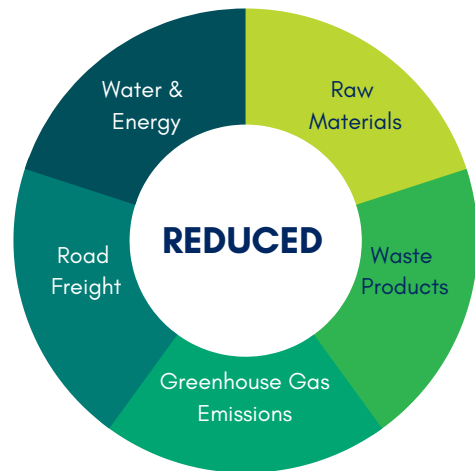


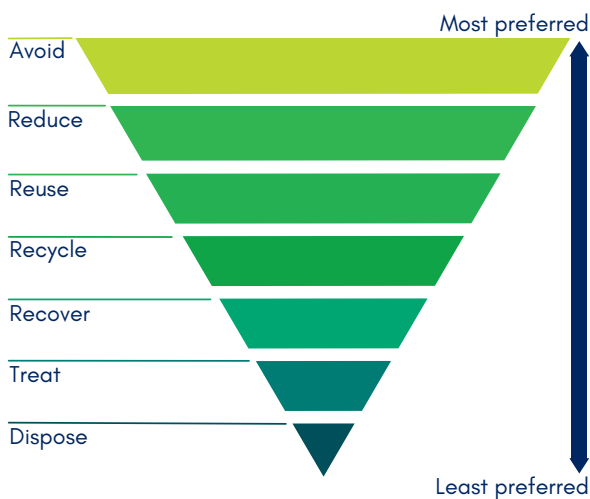
Circular Economy Opportunities Limestone Coast

The circular economy is an innovative model that allows us to rethink the way we use resources to balance important social, environmental and business needs more sustainably.

This model replaces the previous linear economy model of 'take-make-use-dispose', where raw materials are extracted, manufactured into products, and are discarded as waste after use.



Benefits of a circular economy model



The waste management hierarchy

A circular economy aims to:

- eliminate waste
- keep products and resources for as long as possible
- reduce impacts on natural systems.

Shifting towards a circular economy allows us to sustainably reuse resources over and over.

This approach means that where waste cannot be avoided, it is reused, recycled, or recovered rather than being disposed of. This is known as the waste management hierarchy.

Case Study:

Holla-Fresh, Bio Gro and Rainbow Bee Eater

Waste timber from construction is chipped and used as fuel for a boiler that converts it to heat, electricity and carbon dioxide. All of which are used on-site to grow hydroponic herbs. The process also creates bio-char, which is used as a soil improver.

This is the circular economy in action. When waste timber is repurposed, there is less reliance on the grid and greenhouse gases are reduced.



Circular Economy Opportunities Limestone Coast Report

The Circular Economy Opportunities Limestone Coast report is a collaborative project between Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and Green Industries SA.

This report is a blueprint of opportunities for investment and job opportunities in our region and across the country.

The launch of the report in November 2022 showcased local businesses who are at the forefront of the circular economy movement.

The report identifies **6** priority sectors:



Case Study:

Roundwood Solutions

Roundwood Solutions is leading transformation of the treated timber industry by reducing impacts on the environment and aiming for carbon neutrality.

They are developing timber products for agriculture, viticulture, and landscaping that have a whole of life solution. The treatment process has lower environmental impacts and when the product reaches the end of its useful life, it can be returned to Roundwood Solutions. The plan is to recycle the used posts and create biochar.

There are a range of transformational and incremental change opportunities available in a circular economy.

Examples include:

- substituting copper chromium arsenic (CCA) posts with an environmentally friendly alternative
- moving food waste to a higher usage such as nutraceuticals
- converting organics waste to animal feed
- recycled plastics manufacturing.

RDA Limestone Coast is now promoting the Circular Economy Opportunities report and working with local businesses and industry to maximise uptake of the initiatives.

You can access the report by scanning the QR code or via our website www.rdalco.org.au/circular-economy/

