REGIONAL CIRCULARITY CO-OPERATIVE

Bega circular valley

NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE

Bega Circular Valley

A vision for place-based circularity in the Bega Valley and beyond

Bass Coast

June 2025

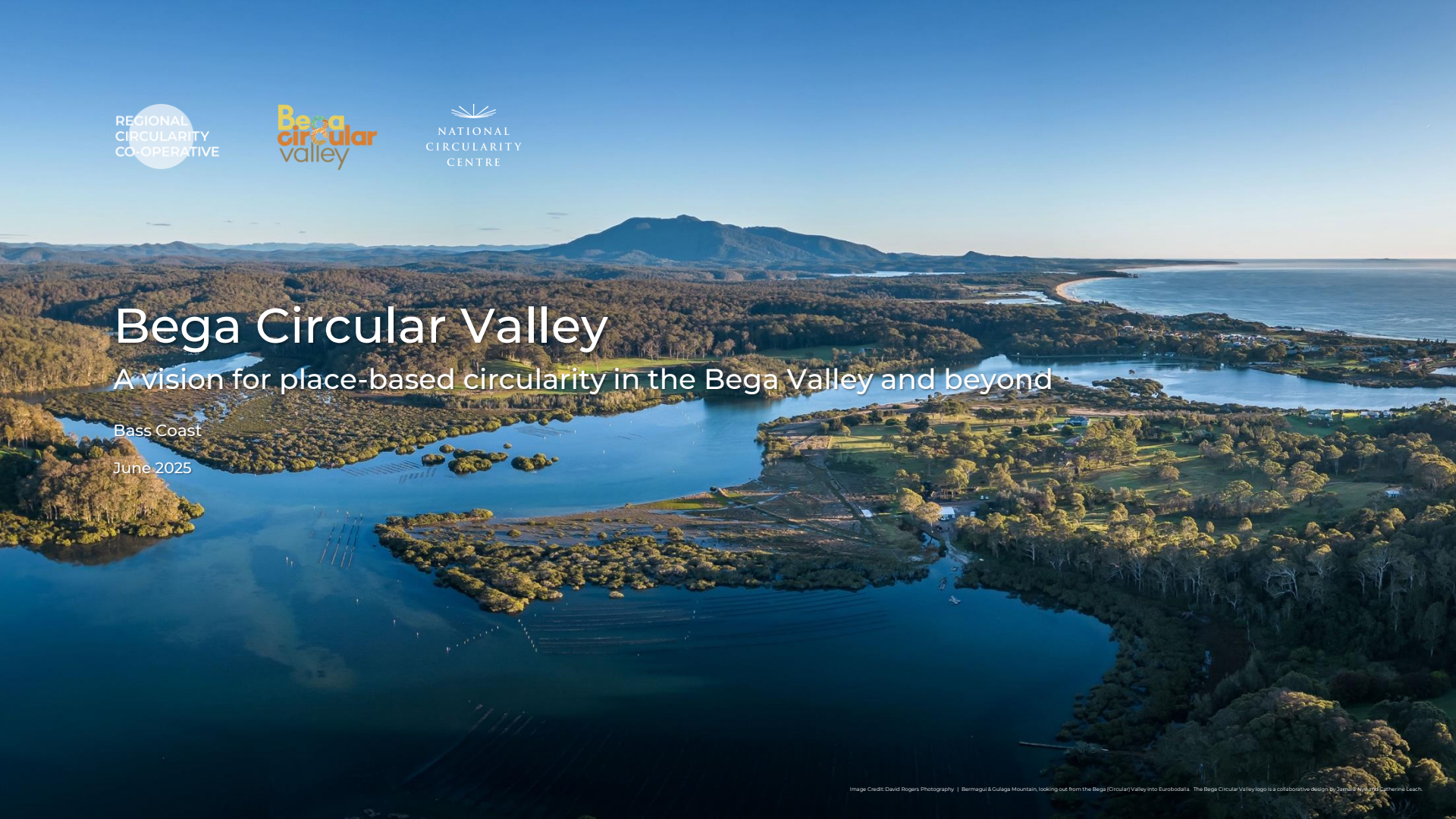


Image Credit: David Rogers Photography | Bermagui & Gulaga Mountain, looking out from the Bega (Circular) Valley into Eurobodalla. The Bega Circular Valley logo is a collaborative design by Jarrad Kowlin and Catherine Leach.



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR INDIGENOUS CIRCULAR HERITAGE

The Regional Circularity Cooperative (RCC) acknowledges and pays its' respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waterways and airspace of Australia.

We learn from these people about the traditions of stewardship of resources, caring for country, reciprocity and working together as a community to have a lighter, more circular, impact on the environment.

We also thank the original inhabitants of the Bega Valley (the Djiringanj people of the Yuin Nation) for the circularity story they have bequeathed us.

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Bega circular valley

Our logo acknowledges the role Indigenous knowledge will play in the circular future, with bunaan rings subtly integrated within it. The logo was a collaborative design by Walbunja woman Jamara Nye and Narooma based graphic designer Cat Leach


REGIONAL
CIRCULARITY
CO-OPERATIVE
Not-for-profit, non-distributing co-operative leading the Bega Valley's transition to a more circular economy
Bega circular valley
High-impact regional development program to help accelerate the region's circular transition
NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE
Australia's National Centre for Circular Discovery
Image Credit: David Rogers Photography | The Bega Valley and Biamanga Mountain.

Regional Circularity Co-operative Future Strategic Framework (2025–30)

OUR VISION

A Bega Valley that is a vibrant and resilient circular region for all those who live, work and visit here and a place-based circularity beacon for the world.

OUR PEOPLE AND PLACE

A rural valley on New South Wales's pristine Sapphire Coast with an **Indigenous circularity story stretching back millennia** and a current linear economy centred on **agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food manufacturing, care services, tourism, construction, hospitality and the arts** that has begun the multi-generational transition to a more circular way of living that will **allow the region's diverse communities to thrive** in a climate impacted future.

OUR ROLE

To work hand-in-hand with the community, business, government, academia and others as: **1) A leader, innovator, broker and connector** for the region's circular transition; **2) An importer, facilitator, creator and amplifier** of circularity best practise; and **3) A 'circularity beacon'** inspiring other regional communities in Australia and around the world to pursue their own more circular future.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. ACT AS A PATHFINDER AND CIRCULARITY BEACON FOR THE BEGA VALLEY REGION AND BEYOND



2. IDENTIFY, PRIORITISE, CATALYSE & IMPLEMENT THE WORKSTREAMS & PROJECTS NEEDED TO GROW THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



3. INSPIRE AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES OF THE BEGA VALLEY TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM THE CIRCULAR TRANSITION



4. UNLOCK THE REVENUE AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO BOTH FUND THE TRANSITION AND SUSTAIN THE BCV PROGRAM & NCC



5. BUILD THE RCC'S CAPACITY TO CATALYSE, GUIDE AND ACCELERATE THE CIRCULAR TRANSITION



Image Credit: David Rogers Photography | Barnagal/Cultural Mountain, one of our Traditional Custodians Yuin Country in Eurobodalla

28 WORK AREAS/ THEMES UNDERPINNING THE BEGA CIRCULAR VALLEY'S LONG-TERM CIRCULAR TRANSITION

- BASELINING/ MFA, DATA & MEASUREMENT, DIGITAL SERVICES/ ENABLEMENT — IN DEVELOPMENT
- NET ZERO ENERGY TRANSITION — INITIAL FUNDING BEING EXPLORED, FULL WORKSTREAM TO BE SCOPED
- RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY — INC. ON-FARM WATER STORAGE PROJECT FULL WORKSTREAM TO BE SCOPED
- LAND MANAGEMENT: AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY — INITIAL AGRICULTURE PROJECTS UNDERWAY, FULL WORKSTREAM TO BE SCOPED
- FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE — INITIAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY, FULL WORKSTREAM TO BE SCOPED
- NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE (NCC) — NCC BUILD UNDERWAY, ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF EXPERIENCE/ CONTENT, FULL WORKSTREAM TO BE SCOPED
- CIRCULAR RESOURCE RECOVERY & RE-USE — INC. COMMUNITY-FOCUSED SYSTEMS (E.G. SHARE/ REPAIR ECONOMY); PLASTICS PROJECT IN DEVELOPMENT
- MANUFACTURING, PRODUCTION & SUPPLY CHAIN — INITIAL BEGA GRP. FOCUS
- CIRCULAR INNOVATION/ FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES — INC. THE BIO-ECONOMY
- INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS, CIRCULAR PRECINCTS & INNOVATION PARKS
- NATURAL CAPITAL, CARBON & BIODIVERSITY — (INC. ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION AND CARBON FARMING/TRADING)
- HOUSING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT/ CONSTRUCTION
- TRANSPORT, MOBILITY & LOGISTICS
- COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT SERVICES — (INC. HEALTH & AGED CARE)
- CIRCULAR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT/ WORKFORCE TRAINING
- SOCIAL EQUITY
- INDIGENOUS/ ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES
- BUSINESS, FOOD, HOSPITALITY, RETAIL & EVENTS
- CLOTHING & TEXTILES
- CIRCULAR TOURISM, RECREATION, SPORT & LEISURE
- MUSIC, CULTURE & THE ARTS
- EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE — YOUNG PEOPLE AS A KEY AUDIENCE
- BCV ROADMAP LEADERSHIP & TRANSITION CO-ORDINATION
- CIRCULARITY BEST PRACTISE — IMPORTING, CREATING & EXPORTING
- RCC MEMBER & PARTNER PROGRAMS, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE
- GENERAL MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS — INC. EVENTS & FORUMS
- REVENUE GENERATION, INCOME STREAMS, FUNDING, INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODELS

'THEMES'/ WORK AREAS KEY

- EXISTING OR EMERGING THEMES/ WORK AREAS
- SYSTEMIC OR FOUNDATIONAL THEMES/ WORK AREAS
- BUSINESS, CONSUMER OR COMMUNITY FOCUSED THEMES/ WORK AREAS
- ORGANISATIONAL & INTERNAL THEMES/ WORK AREAS

SELECTED CURRENT & EMERGING PROJECTS (2021 –2025)



1. National Circularity Centre (NCC)

Design and construction of Australia's National Centre for Circular Discovery in Bega (scheduled to open in late 2026).



2. Regional Circularity Baselining

World first place-based circularity baselining and opportunity identification project with CSIRO, Deloitte and others.



3. Energy & Decarbonisation

Heat exchange & energy efficiency in ag. and Net Zero Energy Roadmap programs in partnership with the NSW Decarb. Hub, UoW, CSU, ANU & Essential Energy.



4. Natural Capital

Pilot on dairy farms to explore robust measurement and reporting of carbon & biodiversity credentials & collaborations with entire supply chains. RCC, Climate Friendly, Rabobank and ZNEAg CRC.



5. Circular Fisheries & Aquaculture

National circularity in fisheries and aquaculture program, led by the RCC in partnership with the FRDC & others. Phase 2 currently in development.



6. Regenerative Agriculture

Natural resource & regenerative ag. programs delivering on ground works and regenerative/ resilience activities on farm. Partnership with NSW Govt, Great Eastern Ranges, Landcare, CSU, Essential Energy and Southern NSW Drought Hub.



7. Circular Manufacturing

Multiple circular initiatives implemented by Bega Group (Locally and nationally) and other businesses in the Bega Valley



8. Indigenous Circular Partnerships

Continue to build partnerships with LALCs & broader Aboriginal community to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the BCV program and NCC, and to identify opportunities region-wide.



9. Circular Entrepreneurship

Support for numerous existing and emerging local circularity focused initiatives and businesses.



10. 2050 Strategy Development

Development of a long-term strategic framework and operating model for the RCC, BCV and NCC – with input from other world-leading circular regions.



11. Circularity Roadmap Evolution

Revise and update the current Bega Circular Valley roadmap to be a more community-centred and 'live' document that guides the transition to 2050.



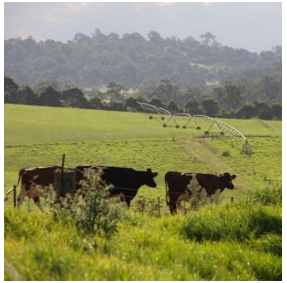
12. Net-Zero Energy Transition

Development of Australia's first community-wide net zero energy transition roadmap and support for phase 1 energy transition program.



13. Circular & Resilient Water Supply

Implement a world-leading circular water supply program that provides a sustainable & resilient solution that helps meet the community's future needs.



14. Dairy & Beef Circular Pilot

Dairy and beef circular decarbonisation pilot program in partnership with NSW Dept. of Primary Industries and others.



15. Circular Education Pilot

Implement a circular education pilot program within all the Bega Valley's K–12 schools to build foundational circular knowledge in the next generation.



16. Circular Tourism Program

Leverage the creation of the NCC to develop a region-wide circular tourism program, initially based on learnings gained from our collaboration with Circular Friesland in the Netherlands.



17. Circular Resource Optimisation

Agricultural resource optimisation, including managing agricultural plastics with PACT Group, smart water resource optimisation, and organic waste mgt.



18. Circular Construction

Use our pioneering work building the NCC to kick-start a circular construction program, including piloting emerging bio-based circular building techniques and low carbon concrete.



19. Circular Best Practise/Innovation

Continue to develop partnerships & collaborations with other circular regions and develop a comprehensive database of circularity best practise; accelerate circular business innovation and build a strong local community of practice



20. Community Engagement

Engage and harness the energy and momentum of the communities of the Bega Valley in the BCV program and educate them about the benefits of circularity. RCC, CSIRO, Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW Dept. of Education & others.

REGIONAL CIRCULARITY CO-OPERATIVE

Bega circular valley

NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE

Current Foundation Members

Bega GROUP

bega valley shire council

Rabobank

CSIRO

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA

Charles Sturt University

FRDC FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Deloitte.

KPMG

South East Forestry Hub

AACO THE ART OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF

Asahi GROUP ASAHI BEVERAGES

Essential Energy

nbn™

PACT GROUP

Current Key Partners

SOUTHERN NSW Innovation Hub
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

DECARB HUB

Circular Australia

COX

ADDISONS

Australian Government

NSW GOVERNMENT

CRJO CANBERRA REGION JOINT ORGANISATION

The Destination Agency

ZNE Agriculture ZERO NET EMISSIONS Agriculture CRC

ARUP

SELECTED ORGANISATIONS ONLY

Last updated 12/02/25

306 Organisations/Groups/Initiatives
31 Categories

CURRENT FOCUS | EMERGING FOCUS | FUTURE FOCUS

REGION (& BEYOND) FOCUS

SYSTEMIC CHANGE/ PRIMARY INDUSTRY FOCUS

CONSUMER/ SERVICE INDUSTRY FOCUS

LOCAL COMMUNITY FOCUS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & RESEARCH

CIRCULAR INVESTMENT/ FUNDING

CIRCULAR DESIGN & INNOVATION

REGIONAL TOURISM

CIRCULAR KNOWLEDGE SHARING & EDUCATION

BEGA CIRCULAR VALLEY MEASUREMENT

WASTE & RESOURCE RECOVERY/ RE-USE

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

CONSTRUCTION

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

CURRENT CIRCULAR FOCUSED BUSINESSES

CLEAN, EFFICIENT & RESILIENT ENERGY

RETAIL

SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY

COMMERCIAL FISHING & AQUACULTURE

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

LOCAL MANUFACTURING

FUTURE CIRCULAR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

SOUTH COAST FORESTRY INDUSTRY

SPORT & LEISURE

SOCIAL EQUITY

LOCAL FOOD & DRINK

BIODIVERSITY & HEALTHY SOILS

NATURAL CAPITAL & CARBON TRADING

ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION

CULTURE & THE ARTS

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NOTES

1) This circularity map is a work in progress and does not include every circular organisation or initiative present in the Bega Valley, although it does include most of the organisations with a current connection to the Regional Circularity Collective.
2) Sectors not fully captured include: entertainment, events, health & wellness, landscaping & gardening, marketing & advertising, NFPs, professional services and real estate.
3) Key data sources: Circular Australia, ACE Hub, BVSC business directory, RCC networks, 2iis desktop research, various circularity reports & publications.
4) The mapping is based on a review of existing materials describing the role of each organisation and from input provided by the individuals consulted during this project. Given the multiple sources used, and need to effectively map each organisation, the placement of each organisation is indicative only.

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WHY PLACE–BASED CIRCULARITY IS SO IMPORTANT

Whilst the principles behind the circular economy are simple, changing the complex, intertwined systems underpinning our current linear economy to enable circularity is not.

Over the past two decades it has become evident that working to drive the circular transition at the 'place-based scale' – as exists in the Bega Valley – is particularly effective, as stated in multiple recent reports.

At the place-based level, new circular economy approaches can be developed and tested relatively quickly. Funding, resourcing and governance needs are lower than for large regional, city-wide or national programmes.

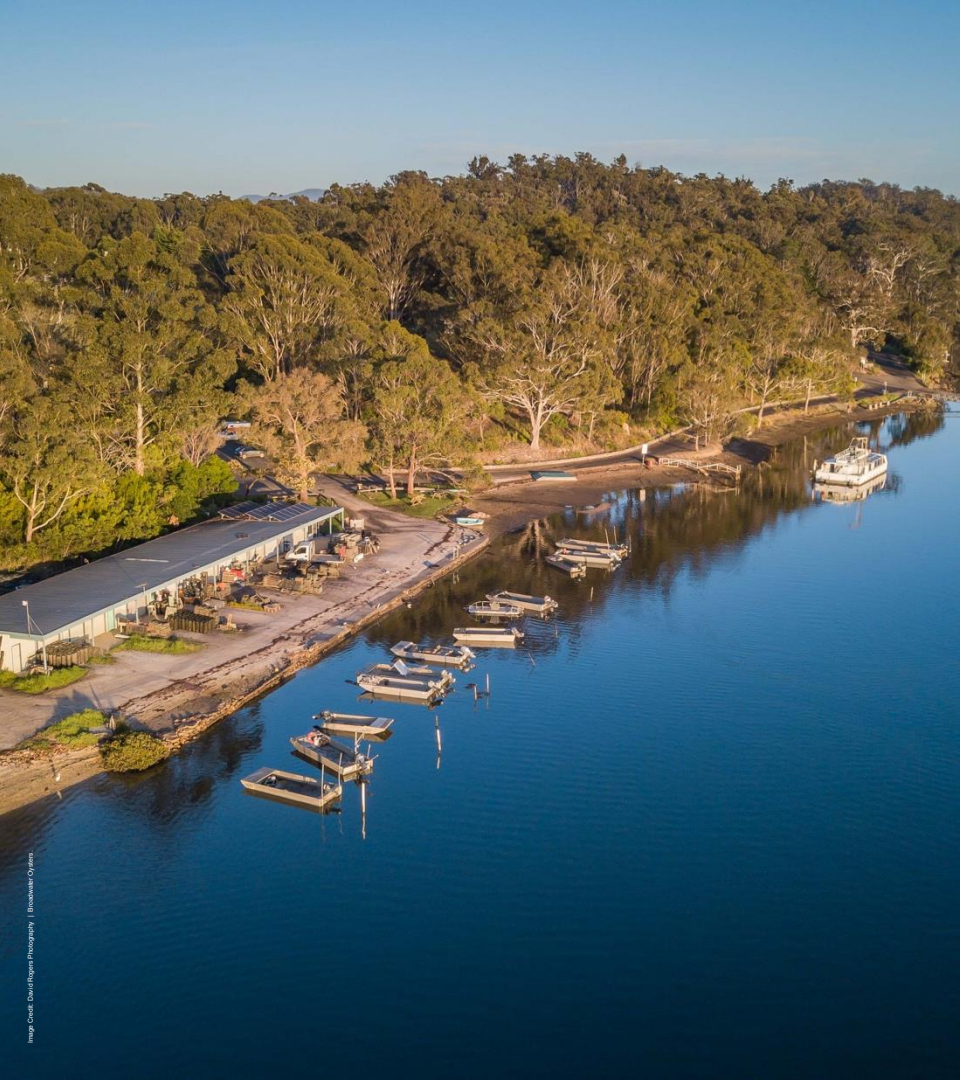
Additionally, working in a cohesive and enthusiastic community enables integration of all sectors and businesses when designing and executing the transition, enabling a much more comprehensive analysis of progress. Greater experimentation is possible because the risk vs. reward equation is so much more favourable.

Perhaps most importantly, local people reap tangible, immediate benefits. A focus on place-based circularity can quickly create jobs, support resilience, improve access to local, nutritious food, drive innovation and connect communities.

Made up of one river catchment, with mountains and forest to the west, north and south and the ocean to the east, just three main access roads, one airport and one port, the Bega Valley is also an ideal region within which to 'measure what matters' and ensure we track progress and quantify what works when it comes to regional, place-based circularity

As a clearly defined 'place' that is large enough to properly test circular approaches, but small enough that experimentation can be encouraged and scaled, the Bega Valley is perfectly positioned to be at the forefront of place-based circularity in Australia.




Image Credit: David Rogers Photography | Brookwater Oysters.

AN AWARD–WINNING COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

If we are to successfully help accelerate the multi-generational circular transition in the Bega Valley and beyond, we know we can't do it alone.

Since its' establishment in 2020, the Regional Circularity Co-operative, has continuously looked to find new ways to build collaboration between the community, business, government, academia and civil society.

This has led us to seek out new forms of partnership, to reach out to others to learn from their successes (and failures), and to encourage those who usually work in competition to find a way to work together. This approach has been developed and driven by Bega Group, representing an internationally rare example of a corporate driving change for public good.

We don't yet have all the answers but are proud of the collaborative approach we have started to build, and enthused to keep evolving this approach in the years and decades ahead.

In recognition of our efforts to drive new forms of collaboration, in late 2024 the Bega Circular Valley program won the inaugural Australian Design Council Impact Award in recognition of its potential **'to shape Australia's design-led future across our economy, society, environment and culture'**.



www.australiandesigncouncil.org

NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE

THE NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE

The National Circularity Centre (NCC) is funded by the NSW Government and Bega Group and designed by Cox Architecture. It will be built by the RCC in Bega over the coming 18 months.

The centre will showcase the circular economy transition of the Bega Valley, and act as a beacon for circularity efforts across the country and internationally.

The centre will include a:

1) **Circular economy education centre**, demonstrating local, national and international circular economy initiatives, and hosting events;
2) **'Hub' for circularity experts** to come together to research and collaborate to drive the transition to a circular economy;
3) **Café and restaurant** focusing on local food, with capacity for functions; and
4) **Tourist information and heritage centre**, with a gift shop showcasing local circular products and produce.

We are collaborating with The Powerhouse Museum, Questacon, multiple academic institutions and others to deliver a worldclass visitor experience and education program.

















THE ‘CIRCULAR ALLIANCE OF REGIONS’

We were recently invited to join the **Circular Alliance of Regions (CARe)**, a new global partnership of ten leading circular regions that was recently announced at the World Circular Economy Forum on 15 May.

Being one of the founding partners of this alliance provides the Bega Circular Valley with a great opportunity to be at the forefront of the place-based circular transition and to get access to best practice from around the world.

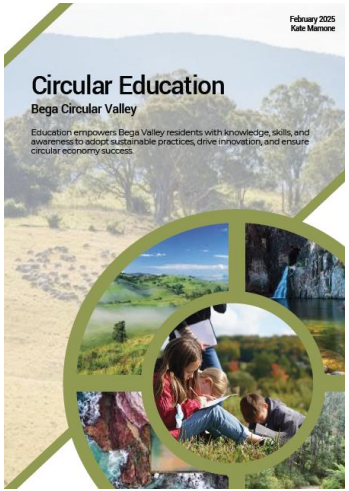




CIRCULAR FUTURES 2.0 | 12.08.25

In 2024, the RCC helped co-ordinate the Circular Futures event where 120 High School students from around the region came together to explore what the circular careers of the future might look like.

Given the next generation will be central to any future circular economy, we are delighted to announce that **Circular Futures 2025** has now been confirmed for Tuesday 12 August.







Community and business engagement workshop

In May 2025, in partnership with CSIRO, the RCC held a community and business engagement workshop. 150 people, from builders and farmers to artists and teachers, attended a full day to workshop where we are now, where we want to be and how to get there.

Enthusiasm and passion was high.

Recurring themes:

- Just get people together
- Facilitate, support, guide, broker
- Drive cross-sector collaboration
- Speak in simple language
- Educate

A report and video will be released.

Our operations

Manufacturing facilities

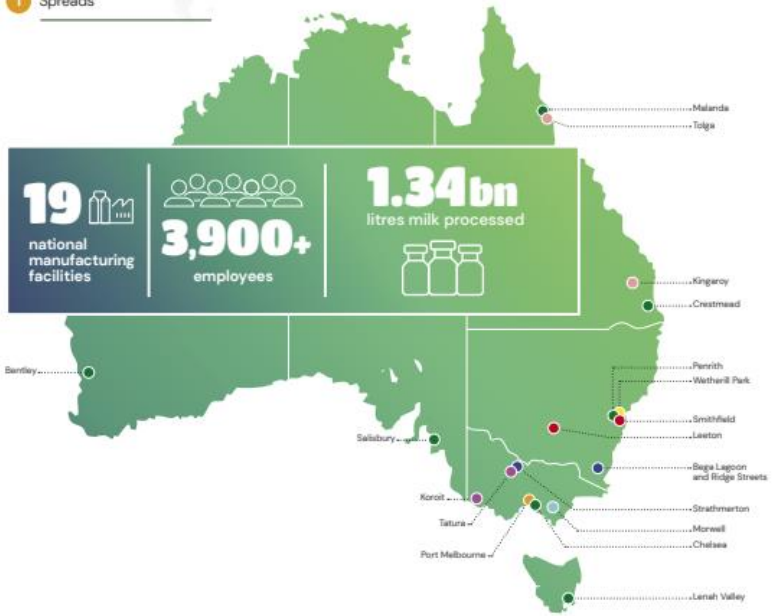
- 7 White milk and milk-based beverages
- 1 Milk-based beverages hub
- 3 Cheese
- 2 Dairy powder and fats
- 2 Peanuts
- 2 Juice
- 1 Yoghurt
- 1 Spreads

International sales offices

- (A) China office
- (B) Malaysia office
- (C) Singapore office



WE SELL OUR PRODUCTS IN OVER 40 COUNTRIES TO MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND AGENTS.



Growth

FY2000 - $115 million

FY2005 - $234 million

FY2010 - $829 million

FY2020 - $1.5 billion

FY2022 - $3 billion

FY2023 - $3.4 billion

Bega Circular Valley

Circular Case Studies | Work in Progress

Updated: 12/03/25

CONFIDENTIAL



Image Credit: David Rogers Photography | Carp Street in Bega



‘We see fish waste as a powerful resource. By transforming it, we’re not only reducing waste and lowering our carbon footprint but also creating nutrient-rich soil to support the next generation of food crops. It’s about turning a problem into a solution for a more sustainable future.’

Tim and Kyran Crane, Founders of Ocean2Earth

CASE STUDY: OCEAN2EARTH (Eden)

Focus: : Turning marine and forestry waste into a high-value soil improver.

Background: Brothers Tim and Kyran Crane launched Ocean2Earth (O2E) Australia in 2019. Marine waste is naturally composted with forestry by-products and a specialised inoculant into valuable compost for use in agriculture and horticulture,

Vision:

- To provide a circular link between fisheries / aquaculture and forestry to provide natural regenerative solutions for Australian soils.
- To provide sustainable alternatives for seafood and timber industry byproducts, shifting the dial on what was once “waste” now considered a valuable resource.
- To limit the use of synthetic fertilisers and support a transition to regenerative agriculture
- To build healthier soil, farms, food and forests.

Impact and Future Development: diverting well over 500 tonnes of waste from landfill each year. As they continue their war on waste, they have also partnered with OF packaging to support and re-use the soft plastic packaging, providing customers with a disposal option instead of sending the packaging to landfill.

Tassie Start-up phase: Establishing a Tasmanian based business in Southwood capable of producing bio-fertiliser volumes at scale for the Tasmanian market. Project will include farm scale agricultural, horticultural and forestry grow trials run by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture commencing end of 2025.
For more information: www.ocean2earth.com.au



Image Credit: Bega Valley Eggs | This is Tom and Joscelin in front of their mobile chicken shed on their farm.

CASE STUDY: BEGA VALLEY EGGS (Bemboka)

Focus: Regenerative farming through an innovative business model.

Background: Husband and wife duo, Tom and Joscelin McMillan are the proud owners of Bega Valley Eggs, a regenerative enterprise with 11,000-layer hens located in the rolling hills of Kameruka. After taking on the business in 2019, Tom and Joscelin have dedicated their farming operation to challenging the industrial food model and using sustainable practices to ensure the highest quality eggs that are truly pasture-raised and free range.

Circular Innovation: Bega Valley Eggs employ holistic management as a pillar of their business model. Hens are raised on a stocking density of no more than 165 per hectare, compared to the industry free-range standards of 10,000 per hectare. The portable chook houses are rotated through the pasture each week, spreading nutrient rich manure evenly across the land for regeneration as the chooks roam and forage.

Impact and Future Development: As a result of taking a regenerative approach to farming and egg production, Bega Valley Eggs contribute to cycling invaluable and organic soil nutrients, enhancing the quality and quantity of soil in the environment. Operating via paddock to plate, Bega Valley Eggs are committed to supplying local and small-scale food systems, reducing food miles and building community resilience.

For more information: www.begavalleyeggs.com.au



Gavin Hughes, Handpicking the last botanicals for the next batch of North of Eden Gin

'For us, circularity is a bit like that old adage, 'One person's trash is another person's treasure.' It's about being conscious and mindful consumers, but it's also about making the most of finite resources including by thinking creatively about new and alternative uses for your 'waste' streams. Last, but not least, it's about keeping connected with your local community because even if you can't find a use for something, there's a good chance someone in your community already has!'

Karen Touchie and Gavin Hughes, Owners of North of Eden

CASE STUDY: NORTH OF EDEN (Stony Creek)

Focus: Creating world class spirits using sustainable craft production methods and locally grown ingredients.

Background: North of Eden Artisan Distillery was established in 2018 by converting an old farm shed into a distillery and cellar door using a mixture of upcycled and recycled materials. Its gins all feature locally grown and foraged ingredients, including waste oyster shells from local oyster farms and juniper grown less than 100kms from the distillery. It is the first distillery in the world to win an international gold medal for a gin made entirely on Australian grown juniper.

Circular Innovation: North of Eden's botanicals are either grown at the distillery or foraged locally, where they were once considered waste but now re-used as ingredients in the distillation process, including oyster shells and fruit peels. Post distillation botanicals are fed to the distillery's resident highland cows, while broken up oyster shells to their chickens. The distillery uses a glass bottle which is 30% lighter than standard spirit bottles and is also fully recyclable. In terms of waste streams, waste cardboard is shredded to use as packaging material, wooden pallets re-used by local oyster farmers, and steel alcohol drums are given alternate uses via the local waste management facility. Water usage at the distillery is minimised through the use of a closed loop water system.

Impact and Future Development: Using locally grown and sourced ingredients, lighter weight packaging and the recycling and upcycling of waste, North of Eden contribute to a reduction in transport and waste emissions, all while producing products with a low food mile footprint. Energy needs are currently met from a mix of solar and LPG gas and the distillery is actively seeking a local biogas alternative to LPG for the future.

For more information: www.northofeden.com.au



'This is proof that eliminating single-use isn't just possible – it's already happening. Cafés are on board, customers love it, and waste is disappearing overnight. The question for policymakers and business owners isn't whether reuse can work, but how quickly they can support more communities in making the switch'.

Jonas Benedikt, Founder of Good Reusables

Image Credit: Bega Valley Edge | The McMillan Family in front of their mobile cage exhibition truck 'Sam'

CASE STUDY: GOOD REUSABLES (Bermagui)

Focus: Closing the loop on single-use coffee cups.

Background: Cafés in Bermagui have joined forces to take a bold step towards eliminating single-use coffee cups by adopting the Good Reusables system. Good Reusables, a NSW based social enterprise, is dedicated to replacing single-use packaging in the hospitality industry with practical, scalable reuse solutions.

Circular Innovation: Through a deposit-return system, customers at participating cafes receive a food-grade. BPA-free, low carbon polypropylene cup with their coffee, which they can either reuse or return at any participating café Australia wide. Locally, returns are conveniently accepted across Bermagui, Cobargo, Narooma, Pambula and Eden cafes. Each Good Reusables cup can be used up to 1,000 times before being returned to the Australian manufacturer for shredding and recycling – ensuring a truly circular system.

Impact and Future Development: Bermagui is the first town in Australia where cafés have collectively phased out single-use coffee cups. This initiative is expected to prevent 200,000 disposable cups from ending up in landfill every year while keeping local waterways free from waste. By using Bermagui as a model, Good Reusables has gathered the logistical data and processes needed to scale the system nationally – helping more communities make the shift away from single-use.

For more information: www.goodcup.au



Image Credit: Green Queen / Krystina Kasprzak, in the Green Queen store in Bega

CASE STUDY: GREEN QUEEN (Bega)

Focus: An environmentally conscious approach to overconsumption within the clothing industry.

Background: Established in 2019, Green Queen provides Bega Valley residents and visitors with the opportunity to shop sustainably and locally. By offering a curated selection of quality pre-loved pieces, the local community can engage in and contribute to the development of a circular fashion economy within the Bega Valley. In 2023, Green Queen was awarded Excellence in Innovation and Sustainability by the Bega Valley Business Group, highlighting their ongoing commitment to sustainability and positive environmental impact.

Circular Innovation: Green Queen specialises in high-quality, natural fibres (wool/cotton/silk/linen). These materials are biodegradable and have a significantly lower environmental impact compared to synthetic alternatives. Green Queen is disrupting the traditional "take, make, waste" model of the fashion industry. The business operates by sourcing clothing items locally from individuals on a consignment basis/ model. By promoting the reuse and recycling of garments, Green Queen reduces the environmental impact of fast fashion while providing an accessible sustainable option for the local community.

Impact and Future Development: In a world dominated by fast fashion, purchasing second-hand clothing made from high-quality natural fibres helps reduce carbon emissions, waste to landfill, and the water and energy consumption associated with garment production. As Green Queen continues to grow, their goal is to expand their offerings, further promote sustainability within the community, and inspire others to adopt the circular economy model.

For more information: www.facebook.com/greenqueenbega



'Circularity is at the heart of everything we do at Grow the Future. Through working with young people to grow food and regenerate the land, we are actively working to build local sustainability and resilience. At the same time, we are creating a platform from which young people can play a leading role in our valley's transition towards a circular economy.'

Callum Champagne, Grow The Future Founder

CASE STUDY: GROW THE FUTURE (Bega)

Focus: Inspiring local youth in food production and land regeneration.

Background: Grow the Future is a social enterprise offering hands-on training, engagement and employment opportunities to local youth to develop their interest, skill and understanding of food production and local food systems.

Circular Innovation: Through school-based programs and certified training certificates, Grow the Future build the skills and experience of the next generation in horticulture, ecosystem management and business. The vocational training is hosted in their market garden, small animal space and native regeneration zones, where produce grown is sold through local businesses and a weekly produce market.

Impact and Future Development: Engaging youth in land management and the outdoors empowers young people to build their skills and social confidence to take into any future endeavours, as well as prioritising seasonal production and produce.

For more information: www.growthefuture.com.au





CASE STUDY: TRIANGLE TOOL LIBRARY (Cobargo)

Focus: Reducing consumption of resource-intensive tools though social structures.

Background: The Triangle Tool Library formed as an idea after the 2019/20 Black Summer Bushfires to assist the residents of Cobargo in its rebuilding effort's. Established at the Cobargo Co-op by volunteer collaboration, the Tool Library has built up a collection of tools, which provide opportunities for individuals to carry out their own projects for workshops, to share skills and for education on how to use and maintain equipment. The Library provides an environment where people can connect and contributes to a stronger community.

Circular Innovation: The Triangle Tool Library operates a library where, instead of books, members can borrow high quality, maintained power tools, land management equipment and other workshop tools to complete home projects, or to better manage and upkeep their land. The Triangle Tool Library hold workshops focused on building skills around machinery use, repairing and re-furbishing timber products and many more. The volunteers staffing the facility encourage consumers to make sustainable resource choices, reducing involvement in overconsumption.

Impact and Future Development: Over the past four years, the Triangle Tool Library have realised the power of collaborative action, networking and the sharing of knowledge. Education on safe and effective use of tools and equipment for its customers is a key priority moving forward, and a step to challenging consumer thinking and behaviour in the consumption of finite resources. The Triangle Tool Library is also growing their Food Tool Library initiative to provide education to community around food processing and preservation.

For more information: www.triangletoollibrary.org.au



Bega circular valley

‘Our goal is to create a legacy for the future generations of the Bega Valley and be an example for other regions to follow as the most circular valley in Australia.’

Barry Irvin AM, Chair of the Regional Circularity Co-operative, Executive Chair Bega Group.

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REGIONAL CIRCULARITY CO-OPERATIVE

Bega circular valley

NATIONAL CIRCULARITY CENTRE

The RCC acknowledges and pays its respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waterways and airspace of Australia.

We learn from these people about the traditions of stewardship of resources and working together as a community to have a lighter, more circular, impact on the environment.