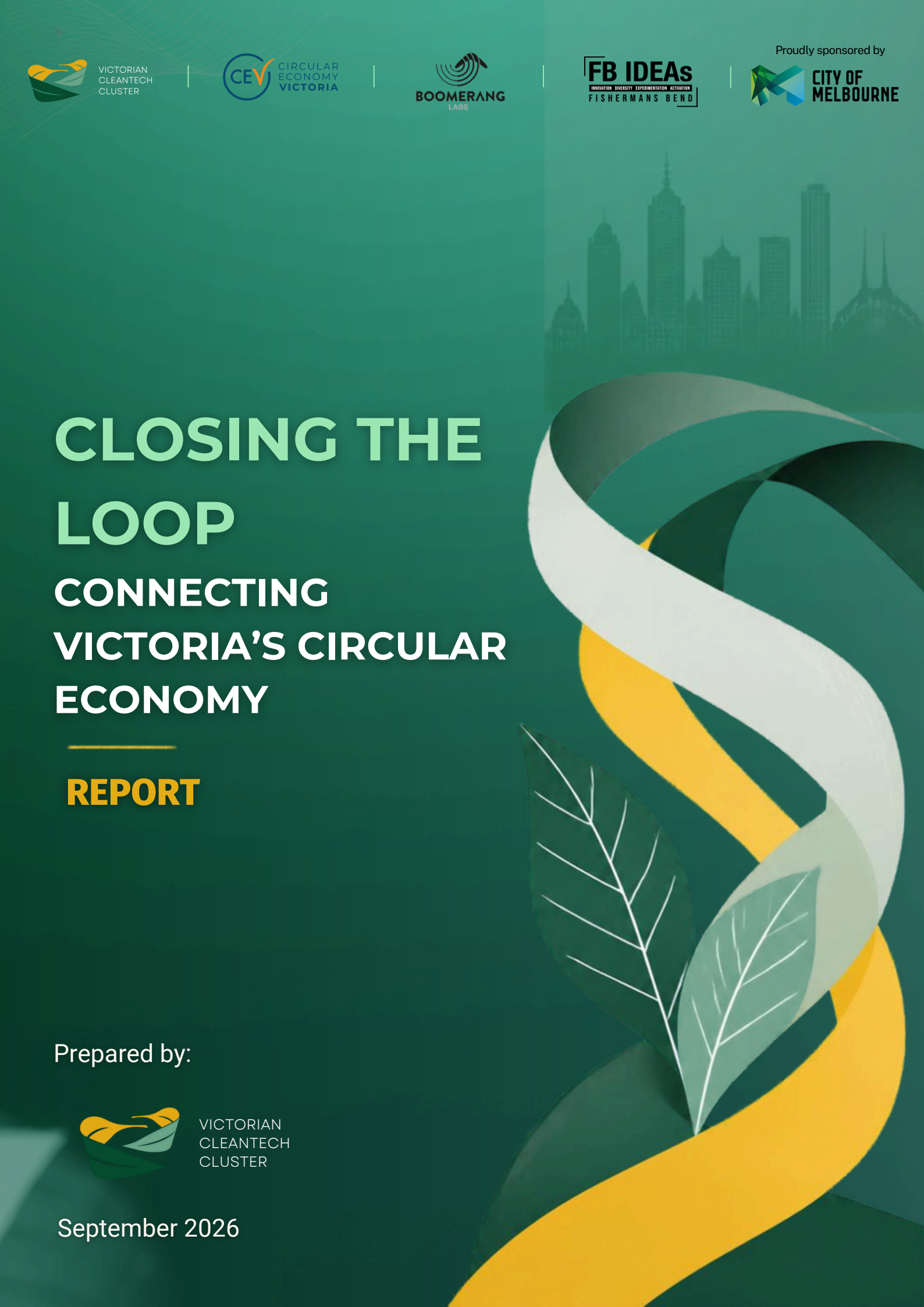
VICTORIAN CLEANTECH CLUSTER | CIRCULAR ECONOMY VICTORIA | BOOMERANG LABS | FB IDEAs FISHERMANS BEND

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CLOSING THE LOOP

CONNECTING VICTORIA'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY

REPORT



Prepared by:

VICTORIAN CLEANTECH CLUSTER

September 2026

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FOREWORD



Together with Boomerang Labs and FB IDEAs, and with the sponsorship of City of Melbourne, this event marks an important step in Circular Economy for Victoria and for the Victorian Cleantech Cluster.

A cleantech sector provides the innovations needed to build and sustain a Circular Economy. Cleantech is needed to drive the Circular Economy. We must use the momentum, ideas and input that came from Closing the Loop and use that to make a difference. The group that gathered for this event are the true believers and drivers of a Circular Economy in this State and forums like this help move it forward.

While there is still work to do, this report is an important piece and marker, indicative of where Circular Economy is heading, a reflection of what is needed and how we can come together to help. I hope that with this, we can turn good intentions into real projects, real partnerships and real results. The pieces are here. Let's connect them.

Nigel Murphy

Chair, Victorian Cleantech Cluster

BOOMERANG LABS

FOREWORD



Boomerang Labs is proud to have partnered with the Victorian Cleantech Cluster, FB Ideas and the City of Melbourne to deliver Closing the Loop.

Our event was intentionally designed as a conversation, not a broadcast, with everyone in the room invited to contribute. Victoria's circular economy has strong foundations, with a diverse community of people and organisations driving progress across the public and private sectors. Who better to identify what's working, what's getting in the way and what needs to happen next than the community closest to the action?

The momentum is there, but maintaining and growing it will require continued connection and collaboration, particularly in current market and funding conditions. We see Closing the Loop and this report as an important first step towards understanding how our organisations can better support Victoria's circular economy community and build on the progress already underway.

Caitlyn Touzell
General Manager, Boomerang Labs

ABOUT THE EVENT

Closing the Loop: Connecting Victoria's Circular Economy brought together participants from across industry, government, research and the community to explore how Victoria can accelerate its transition to a more circular economy. The event created space for cross-sector discussion, connection and practical idea-sharing.

HOW INSIGHTS WERE GATHERED:

Breakout discussions

- 9 mixed breakout groups
- 4–6 participants per group
- Business, government, research and community perspectives
- 3 core discussion questions

Post-event survey

- 14 survey responses
- Captured participant priorities, barriers and support needs
- Included feedback on future engagement and the event experience

Participants were placed into mixed groups and asked to discuss three key questions:

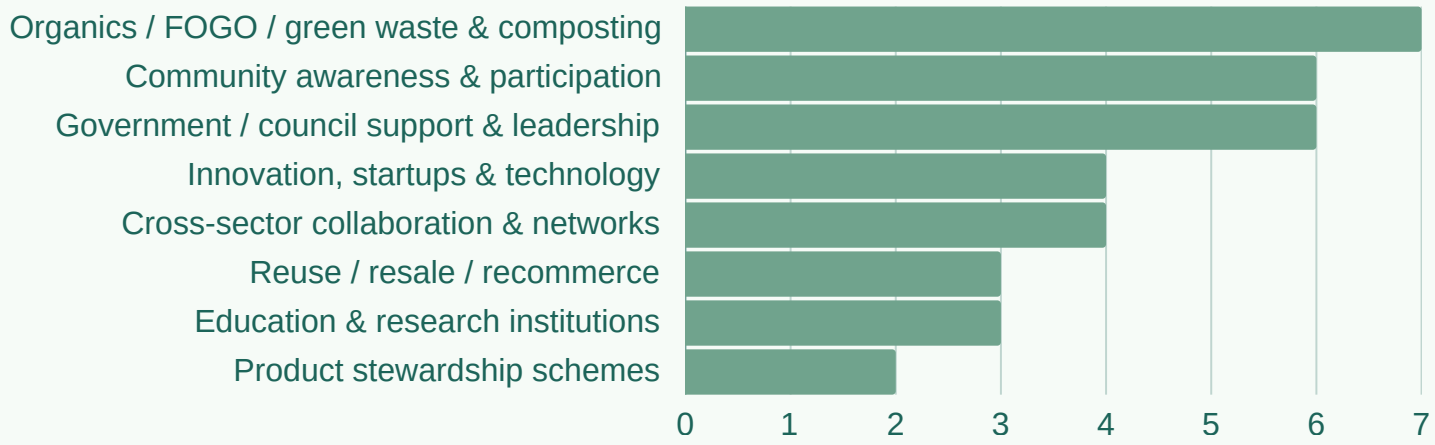
1. What is already working well in Victoria's circular economy?
2. What are the key barriers preventing circular solutions from progressing or scaling?
3. What could unlock or accelerate opportunities for a more circular Victoria, and what role could different parts of the ecosystem play?

This report synthesises the key themes raised through the breakout discussions and post-event survey to reflect the perspectives shared through the event.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

Participants identified the strongest momentum in organics and FOGO initiatives, alongside growing community participation and support from government and councils.

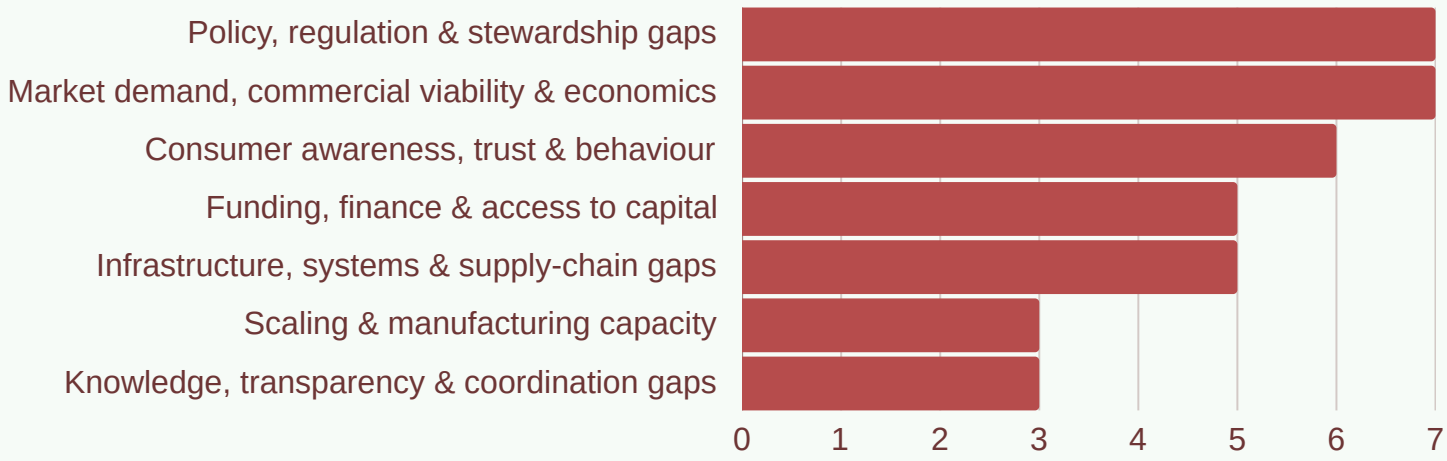
Themes identified (number of groups mentioning theme)



WHAT'S HOLDING PROGRESS BACK?

Participants most consistently identified policy and regulatory gaps, weak market conditions and commercial viability as barriers to scaling, alongside challenges around consumer trust, funding and infrastructure.

Themes identified (number of groups mentioning theme)



Note: Counts represent the number of responding breakout groups that raised each theme (n=9).
Themes were consolidated from qualitative discussion notes: groups may be represented in more than one theme

WHAT COULD ACCELERATE PROGRESS?

Participants highlighted key opportunities and enablers that would help unlock circular economy solutions in Victoria.



Targeted funding and financial de-risk

Improve implementation, endorse in start-ups, scale ups and pilot projects.



Regulatory and legislative improvement

More regulation isn't the solution. We need simpler, clearer, more consistent policy and expanded producer responsibility schemes.



Collaboration on ecosystem support

Better stakeholder mapping, stronger partnerships and knowledge sharing.



Stronger markets and demand

Creating viable end markets and using procurement to drive demand for recycled and circular products.



Focus on priority material streams

E.g. PET, glass, construction materials, e-textiles, etc.



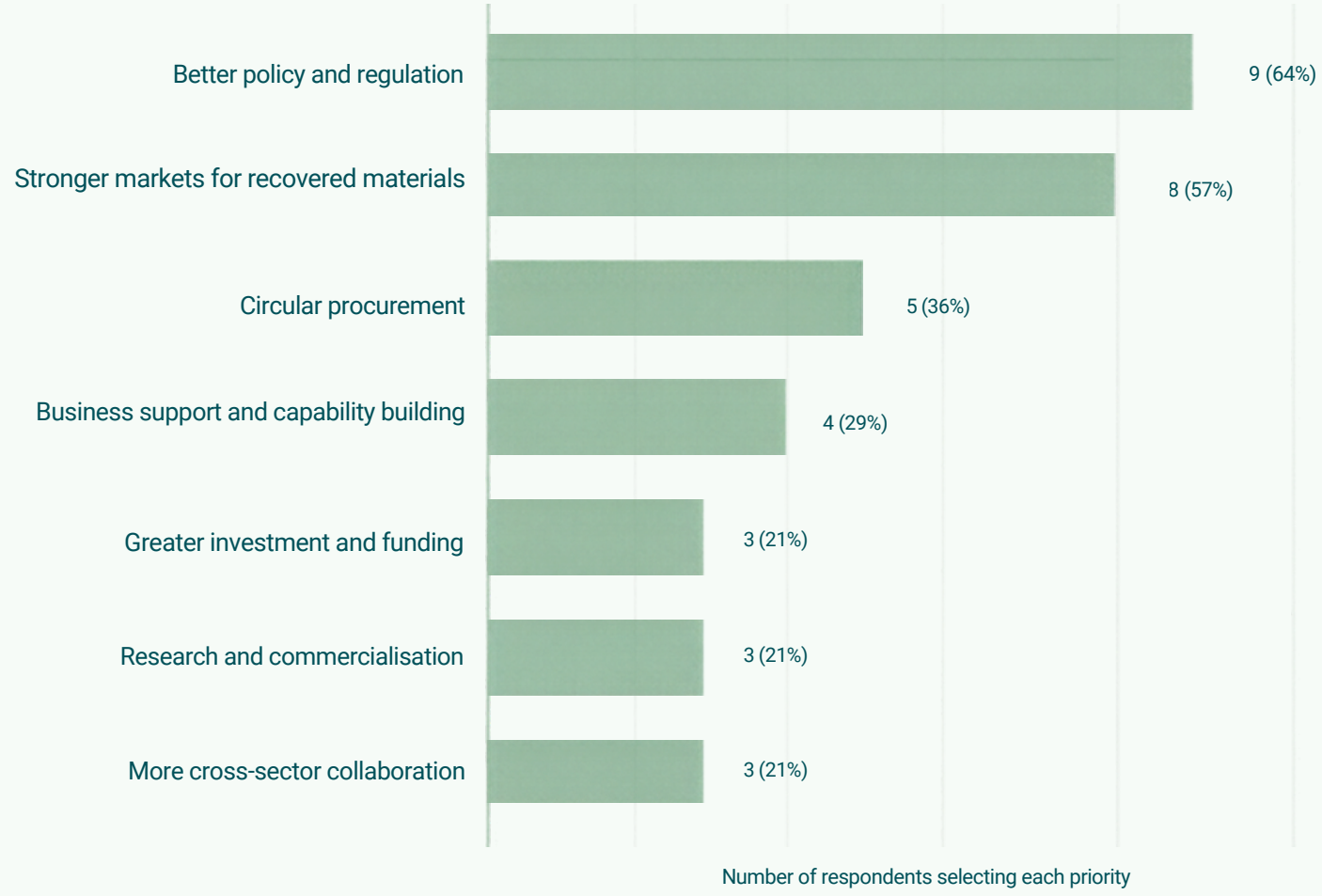
Education and mindset shift

Continued public education and sector capability building.

POST-EVENT SURVEY FINDINGS

The post-event survey captured participant priorities for strengthening Victoria's circular economy over the next four years. The chart below shows how often each priority was selected by survey respondents.

Priorities for accelerating Victoria's circular economy



Key insight: Survey respondents most often prioritised policy and regulatory settings and stronger markets for recovered materials, indicating strong support for system-level action to accelerate Victoria's circular economy.

Note: Based on 14 post-event survey responses. Multiple responses were permitted, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

HOW PARTICIPANTS WANT TO STAY ENAGAGED

Networking events	Many respondents want more opportunities to connect with others across industry, government, research and the community.
Funding and investment opportunities	Participants are interested in events and initiatives that showcase funding pathways, connect them with investors and provide guidance on accessing capital.
Workshops and skill-building	Respondents would value practical, hands-on workshops to build knowledge and capability on circular economy topics.
Research and knowledge sharing	There is strong interest in sessions that share the latest research, case studies and practical learnings from across Victoria and beyond.
Industry roundtables	Participants would like smaller, topic-specific discussions with peers to explore shared challenges and opportunities in more depth.
Sector-specific working groups	Respondents are keen to be part of ongoing, sector-focused working groups to drive targeted action and collaboration.

EVENT PHOTOS









VICTORIAN CLEANTECH CLUSTER

FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTION

How these findings will inform the Cleantech Roadmap

The insights, experiences, and ideas shared at the Closing the Loop event will help shape the circular economy sector of the Victorian Cleantech Roadmap and inform future priorities for Victoria's cleantech and circular economy ecosystem.

1

INSIGHTS GATHERED

Participant perspectives, experiences, barriers, opportunities and priorities captured across the event.

2

THEMES IDENTIFIED

Key and recurring issues, opportunities and areas for coordinated action across the ecosystem.

3

ROADMAP INFORMED

These insights will feed into the future development of the Victorian Cleantech Roadmap and implementation priorities.

> **The conversation does not end here – it will help shape the next phase of Victoria's cleantech transition.**

NEXT STEPS

Continued stakeholder engagement

Building on the conversation and maintaining momentum across the sector.

Synthesis of findings

Analysing insights to inform key focus areas and opportunities.

Roadmap development

Integrating findings into the Victorian Cleantech Roadmap and defining implementation priorities.