

The Linear Economy and the Circular Economy

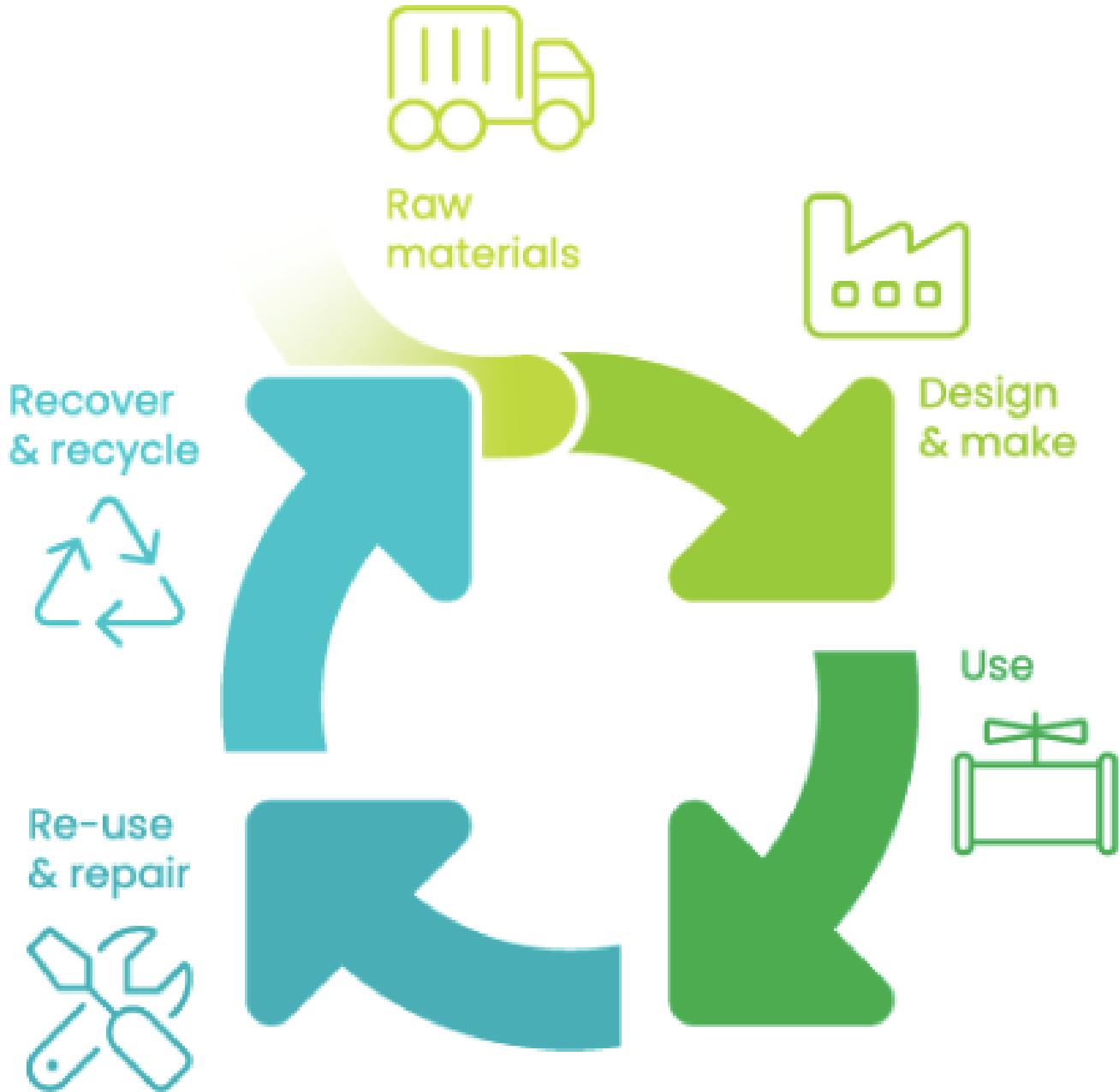


Image source: PIPA - Circular Economy

In Australia, there is currently a focus on shifting from a linear to a circular economy.

What does this mean?

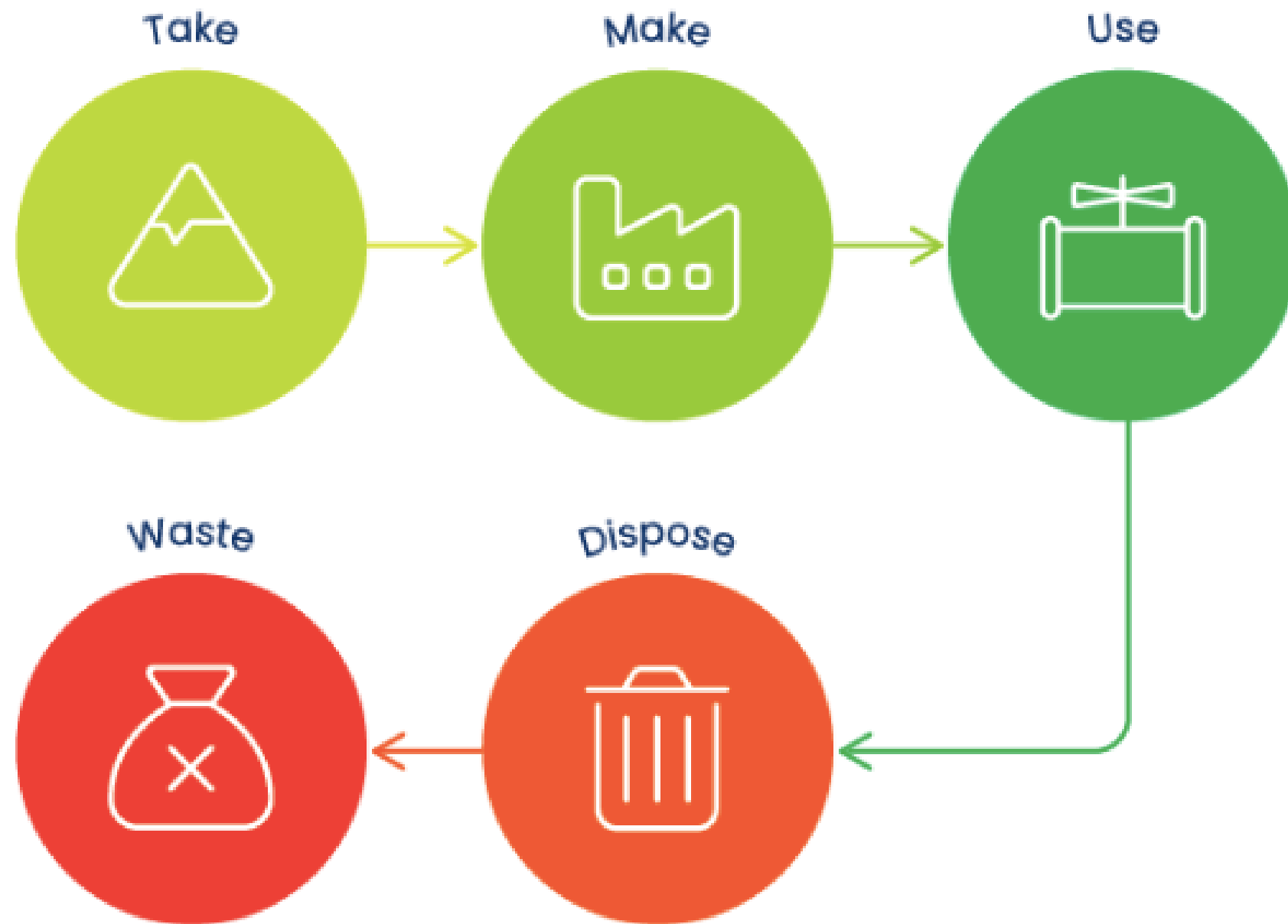
When we talk about the economy, we are talking about the ways that a community or country (like Australia) makes things, offers services, and divides the services and stuff up between people, usually using money.

The ways that we have done this in the past have seen us use resources to make things, and then when we're done with those things, we throw away the broken parts or the parts we no longer need.

This is called a linear economy; when the system works along a line.



The Linear Economy



In the linear economy model, we can see that we TAKE raw materials and MAKE new products from them.

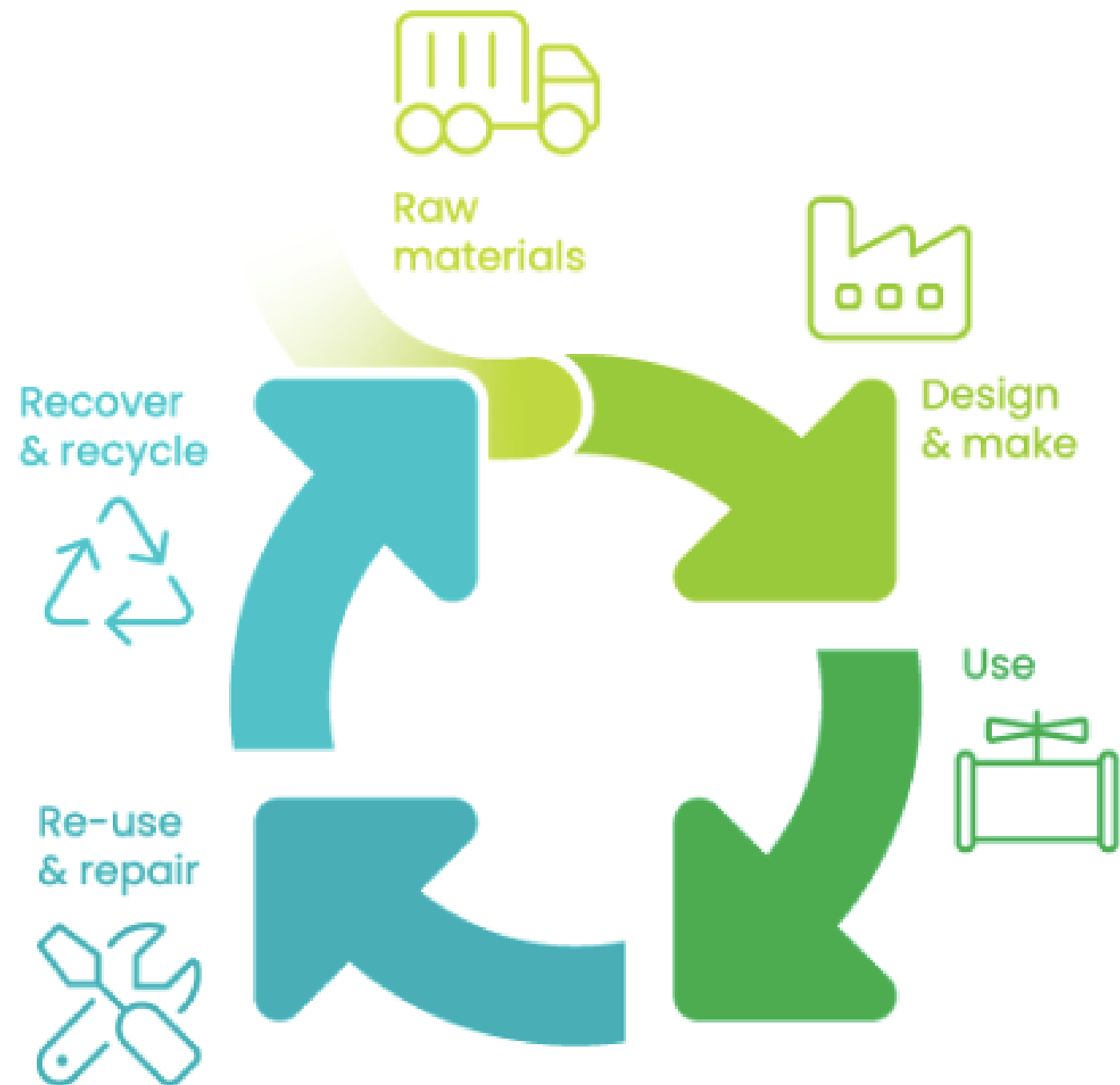
We then USE these products until we no longer want or need them or they are broken.

Then we DISPOSE of these products.

These products can then become WASTE and can end up in a landfill.



The Circular Economy



In the circular economy model, we can see that we DESIGN & MAKE products with the end in mind (what will happen to them when we no longer want or need them?).

We then USE these products, RE-USE and REPAIR them if we no longer need them or if they are broken.

When they are no longer useful we can RECOVER & RECYCLE the materials from these products to be turned into new products.

Some RAW MATERIALS may be needed but most of the materials come from the products that have been recovered and recycled because they have been designed with this in mind.



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