

PO Box 433, Somerton VIC 3061

Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

13 July 2017

Dear Minister,

Battery stewardship - The solution is in your hands

You are uniquely situated to transform this problematic waste stream into a success story for this government and for Australia.

On July 28th, Environment Ministers will be considering recommendations from the battery industry on a pathway forward to establish a national recycling program for rechargeable batteries. Industry has investment much time and resources to evaluate options and prepare a workable and realistic path forward.

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) fully supports their recommendations and encourages you and your colleagues to do the same. We also call on you to expand the scope of the recommended scheme to include a phased approach to cover ALL batteries.

With more than 140 different brands this diverse industry has made great progress in developing a shared approach to recycle rechargeable batteries with minimal regulatory intervention from government.

However, to be successful it is critical government show their support in two ways. Contributing resources to establish the program and committing to introducing light regulation to ensure the inclusion of all batteries by 2020 and for ensuring equitable industry participation. This is needed to avoid free riders taking advantage of responsible industry partners

Government can also expect to see a big jump in recycling rates from the current very low level of recycling (less than 3%) due to the strong community desire to recycle. This in turn results in significant industry development and investment in local battery recycling in Australia, adopting new technologies and establishing new jobs.

If Government does not support this proposed way forward industry will walk away. All the goodwill and momentum that government has developed with Industry will be lost. All investment in establishing a viable sustainable battery recycling industry in Australia will be redirected offshore. An unfortunate situation given the strong resource management skills and knowledge that already exist in Australia.

Now is the time for you to show to industry that your Government is serious about creating a sustainable energy industry for Australia by working with industry in playing its role in efficient resource use in batteries.

I have attached ABRI's Position Paper on the importance of achieving battery stewardship in Australia. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this and the importance of your decision on 28th July at the Meeting of Environmental Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
CEO, AUSTRALIAN BATTERY RECYCLING INITIATIVE