



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE	August 13th, 2019	TIME	11:30 – 2:30
Venue	CEC - Level 15, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000		
Dial in details	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/807417701		
Phone	02 9091 7603	Access Code:	807-417-701

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Action	Who	When
Ask Andrew to send Libby a statement of interests.	John P.	Next meeting
Evaluate the effectiveness of the www.recyclenearyou website.	Will	Next meeting
Identify insurance contacts and send them to Libby	All	ASAP
Put membership and membership fees GM agenda	Libby	October 29 th
Prepare a budget for the full year to ensure we properly understand the financial status	Daryl	ASAP
Write a policy on ban of export	Libby	August
Write a press release	Libby	August
Seek a meeting with Trevor Evans	Libby	August
Raise these issues with BSC and invite Gerry to the next meeting to discuss the inclusion of a processing rebate in the proposed scheme design.	Libby	August
Word version and Association Forum recommendations to be sent to Will to review	Libby	ASAP
Will to prepare draft revised Rules and circulated to ExCo for comment	Will	Sept 21 st
Libby will email out the risk assessment for review and comment to ExCo	All	Next meeting
Libby to send primary member contact details to Ben	Libby	ASAP
Ben to call primary member contacts to request they complete the survey	Ben	ASAP
Warren to send PRO contact details to Libby to arrange a meeting in France	Warren	ASAP
Any market information that is publicly available on the ABRI website is to be moved to the members area of the website.	Libby	ASAP
Develop a list of materials and request funding for updates.	Libby	December
Attach a member application and link to the membership pack in the next newsletter, offering a 10% discount for new members who sign up in October.	Libby	September newsletter

2. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation	Ph	Email	Attendance
Ben Pritchard	Ramcar (Vice President)	0400 830 270	ben.pritchard@ramcar.com.au	✓
Daryl Moyle	CMA Ecocycle (Treasurer)	0432 732 735	daryl.moyle@cmaecocycle.net	✓
Warren Overton	ANZRP	0407 274 823	warren.overton@anzrp.com.au	✓
Andrew Mackenzie	EnviroStream	0404 184 649	andrew@envirostream.com.au	Apologies
Libby Chaplin	ABRI (CEO)	0467 515 260	libby@batteryrecycling.org.au	✓
Tanya Bradley	Sims Recycling Solutions	0400 839 605	tanya.bradley@simsmm.com	Web
Adrian Griffin	Lithium Australia	0418 927 658	adrian.griffin@lithium-au.com	✓
Andy Jackson	Lex Environ Services	0406 752 533	andy@lexenviro.com	✓
Will LeMessurier	MRI	0419 302 682	will@mri.com.au	✓
Janet Leslie	Canon Australia Pty Ltd	0407 069 928	janet.leslie@canon.com.au	Web
Observer				
Kylie Hughes	QDES	0479 838 164	kylie.hughes@des.qld.gov.au	Apologies
John Polhill	EnviroStream	0410 884 482	johnp@envirostream.com.au	✓



3. ABRI GOVERNANCE

- The Executive Committee reviewed:
 - ABRI Purpose as stated in the Rules as a reminder of our core business.
 - The Executive Committee Register of Interests was reviewed to confirm that there had been no changes.
 - The Competition & Consumer Act 2010 (The Act) Compliance Statement and all agreed to abide by it.
- It was noted that Andrew has yet to complete the register.

Action	Who	When
A 1. Ask Andrew to send Libby a statement of interests.	John P.	Next meeting

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

- The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. Andy moved to approve the minutes; Ben seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

5. Actions arising from the last meeting

- Actions arising from the last meeting – see PPT.

6. Correspondence

- Correspondence was reviewed – see PPT.
 - Discussed adding functionality to the website for contacts by chemistry, but decided given limited resources, to refer people to the Planet Ark website.
 - Email from Bill Rock was noted.
 - In response to the inquiry regarding insurance, it is intended to further explore industry options in the harmonization study.

Action	Who	When
Evaluate the effectiveness of the www.recyclenearyou website.	Will	Next meeting
Identify insurance contacts and send them to Libby	All	ASAP

7. Presidential vacancy

- Thank you to Andrew for his contributions to date.
- See PPT for the process in Rules.
- Discussed the process for replacing Andrew. Agreed to call for nominations. It was also unanimously agreed that ExCo would recommend Ben for the position.

8. Treasurers report

- Daryl presented the Treasurers report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- The P&L was discussed, noting that the biggest change from last year was the lack of BSC funding.
- Daryl pointed to the P&L which showed a negative net profit.
 - Partially due membership fees being received in December
 - Partially due to the increase in the Secretariat services which have increased in line with 2019 expanded contract.
- As discussed previously the error in the P&L had made the budget look more positive than it was. Reported net profit in the order of \$56,000 was actually in the order of \$16,000.



- It was agreed that a budget forecast be prepared to ensure we properly understand the financial status was required.
- Daryl suggested we make membership payments due a year from initial membership to improve the cash flow throughout the year.
- Discussion
 - BatteryBack income was discussed and it was noted that this income will no longer be received.
 - There is a need to increase revenue through increase membership fees and other revenue raising activities
- Andy moved to approve the report; Ben seconded the motion. The Treasurers report was approved.

Action	Who	When
Put membership and membership fees GM agenda	Libby	October 29 th
Prepare a budget for the full year to ensure we properly understand the financial status	Daryl	ASAP

9. Government announcement on waste

- Libby raised the recent announcement by the PM and COAG to ban export of recyclable waste 'as soon as practicable'.
- Discussion
 - Advantage of a ban is that it may provide certainty for industry investment and it gives stability of feedstock
 - Onshore processing improves environmental outcomes
 - Increased stockpiling not a good outcome
 - Need for exploration of end markets
- Options for ABRI response:
 - Develop ABRI policy on the Ban of export of batteries
 - Lobby Government – key points
 - Materials contained in batteries are recoverable in Australia
 - Support a ban on export of batteries where there is processing capacity
 - Support government investment in capacity building / scaling up of onshore processing for other chemistries to encourage investment
 - Volunteer as a working partner
- Issues to be highlighted to government
 - Currently only 3% of batteries other than lead acid batteries are recycled, much of which is exported either directly or after initial pre-processing.
 - Increased reliance on battery driven technology means that we will soon see a tsunami of waste batteries across Australia
 - Onshore processing industry is emerging; however it is not well development.
 - Development of an onshore processing industry is viable as unlike other products the materials contained in batteries are recoverable in Australia and markets exist.
- What questions should we be asking to support industry development
 - What is needed to secure corporate investment in market development?
 - What should we be asking from government to support industry development?
- What are the growth areas?



- This is already available– government has the information
 - CSIRO report
 - CRC
- Key issue is how do we build capacity – market development strategy
- Could do an economic gap analysis.
- ABRI Policy
 - In general, ABRI is supportive of the concept of a ban on export of waste as it sends a signal that onshore markets are essential to the future of recycling in Australia.
 - ABRI supports the concept of onshore processing of batteries for recycling.
 - Support a ban on export of batteries where there is onshore processing capacity.
 - Whether onshore or offshore, batteries should be recycled in a transparent and traceability manner
 - Support government investment in capacity building / scaling up of onshore processing for other chemistries to encourage investment
 - Stockpiling of batteries is not an acceptable outcome
 - Important to create an environment for corporate investment in onshore batteries processing

Action	Who	When
Write a policy on ban of export	Libby	August
Write a press release	Libby	August
Seek a meeting with Trevor Evans	Libby	August

10. Update on National Stewardship

- Libby provided an update on the BSC activities.
- It was agreed that ABRI supports a 90% diversion from landfill do be demonstrated by recyclers.
- Discussed inclusion/exclusion of processing rebate
 - Up until this point, ABRI has for simplicity sake, excluded processing from the rebate model (understanding that this could change if a market failure emerged) but now we have to ask – is it really going to work in practice.
 - Commodity prices have changed significantly since this position was taken.
- Discussed the risks of excluding processing rebate
 - Could drive the cost of recycling so low it could undermine the industry.
 - Could mean that difficult or expensive recycling for some chemistries would lead to those chemistries being sent to landfill.
 - Lithium primary batteries - nowhere in the world does it cost less than \$3,000 a ton for disposal.
 - ULAB – no one wants to deal with traction batteries in steel cases. Processors keep putting up their dedication to diver that feedstock elsewhere because safely unpacking them is very difficult.
 - Gel batteries – same – some processors give bigger deductions than others.
 - We have seen the price of cobalt go to ¼ of what it was at its peak a year ago.
- Risks
 - Left to the market difficult or expensive chemistries will be stockpiled.



- Danger is that collectors would be paid to collect the batteries, and then there are no recyclers willing to buy it. Could undermine the entire scheme. [Side note – to be eligible to collect a rebate anywhere in the chain, the entire chain must be demonstrated]
- There was general agreement that currently there is a cost to recycling and a gate fee needs to be charged and it needs to be transparent to encourage competition.
- We have seen market failure in the kerbside recycling sector because the market has changed. This needs to be avoided for batteries.
- The collection and sorting performance of the BSC is so successful that it could outweigh the processing capacity.
- Options
 - Discussed the option for spreading the rebate across collection, sorting and processing.
 - e.g. alkaline batteries at US\$500 / ton
 - The reality is that we will be having mixed loads
 - Discussed the BSC proposed approach of letting the market work it out to encourage competition i.e. in the scenario where a company has collected a ton of batteries for \$5,000 and then delivers it to an accredited recycler who could charge a gate fee say \$2,000. That is the market mechanism.
 - Agreed this would only work if accredited recyclers were required to accept all chemistries.
 - At the moment some recyclers specialise in particular chemistries (for them this option would not be well received).
 - This is risky as without that assurance, we are likely to see some chemistries not being collected.
 - Discussed option of having a rebate based on chemistry agreed by the industry?
 - Product mix will change with time
 - Need a minimum of .65c kg of market for processors
 - Discussed option of having a rebate for high value products that meet the circular economy recycling
 - e.g. \$1.00/kg for higher value product produced onshore
 - Have to define what that might be
 - Tyre industry allocates a higher level of funding for high value recycling
 - Discussed option of having a rebate for recyclers based on percentage material recovery rate to encourage higher value recycling. This raised a number of questions:
 - What is high value?
 - Is road base classified as high value – lower level rebate compared with remanufacturing into batteries?
 - Is fertiliser classified as high value?
 - Where does waste to energy sit?
 - Could a rebate be based on the waste hierarchy?
 - Could it be based on net value to the environment?
 - Could it be based on the net value by weight of what can be recycled or reused?
 - This all seems very complex - Would be a lot simpler to have one rebate, but with requirements to accept all batteries
 - Could have a sliding scale – if you take all chemistries you get \$1.00 / kg, if you take 50% of possible chemistries, you 0.50c/kg



- Essential the scheme has a solution for the undesirable chemistries
- If it is a sliding scale, have to have the stocks and flows data
- Do we have a special rebate for the difficult chemistries?
- Variable rebate by chemistry

Alkaline	.65
NiMH	0.0
Lithium ion cobalt	0.0
NiCad	?

- Accredited recyclers receiving the variable rebate would then be required to take all chemistries to anyone who is a member at the gate at no charge for a period of say 6 months and this would change only if there was a catastrophic market change in which case it would have to be repriced.
- Could it be set as a mechanism of commodity price?
- Like lead acid – it would be based on the London Metal Exchange?
- Could it be set on a quarterly basis?
- Lithium ferrous phosphate is the only chemistry that does not have a market price
- In the EU they have one price, but there is enough fat in the fee for that to work.
- Any proposed change would need to be taken back to the BSC members for review.
- Discussed potential collection rates / dealing with legacy stockpiles
 - How much of that collected in the first year?
 - At the moment, the scheme has stated that rebates will be paid for stockpiling
 - Is this the right approach – would it not be better to deal with the legacy problem and avoid illegal dumping?
 - Cleaner to set the expectation that there will be a legacy – ask the environment ministers.

Action	Who	When
Raise these issues with BSC and invite Gerry to the next meeting to discuss the inclusion of a processing rebate in the proposed scheme design.	Libby	August

11. Membership Category/Fee Review – Ben

- Membership categories and fees have not been reviewed since 2010.
- Some corporate members are representing multiple entities with a single membership.
- Current income covers 2019 secretariat costs, but will not cover 2020 secretariat costs unless changes are made.
- Additional revenue can be achieved by increasing membership fees and by charging brands under the same entity i.e. Ramcar is the entity and Supercharge and Alco Batteries are brands under that entity that could be charged an additional fee to be associated with that member. Additional charge discussed was \$500 for each brand under that entity.
- Will need additional support from the existing membership but will also need to find additional members. Will the additional costs create a barrier to entry?
- Also need to look at moving the guidelines to the members area so they are not readily available if not a member but could be purchased.
- Libby mentioned having a webinar around the new mixed battery guidelines and making available to members and charging non-members.



- Approach government for funding to update the work on battery accumulation which needs to be revisited
- Fee changes would be announced at the next General Meeting
- Should produce an ABRI Member logo for members to use
- It was agreed to accept the changes to membership as proposed, which should add \$25k revenue.
- With the increase in membership, need to outline to members what the benefits are that they are receiving.

12. Review of the Rules

- Discussed the need for the Rules to be rewritten and fine tuned in response to the Associations Forum recommendations
- Agreed to circulate a Word document and review changes through email.

Action	Who	When
Word version and Association Forum recommendations to be sent to Will to review	Libby	ASAP
Will to prepare draft revised Rules and circulated to ExCo for comment	Will	Sept 21 st

13. ABRI Risk assessment & schedule of obligations

- Libby provided a one-page risk assessment focusing on the high levels risk as the result of an action from the last meeting.

Action	Who	When
Libby will email out the risk assessment for review and comment to ExCo	All	Next meeting

14. CEO Report

- Libby provided an update on other secretariat activities, focusing on recent activities of each of the objectives. See attached ExCo presentation for details with further discussion below.
- Advance circular economy models for batteries
 - AWRE panel discussion planned for October.
 - Libby contributed to a recent CRC application ISF put together around supply cycle. assessment – was academic, not as applied as would have liked.
- Facilitate the national battery stewardship scheme
 - Attended a meeting with the Department of Environment to discuss the effectiveness of current voluntary stewardship processes – key issue agreed by all involved in getting a voluntary scheme up and running was the need to manage free riders.
 - In the latest Waste Management Review there is an article on product stewardship which Libby helped write.
 - BSC activities.
- Facilitate effective & harmonized government policy.
 - Member survey – response disappointing with only seven responding. Was sent out again on Friday. Ben will ring primary contacts that haven't responded.

Action	Who	When
Libby to send primary member contact details to Ben	Libby	ASAP



Action	Who	When
Ben to call primary member contacts to request they complete the survey	Ben	ASAP

- Foster international dialogue & sharing of best practice
 - Libby registered for the ICBR and was pleased to report that ABRI recieved a 50% reduction in fees because she is on the steering committee.
 - Libby will be flying through Singapore and has made a meeting with Duracell and asked for any recommendations for organisations to meet with while in France.

Action	Who	When
Warren to send PRO contact details to Libby to arrange a meeting in France	Warren	ASAP

- Secretariat governance & operations.
 - Updating website procedures.
 - Coordination with Bank Australia signatories.
 - Review of the Rules.
 - BatteryBack collection reports.
 - Management of ExCo complaint that has been resolved.
 - Conflict of interest policy is under development.
- Education & promote battery recycling
 - Libby discussed ABRI News which is consistently getting around a 30% opening rate which is quite good.
 - Website visitation – there has been significant increase in people visiting the website.
 - Website top downloads – Environmental effects of recycling lithium batteries ranked the highest.
 - It was agreed that OH&S related documents will be kept publicly available on the website, and all other market information is to be made available only in the members area on the website.

Action	Who	When
Any market information that is publicly available on the ABRI website is to be moved to the members area of the website.	Libby	ASAP
Develop a list of materials and request funding for updates.	Libby	December

- Libby sought confirmation from ExCo on the newsletter focus which they were happy with.
- Given the newsletter goes to a broader audience than members, it was suggested that an application for membership be attached to the bottom of the next newsletter.

Action	Who	When
Attach a member application and link to the membership pack in the next newsletter, offering a 10% discount for new members who sign up in October.	Libby	September newsletter

15. Other Business

- There is a proposal for a centralised National Hazardous Waste Interstate Transport process for all different hazardous waste, The Victorian EPA is the only set of bureaucrats that is not supportive. Ben trying to get in to see the EPA atm, Libby happy to also attend and provide an industry wide position.
- Need an ExCo representative/Vice President to be assigned to drive new memberships - look at a position for next year.



16. Next Meeting

- Next General Meeting on 3rd September.