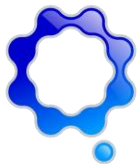


Qenos



Circular Plastics from Advanced Recycling

Ending Plastic Waste Symposium
23 May 2023, Sydney
Dr Jeroen Wassenaar

Why plastics circularity matters



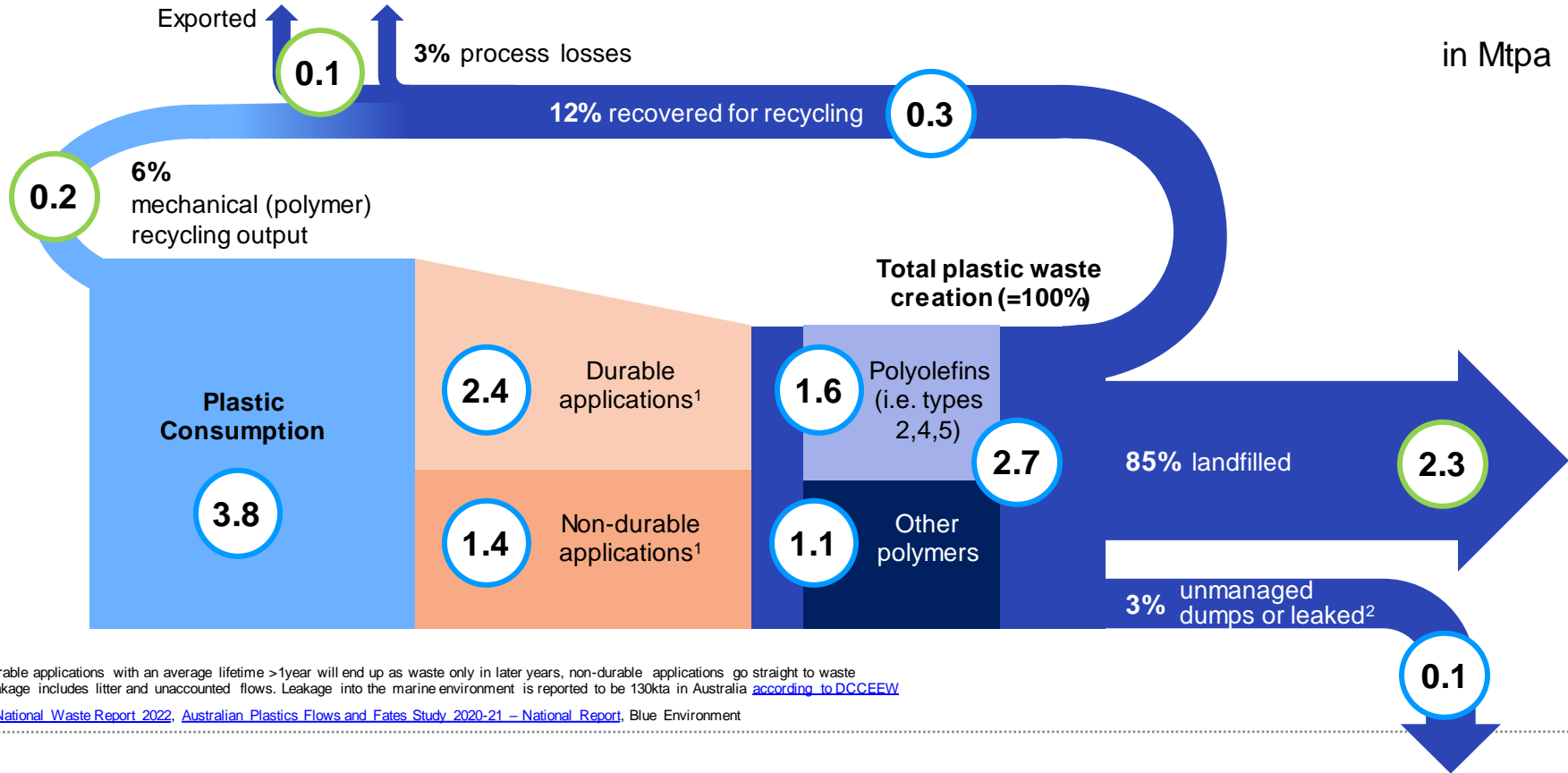
© Jason Childs



© Australian Marine Conservation Society



The Australian plastics industry was only 6% circular in 2021



1. Durable applications with an average lifetime >1year will end up as waste only in later years, non-durable applications go straight to waste
 2. Leakage includes litter and unaccounted flows. Leakage into the marine environment is reported to be 130kta in Australia [according to DCCFEW](#)
 Source: [National Waste Report 2022](#), [Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Study 2020-21 – National Report](#), Blue Environment



Governments, NGOs, manufacturers and brand owners have set ambitious targets for plastics circularity by 2025/2030



Source: APCO

How to achieve circularity?

- 1. Reduce consumption**
 - Downgauge, reuse, substitute, eliminate
- 2. Design for recycling**
 - Materials, pigments, additives
- 3. Increase recycling rate**
 - Source separation, advanced sorting, build mechanical and advanced capacity
- 4. Incorporate recycled content**
 - Create drop-in materials, avoid downcycling



Challenges in plastics recycling



Contamination

- Many plastic types
- Food/oil/chemical residues
- Non plastics
- Food grade only in some applications



Multi material

- Al/paper laminates
- Barrier layers (PA, PET, PVDC)
- HD/LD/PP layers
- Variety of grades



Pigments & additives

- Colour control challenging
- Legacy additives
- Stabilisation not designed for recycling



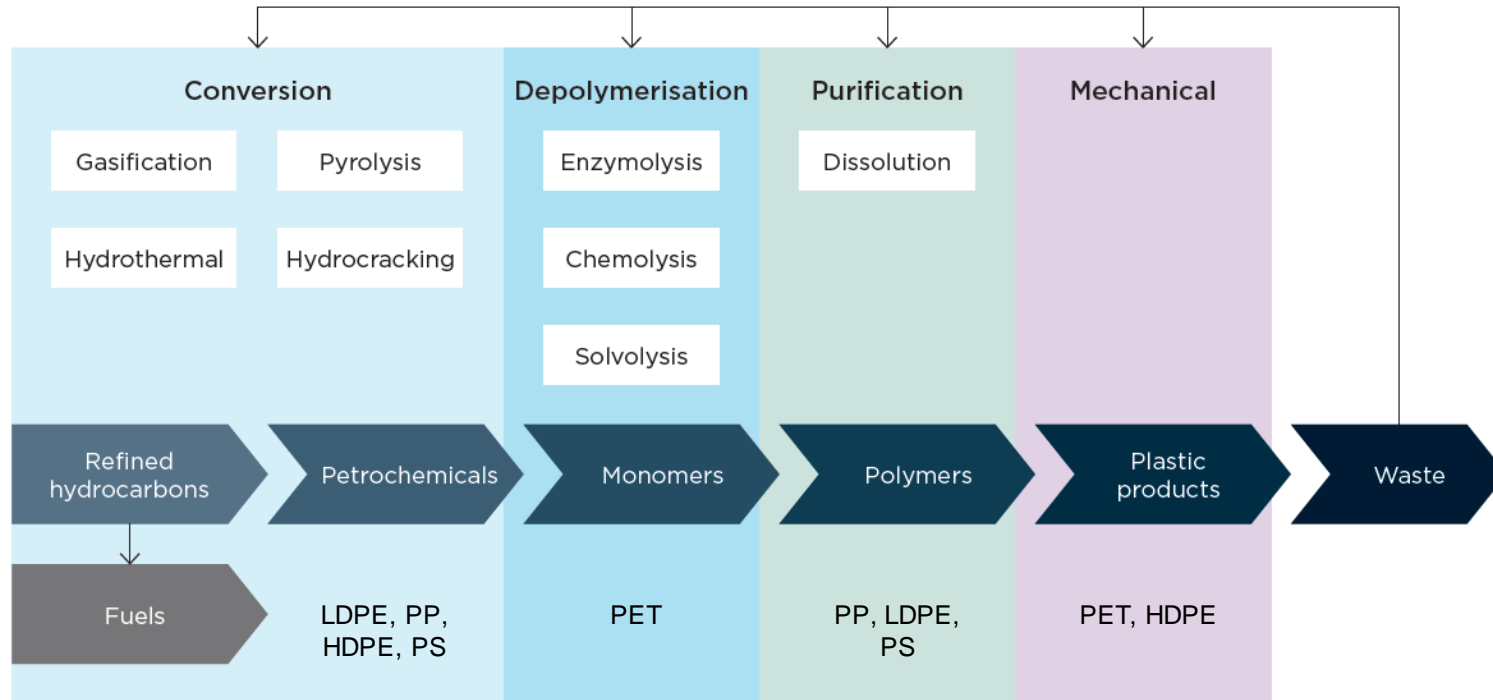
Degradation

- Oxidation/UV
- Cross-linking
- Chain scission
- Yellowing

Mechanical recycling is advancing to address these challenges but alternative approaches are needed to achieve circularity targets



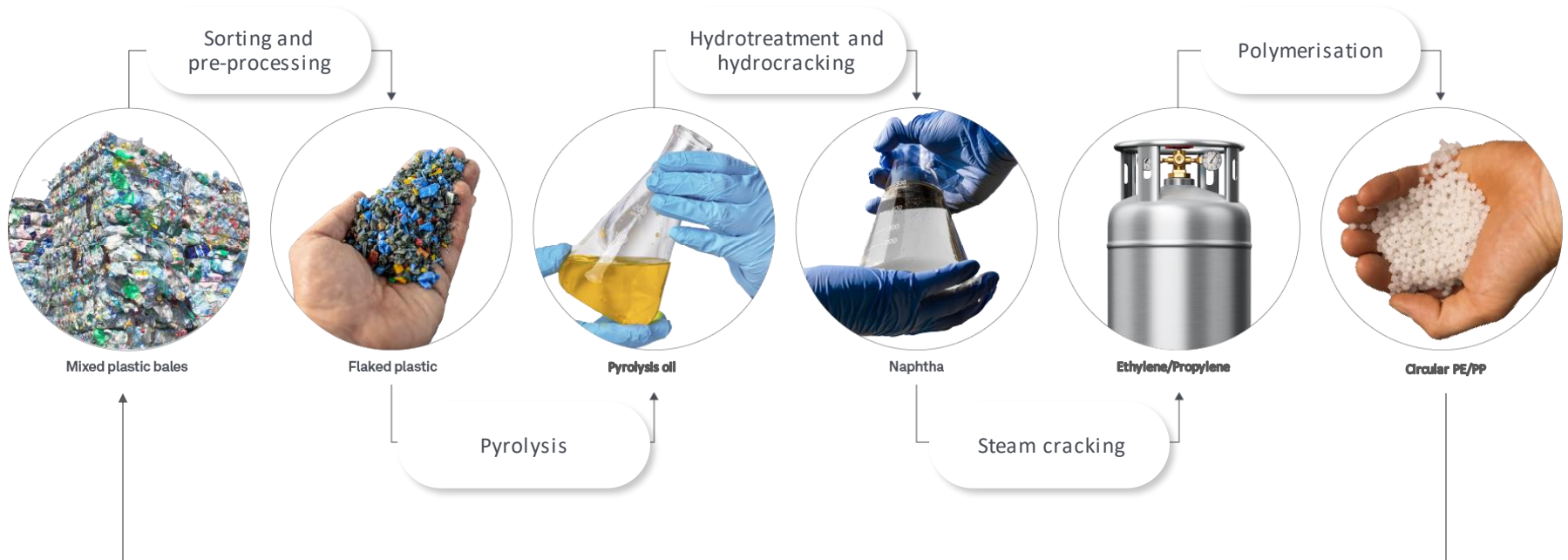
Advanced recycling can complement mechanical recycling



Source: CSIRO report [Advanced recycling technologies to address Australia's plastic waste](#)



Pyrolysis in combination with hydrocracking is able to produce circular polyethylene and polypropylene at high yield of ca. 60%



Plastic transformation, Use, End-of-life collection, Primary sorting

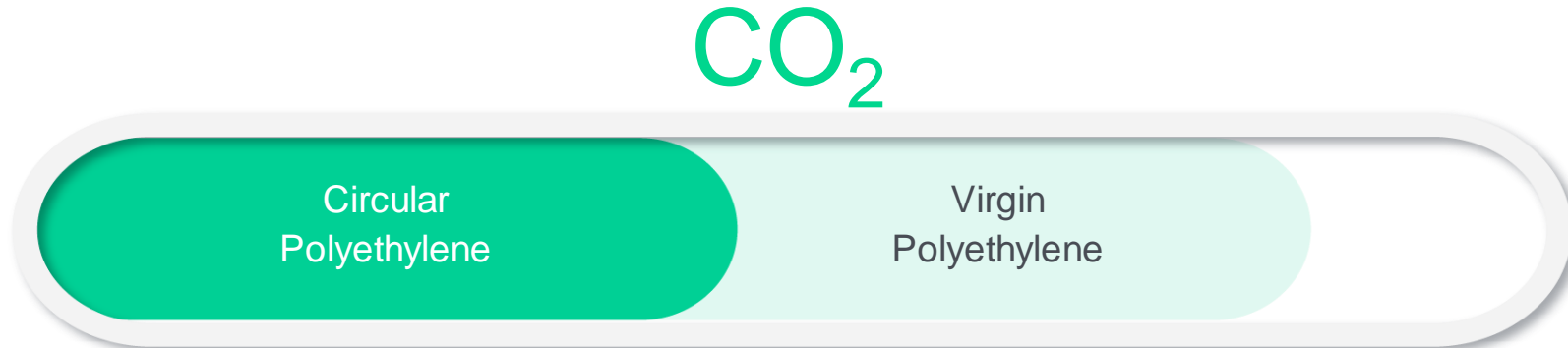
Source: Qenos white paper [Circular Advanced Recycling of Plastics through Pyrolysis](#)



Circular polyethylene has identical properties to virgin resin and is a drop-in replacement to achieve recycled content targets



Lifecycle analysis results from multiple studies indicate a significant reduction in carbon emissions of circular vs. virgin LDPE

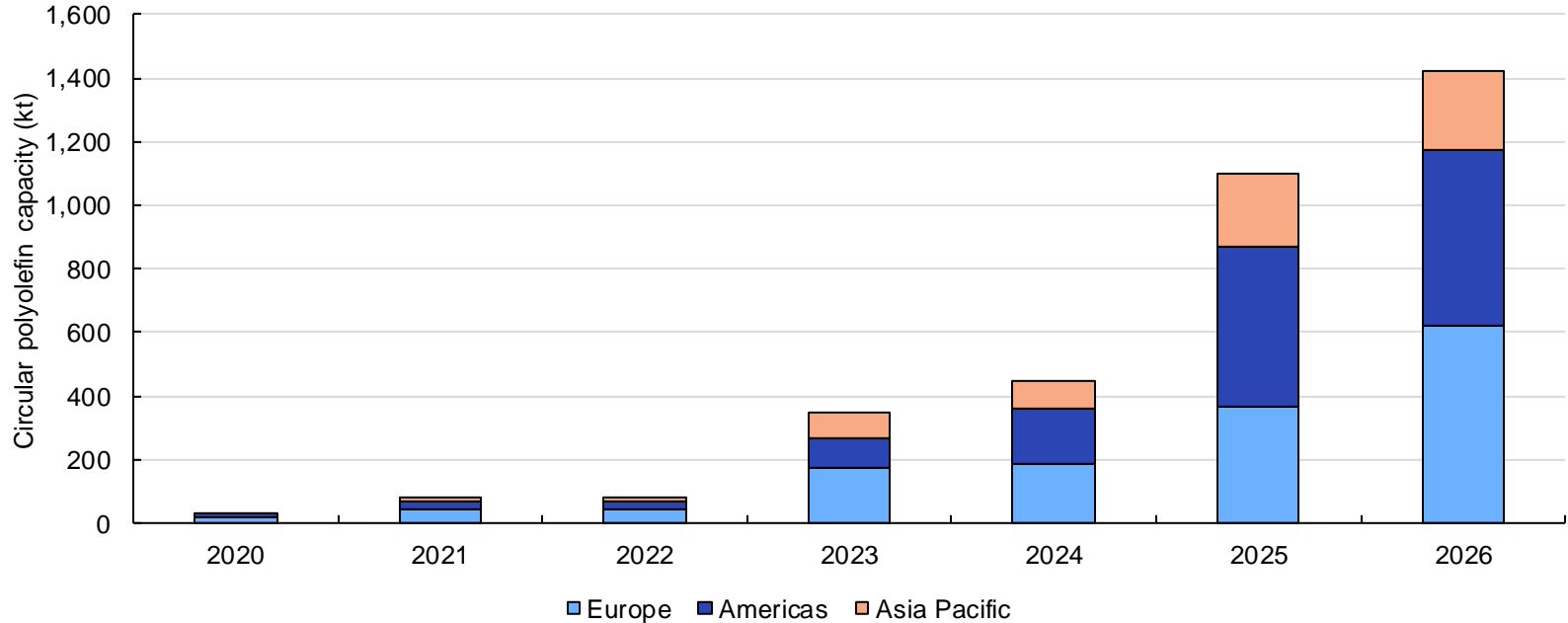


Study	Climate Change impact Circular vs. Virgin LDPE*
Quantis / Plastic Energy, 2020	-55%
Sphera / BASF, 2020	-40%
Sphera / Consumer Goods Forum, 2022	-43%**
CSIRO / Qenos, 2023	-98%***

* Base case of each study is taken. ** Functional unit is food grade film containing equal mix of LDPE and PP. *** Compared to waste to energy



With over 50 projects in the pipeline, circular polyolefin capacity is expected to exceed 1 million tonnes globally in 2025



Source: Qenos white paper [Circular Polyolefin Capacity set to reach 1 Million tonnes globally in 2025](#)




The only local circular PE project in Australia

- Increasing overall plastics recovery rate by >50%
- Increasing post-consumer recycled content rate in soft plastics from 2% to 20%

100kt of plastic waste diverted from landfill per annum

- 38 million garbage bins
- 3 MCGs full of soft plastics
- 10 billion bread bags

 Jobs created

185 direct jobs created*

* Up to 2,900 indirect jobs created – estimated based on total employment multiplier, NSW Treasury TPP09-7

