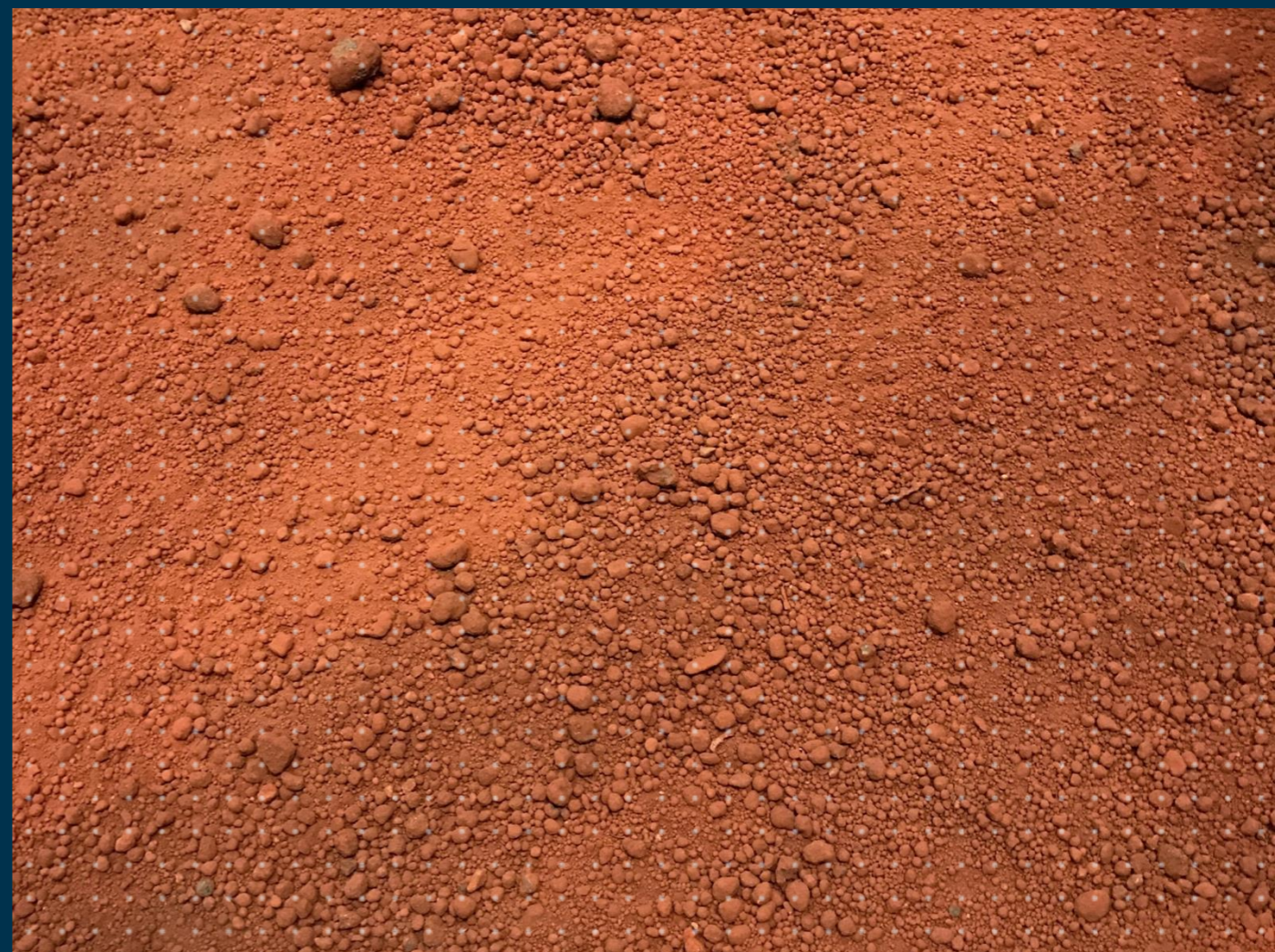


Environment Protection Authority

# Contaminated Land Advice and Audit Team Update

Jo Graham

20 October 2023



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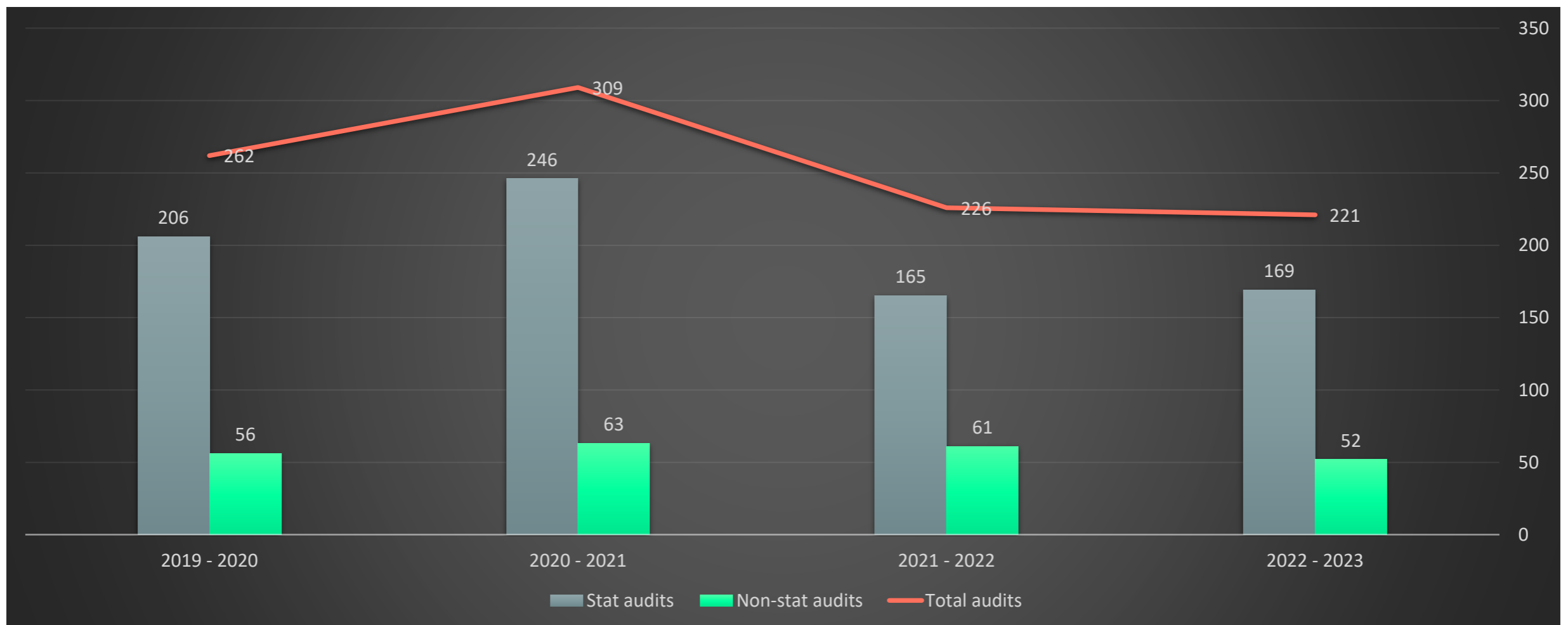
# Annual Returns 2022 - 2023

- 221 audits completed (2021/22 – 226)
- 44 audits terminated (2021/22 – 38)
- 806 audits ongoing (2021/22 – 798)
- 231 stat audits commenced (2021/22 – 243)

Of the audits completed:

- 35 auditors < 5 audits (28 – 2021/22; 27 – 2020/21 ; 31 – 2019/20 ; 28 - 2018/19)
- 5 auditors 5-10 audits (6 – 2021/22; 6 – 2020/21; 5 – 2019/20 ; 4 – 2018-19)
- 9 auditors 10-20 audits (9 – 2021/22; 8 – 2020/21; 6 – 2019/20 ; 11 – 2018-19)
- 1 auditor >20 audits (1 – 2021/22; 5 – 2020/21; 4 – 2019/20 ; 1 - 2018-19)

# Completed Audits 2019 to 2023



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# Peer Reviews

- If an accredited site auditor is completing a review that meets the definition of a site audit, as defined in the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act), then a SAS/SAR must be issued;
- A consultant, who is also an accredited site auditor, must not do a peer review of work in their capacity as a consultant, if the review fits within the definition of site audit in the CLM Act;
- Reference section 3.2.2 of the Guidelines for the NSW Site Auditor Scheme (3<sup>rd</sup> edition);
- Reference section 4.3 of EPA Contaminated Land Certification Policy (v3)
- Only exception – accredited site auditors can offer opinions on the work of consultants or other auditors as required by their role for the purpose of giving evidence as an expert witness in court proceedings

## Updates / reminders / admin

- New executive director – Steve Beaman
- Two new team members: Brenda Ioffrida and Kate Sargent
- Automatic Mutual Recognition – EPA received a further 1-year exemption from AMR – ends 1 July 2024
- Draft PFAS NEMP v3.0
- Reminder to terminate inactive audits

Environment Protection Authority

# Policy update

NSW accredited site auditor's  
meeting

October 2023



## **Service station guidelines**

- Provides guidance on sampling requirements for assessing service station sites – used in conjunction with other guidelines; SDG, etc.
- Aim is to improve consistency and quality of assessment & reports
- Published July 2023 after external consultation

## **Chief Scientist's review into asbestos management**

- Review was paused for several months – has now recommenced
- Next steps – lit. review, expert panel and stakeholder engagement
- Site Auditors will be consulted early 2024 – Final report mid-2024

## **Position statement: Management of asbestos-contaminated sites**

- Consultation May/June 2023 - revised to incorporate feedback
- Currently undergoing final consultation – publication early 2024

Environment Protection Authority

# The NSW resource recovery framework review

Kate Snow

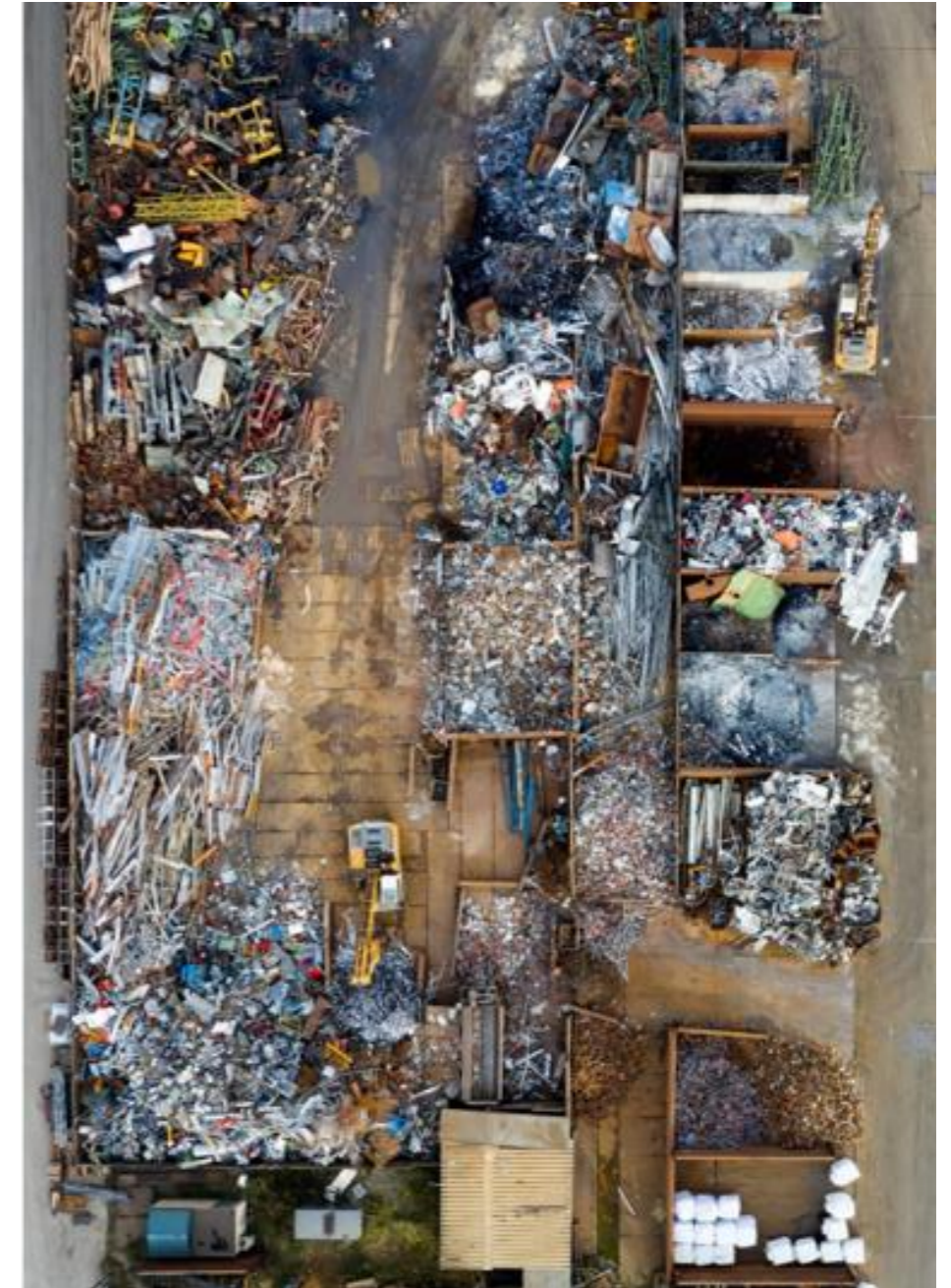
Acting Unit Head  
Major Projects, Programs and Innovation  
October 2023





# Independent Review of the NSW Resource Recovery Framework

- The NSW Resource Recovery Framework is the policy, regulatory and compliance framework administered by the EPA to facilitate beneficial resource recovery and circular economy outcomes.
- It is a key lever for achieving NSW's ambitious resource recovery targets.
- Under the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy, the NSW Government committed to review the framework against circular economy objectives.
- The review report made 22 recommendations to improve the framework.
- The EPA supported all 22 review recommendations.

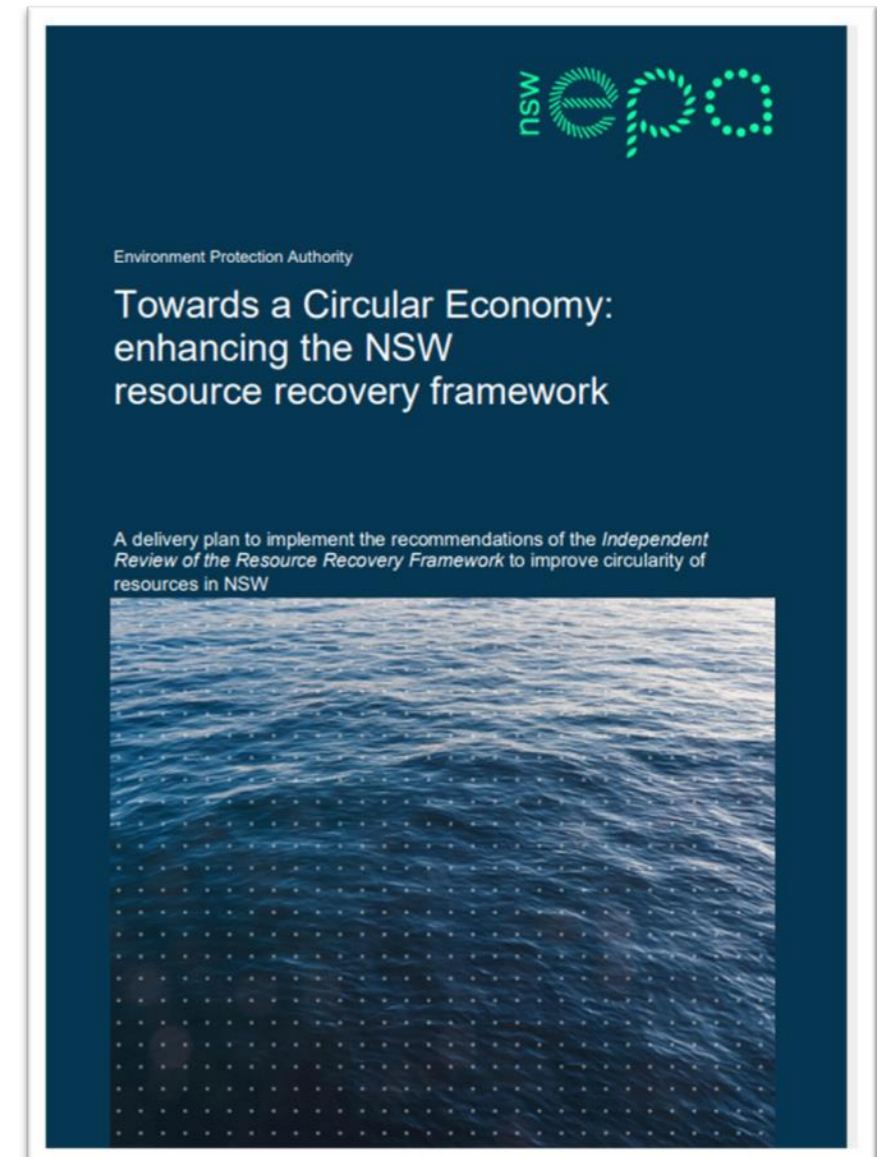


For more information, please refer to our website:

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/resource-recovery-framework/independent-review>

# Towards a circular economy

- The EPA has released a delivery plan that sets out the actions it will take to implement recommendations.
- The delivery plan sets out timeframes, including start dates, for work to begin on each recommendation.
- We have committed to implementing all of the review recommendations within five years, with many to be delivered much sooner.



For more information, please refer to our website:

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/resource-recovery-framework/independent-review>

## Current work program

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We've commenced work on priority actions, including:

- new and updated guidance materials for orders and exemptions
- a review of the form and structure of orders and exemptions
- expert review and advice on the management of asbestos in waste and recovered materials
- developing an innovation pathway, and
- investigating end-of-waste pathways for suitable materials.

Stakeholder feedback was an important consideration when determining priorities.

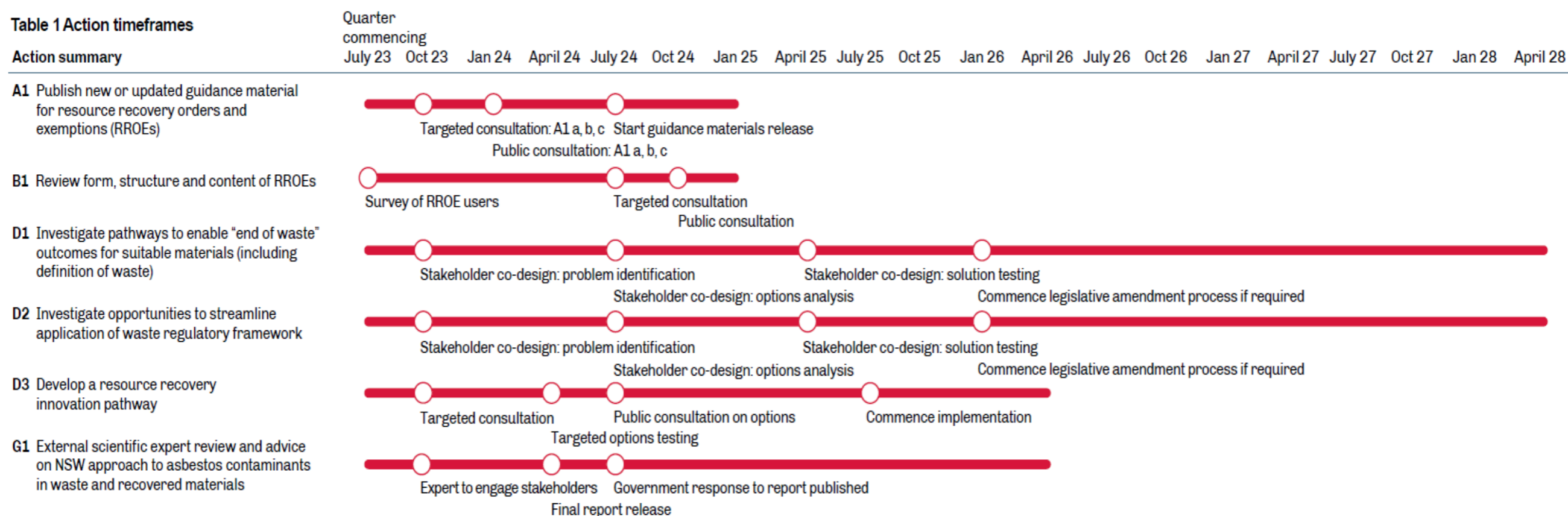


# Planned consultation



- The EPA has begun to engage with stakeholders across a number of projects to deliver on the resource recovery framework review recommendations
- Engagement is the default option for progressing the project and the EPA will coordinate engagement across the project to minimise stakeholder fatigue.
- The EPA will make the details of our public engagement activities available on our website.

**Table 1 Action timeframes**



# Thank you

If there are recommendations you are interested in engaging with the EPA on, please get in touch via the email [resource.recovery@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:resource.recovery@epa.nsw.gov.au).

Our website: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/resource-recovery-framework/independent-review>

Kate Snow

Acting Unit Head

October 2023