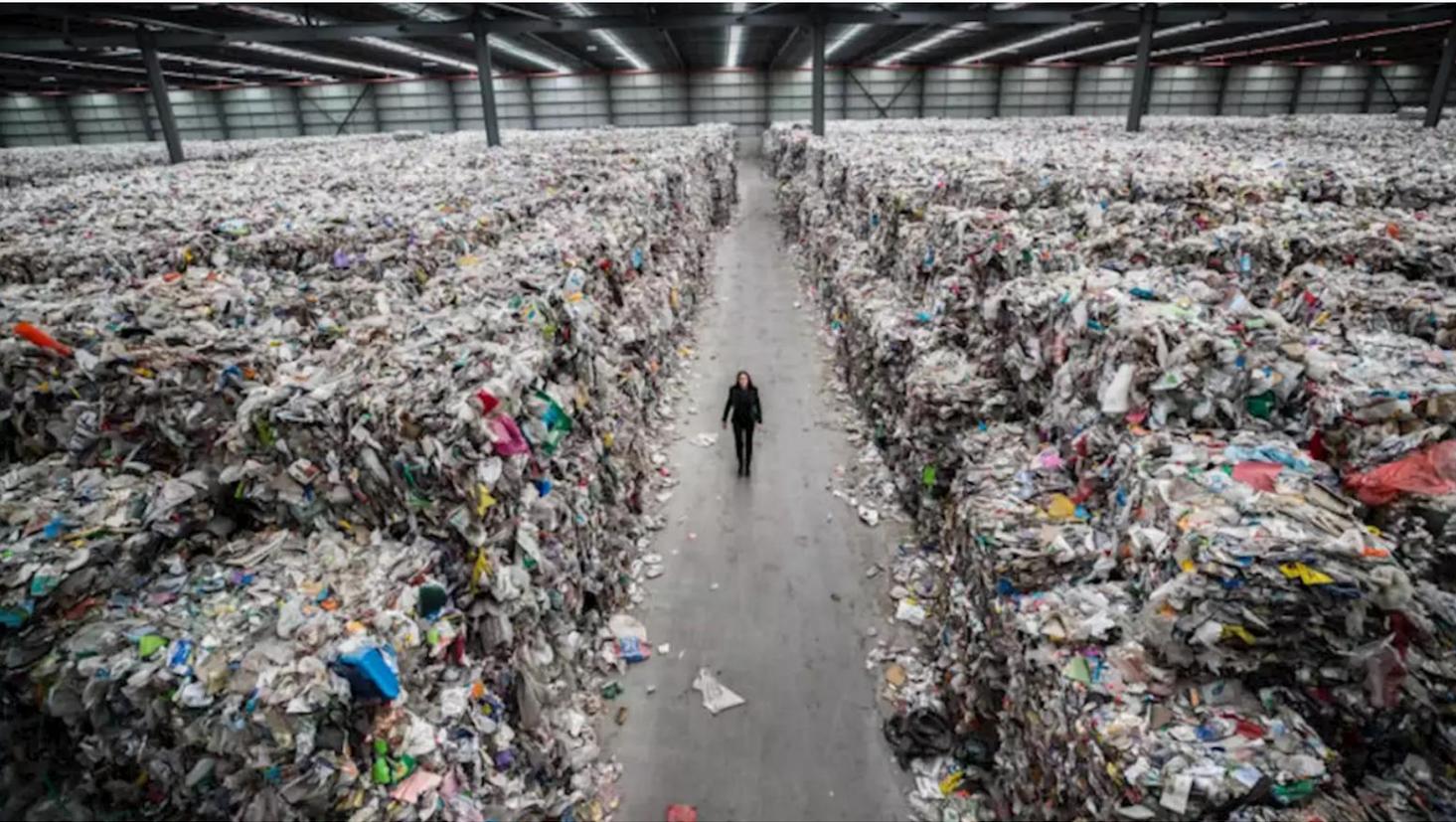
- Landfill levies
- Landfill bans (e.g. e-waste)
- Container deposit schemes
- Operational requirements (e.g. organic wastes/waste water sludge)
- Single-use plastic bans



● Recycling rate ● Energy recovery rate

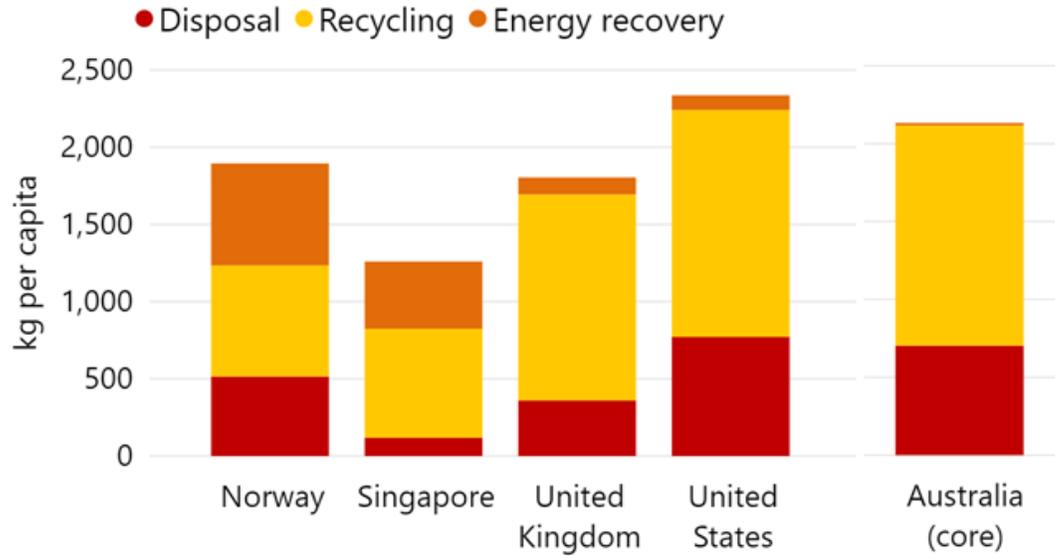


Our recycling industry was decimated by China National Sword



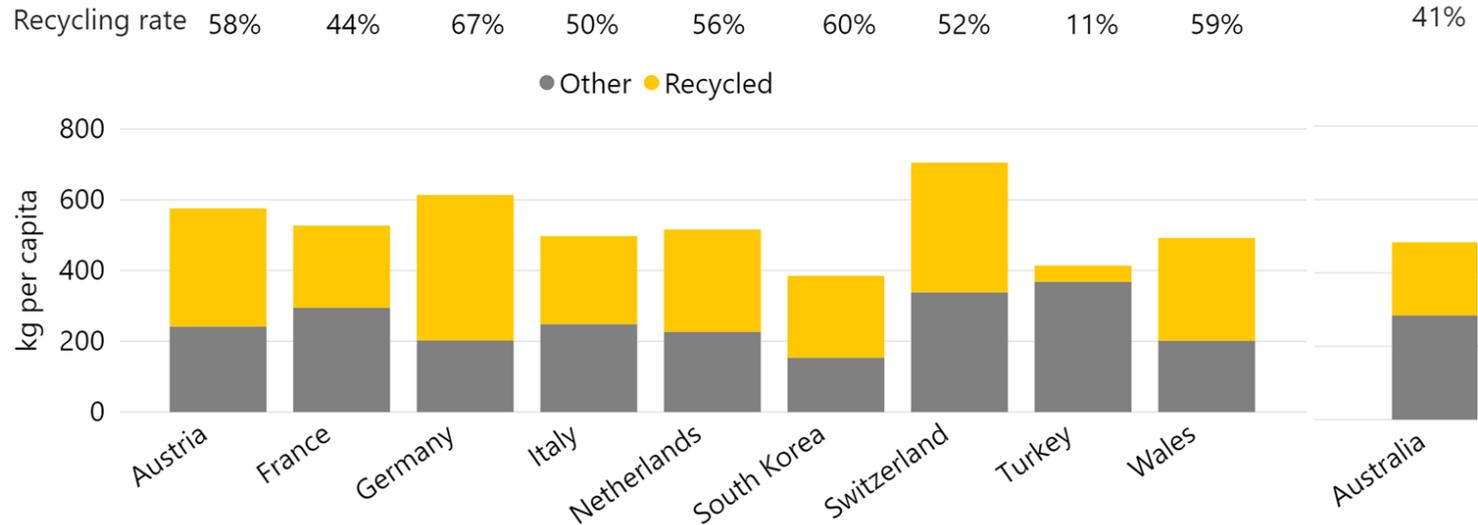
(2019)

Recovery rate	73%	91%	80%	67%	67%
Recycling rate	38%	56%	74%	63%	66%



Comparison of annual waste generation and fate
(excluding hazardous waste, ash and landfill gas energy recovery)

Comparison of MSW generation and recycling rates



Governments have responded

State governments

- Formal circular economy strategies, policies or legislation in South Australia, Victoria and NSW
- Container deposit schemes planned for all states (after 40 years)
- Various 'problematic' plastic bans
- Increasing organic recycling capacity
- Major funding of recycling capacity (infrastructure)
- Increasing demand for recycled materials

Commonwealth government

- Ban on waste exports
- Expanding extended producer responsibility schemes
- Recycling targets across the board, and particular schemes for food waste and packaging
- Major funding of recycling capacity (infrastructure)

"circular" is now in governments' vocabulary - although it still often refers to recycling

A business-government-research ecosystem is emerging

(even without EU funding!)

**Accelerating a
circular and
climate-resilient
economy**

Welcome to the Circular Economy Business
Innovation Centre (CEBIC).

About us

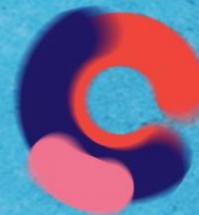


AUSTRALIAN
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
HUB
PLANETARK



VICTORIAN
CIRCULAR

activator



NSW
Circular

Businesses are leading the way



Our charities and not-for-profits are incredible resources



3,000+

charity and social
enterprise retailers



10,000

charity collection bins



5,295

full-time employees



33,500

volunteers



And our circular economy is creating opportunities for indigenous Australians



Thank you

An Australian perspective on circular economy
catching up with Europe or carving our own path to circular?

Jodie Bricout 30 September 2021 jodie.bricout@adelaide.edu.au