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TV & COMPUTER SCHEME

The Australian Government has released its consultation paper on the proposed regulations for the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme. This will form the basis of consultations with industry, community and government stakeholders. A copy of the paper and information on consultative workshops is available [here](#).

The product stewardship bill is being drafted for introduction to the Australian parliament in 2011. This will be complemented by product-specific regulations, including those for TVs and computers.

NSW PLAN FOR 'PROBLEM WASTES'

The NSW government has released its waste plan for 2011-2015. One of the focus areas is the removal of 'problem wastes' from the waste stream, including batteries. The problem of lead acid batteries in alternative waste facilities is specifically mentioned. The plan proposes:

- National product stewardship schemes for priority wastes including batteries, paints and timber, in addition to existing priorities such as TVs and computers
- In the absence of national schemes, producer responsibility arrangements to be introduced in NSW by 1 July 2013
- Subsidies for recovery of 'particular problem wastes' from households in conjunction with producers
- Grants to subsidise permanent collection points for problem wastes
- Prohibitions on disposal of problem wastes to landfill once product stewardship schemes are in place, by 2015.

A copy of the NSW plan is available [here](#). ABRI provided a submission to the NSW government seeking further involvement in the development of policies and programs affecting batteries.

EXPANSION OF CALL2RECYCLE

In June 2010 British Columbia (Canada) launched the first government-mandated recycling program in North America for all household batteries. Read more [here](#).

The recycling service in British Columbia is provided by non-profit organisation, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), which runs [Call2Recycle®](#) in the US and Canada. Their free drop-off and recycling program for rechargeable handheld batteries and mobile phones is funded by battery and product manufacturers. There are over 30,000 drop off points in businesses and retail stores. RBRC licensees, participating battery manufacturers and marketers, purchase the rights to imprint the RBRC Battery Recycling Seals on their Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Ni-Zn, Li-Ion and Pb portable rechargeable batteries and products.

Disposal of Ni-Cd and sealed Pb batteries to landfill is banned in eight US states, while disposal of all types of rechargeable batteries is banned in the City of New York, New York state and California.

NEW PLAN FOR ULABS IN CANADA

The Canadian Battery Association (CBA) is developing a National Stewardship Program for lead acid batteries. This includes specific plans for provinces with mandatory product stewardship requirements, such as British Columbia. Features of the plan for British Columbia include 150 drop-off points for consumer products and a business-to-business recovery program for commercial products. The steering committee will identify local issues that need to be addressed and will participate in events to recover lead acid batteries from remote and regional locations. The plan includes initiatives to improve communication with consumers as well as training for recyclers on safe and environmentally responsible recovery, storage and transportation of LABs. More information is available [here](#).

EUROPEAN RECYCLING DATA

The European Battery Recycling Association (EBRA) has published data on quantities recycled by country and battery type in 2009. The statistics cover all types of household, industrial and automotive batteries with the exception of lead acid. Compared to 2008 there has been a 25% increase in recycling of primary portable batteries, a 45% increase for NiMH batteries and a 46% increase for Li secondary batteries. One of the main drivers has been the [European Battery Directive](#), which has set collection targets of 25% by 2012 and 45% by 2016. Download EBRA's media release [here](#).

MEMBER PROFILE: BATTERY WORLD

Battery World has provided a free recycling service for household batteries since 2007 and since that time approximately 500 tonnes of batteries have been recovered. Collection bins are provided in each store for individual consumers (excludes commercial quantities) with the support of Battery World and its franchisees. The company also has an active schools program. Children in prep and primary schools learn about recycling from their local Battery World representative, who is accompanied by 'BW', the 'smooth jut-jawed super hero'. A 'Think green act purple' wheelie bin is placed within the school for the collection of flat batteries, and the bin is emptied regularly by the local store. Schools compete to win prizes for the greatest amount of batteries collected per capita. Click [here](#) for more information on Battery World's recycling program.