

**Rachel O'Hara**  
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**AECOM**



**Presentation**

Remediation of contaminated soil from across N.S.W. for beneficial reuse: A Sustainable Soil Remediation Facility.

**Biography**

Rachel is a Principal Environmental Scientist with over 8 years of experience in the environmental science field, especially working with oil and gas and industry clients. Rachel is also a Certified Environmental Practitioner and the Vice-President of the NSW EIANZ division. Rachel has coordinated numerous, complex environmental impact assessments across NSW from preliminary assessment, planning and scoping stage, through impact assessment, approval, and then on to developing management plans.

**Abstract**

The Project treats hydrocarbon contaminated soil via active-bioremediation (biopiling) from a range of sites, including the operating company's sites and third party sites. The Project is licensed to treat up to 80,000t of hydrocarbon contaminated soil per annum which can be beneficially re-used rather than being sent to landfill.

Biopiling is a process that involves breaking down contaminants by adjusting airflow and adding nutrients to stimulate aerobic microbial activity in the soil. Air leaving system is directed to a carbon drum which negates the release of odours and VOCs.

Recent changes to waste regulation in NSW and the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 set a viable framework for the Project. The WARR Strategy outlines a number of 'responsibilities' for different sectors including implementing in-house strategies and systems to avoid and reduce waste generation and divert waste from landfill.

As this Project was one of the first of its' kind in NSW it was subject to significant assessment rigor prior, through and post the EIA process. This included the requirement for a pilot trial.

As part of our presentation I will discuss:

- how the business case for the Project was supported through changes to waste regulations and strategies in NSW;
- how a pilot project can provide regulators with further comfort around how a Project would operate,
- the environmental impact assessment, management and engagement process with the regulators; and
- the benefits of big business investing in innovative and sustainable projects whilst proving workable business models.

The Project has been recognised this year with a Gold award for innovation at the Edison Awards in New York in the Energy & Sustainability - Re-Use & Reclamation category.

Rachel's presentation is unavailable for download.