PSG#3 - P1.11.4 Benchmarking and Scaling-up Australia's Circular Economy Practices

Date: Monday 19th October 2026

Time: 12.00pm – 1.30pm AWST

Attendance:

- Ashleigh Morris (Corro) - Meeting Chair
- Atiq Zaman (Curtin University) – Project Lead
- Meghan Cowling (QLD Dept of Transport & Main Roads)
- Chris Skantzos (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Raz Guirguis (Transport for NSW)
- Kathy Francki (Australian Department of Defence)
- Haydee Payer (Australian Department of Defence)
- Dona Iresha Gurusinghe (RMIT)
- Cathy Inglis (Think Brick)
- Usha Iyer-Raniga (RMIT)
- Will Hackney (SBEnrc)
- Lindsay Kyle (SBEnrc)
- Adriana Sanchez (SBEnrc)

Notes

Project Progress and Research Findings: Atiq Zaman reported that the project remains within scope, with planned evidence submitted and the three circular-economy objectives progressing through survey work, literature review, stakeholder engagement, and case-study analysis.

Industry Readiness Survey: Atiq Zaman and Ashleigh Morris asked PSG members to increase participation in the National Circular Economy Industry-Readiness Survey, which had 12 responses against a target of at least 50 and was already showing variation in practices, reporting, data collection, and barriers.

Transport For New South Wales Case Study: Usha Iyer-Raniga reported that the Transport for New South Wales rail case study was approximately 70% complete, focusing on ballast, steel rail, and concrete and timber sleepers to identify practical reuse, recycling, and end-of-life pathways.

Atlas Precast Case Study: Atiq Zaman reported that the Western Australia Atlas Precast case study has mapped the proposed circular supply chain and identified 164 supply-chain stakeholders plus 123 enabling stakeholders, while workshops, partner validation, interviews, and field inventory remain in progress.

Queensland Sports Venue Case Study: Atiq Zaman stated that the Queensland near-zero operational-waste sports-venue case study remains on track, but detailed findings were withheld because of confidentiality requirements and a stakeholder workshop was planned to support feedback and data collection.

Future Deliverables and Payment: Atiq Zaman outlined the remaining research and reporting milestones, including stakeholder feedback, case-study data collection, draft reports in May 2027, final reports in September 2027, and a payment milestone that Will said could proceed because there were no PSG objections.

Research Into Practice Pathways: Ashleigh Morris led a discussion with Meghan C Cowling, Raz Guirguis, Cathy Inglis, and Chris Skantzos about converting case-study findings into organizational adoption, emphasizing tailored engagement with rail, technical, corporate, association, and supplier audiences.

Communications and Student Involvement: Atiq Zaman reviewed planned dissemination through academic, industry, international, and partner channels and reported that five students are contributing to literature review, lifecycle assessment, interviews, data collection, and case-study activities.

PSG Scheduling and Follow-Up Actions: Ashleigh Morris and Adriana Sanchez confirmed follow-up actions on survey circulation, stakeholder-map review, technical briefings, and meeting dates, including considering Tuesday or Wednesday PSG meetings so Atlas representatives can attend.

Actions

1. **Literature Review Feedback:** Atiq Zaman to email core partners requesting feedback on the Literature Review before PSG#4. (Atiq Zaman)
2. **Survey Distribution:** Send the circular-economy industry readiness survey to all PSG members, including those absent, and encourage relevant organizational and stakeholder contacts to complete it to help reach the target of at least 50 responses. (Atiq Zaman, PSG Members)
3. **Stakeholder Mapping:** Atiq Zaman to circulate the Stakeholder Mapping slide from the literature review to PSG members and the broader working group for review, additions, and feedback. (Atiq Zaman)
4. **Transport Case Study Outreach:** Share relevant rail contacts from Queensland Transport and Main Roads with the Transport for NSW case-study team and connect the teams where useful for the rail research. (Meghan Cowling, Usha Iyer-Raniga)
5. **Technical Stakeholder Engagement:** Chris Skantzos to provide Will Hackney and Atiq Zaman with the appropriate MRWA contacts, including technical/specification, sustainability and procurement representatives. Will Hackney and Atiq Zaman to then arrange a separate briefing with the relevant MRWA team to seek their input on the research findings and how these could be applied in practice. (Chris Skantzos, Will Hackney, Atiq Zamaan)
6. **Industry Event Opportunities:** Share details of upcoming industry seminars, workshops, or other relevant events where the project findings could be presented and stakeholder feedback obtained. (PSG members)
7. **PSG Scheduling:** Circulate alternative PSG4 and subsequent meeting dates, preferably on Tuesday or Wednesday rather than Monday, and collect members' availability. (Adriana Sanchez)