**Circular Economy: A National agenda for Australia and Pacific**

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Lisa McLean Managing Director of Circular Australia, a national independent NFP leading the transition to a 2030 Australian circular economy and a member of the federal Government’s Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group (CEMAG). She has been successfully advising industry and governments in developing new policy frameworks and regulations that bring about market change to enable the circular zero-carbon economy over the past 20 years in infrastructure, energy, water, waste and mobility sectors in the UK and Australia.

**Abstract**

Australian governments now have a target for the establishment of a circular economy. By 2030 the nation will have frameworks and roadmaps in place to drive this critical systems transition. Circular economy is the only viable economic framework the world has to grow jobs and industries in the resource and carbon constrained world we now live in. We need the circular economy and its new sustainable approaches to achieve Net Zero, we need it to design out waste and pollution, keep materials in the economy at their highest value for as long as possible, and to regenerate natural systems.

Circular Australia is driving this new circular reform agenda across key sectors including the finance and investment, infrastructure and precincts, agriculture, consumables and the built environment. Working with industry, government and researchers, Circular Australia is helping to demonstrate the opportunities to embed new practices that will not only cut emissions, generate jobs, extract resource value - but do so in a way that regenerates natural systems.

We highlight: the need for the scaling of place-based innovation like the UNIDO industrial symbiosis centres in NSW regional centres Parkes and Wagga; the human role of circularity - who are the transition brokers, the cat-herders?; how to embrace First Nations expertise; the need for a circular financial taxonomy so investment can scale circular outcomes; embedding circular economy as a key requirement in the renewable energy transition; and the best metrics to measure progress and help us understand what circular economy means in businesses, operations and our everyday work and life.

The building of the circular economy is a collective effort not one business, government, individual can do it on their own. By working together to accelerate the circular transition we can reduce the risks and ensure the outcome: a viable sustainable future for us all.