



The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister

Request for Hazardous Waste and Recycling Industry support during COVID-19 pandemic

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) is the peak body representing the battery industry in Australia. It is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. Our members represent the entire supply chain for batteries including import, distribution, retail, used battery collection and recycling.

We respectfully request your support in this matter to ensure the short- and long-term viability of this essential service. In particular we are seeking:

- 1. continued classification of businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services as essential services.**
- 2. financial support for those companies experiencing a reduction in operations severely impacting cash flow in the coming months. While we appreciate the support provided for wage subsidisation, many of our members are seeing a reduction in work activity that is now impacting on their very survival. If this is allowed to occur there will be a follow-on negative impact on human health and the environment arising from inappropriate accumulation and disposal of hazardous batteries.**

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your officials online to discuss the details and identify appropriate options moving forward.

Context

The battery supply chain is becoming increasingly important as our communities and workplaces adjust to the new normal. It is also critical that we ensure that this change does not result in an unintended increase in fires in the home/work environment or as stockpiles remain in battery collection points.

Our sector is experiencing challenging times and continuation of these essential services will ensure:

- hazardous waste including batteries are properly managed during the emerging lock down arrangements
- reduce stockpiling of used batteries either in the home or at collection sites – this is important to ensure that fire hazards associated with storage of lithium batteries are minimised
- business continuity of industry and prevent the loss of a critical sector just at a time when we were gearing up for true stewardship of this problematic waste stream
- increased reliance on battery technology as workers establish work from home environments that can be properly managed.



We are concerned that we may see a significant downturn in the industry due to disruptions within Australia, across state and territory boundaries and internationally. Our experience this past few weeks indicates that battery recyclers are already seeing problems emerging including:

- restrictions in international shipping due to countries locking down their borders to freight
- loads being rejected at receiving ports
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- cancellation of battery collections locally

Our industry is well versed in operating with strict health and safety protocols and continued operation would require only a small adaptation of that to ensure that social distancing requirements are met. Collection and recycling services will not require large gatherings as most are either small businesses or distributed networks. We are working on industry protocol to ensure continued safe operations are adopted and are effective.

Earlier this month the Battery Stewardship Council, of which ABRI is a founding member, submitted its application to the ACCC for authorisations necessary for the establishment of a national battery stewardship Scheme. It was anticipated that this Scheme would commence early in the new financial year, however the response to COVID-19 has potentially impacting on proposed implementation.



Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002

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Dear Premier

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Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

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The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
CITY EAST QLD 4002

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The Hon. Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

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Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of Western Australia
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

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Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Steven Marshall MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

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The Hon. Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
Parliament House
HOBART, TAS 7000

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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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The Hon. Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 March 2020

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The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002

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The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) is the peak body representing the battery industry in Australia. It is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. Our members represent the entire supply chain for batteries including import, distribution, retail, used battery collection and recycling.

We respectfully request your support in this matter to ensure the short- and long-term viability of this essential service. In particular we are seeking:

- 1. continued classification of businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services as essential services.**
- 2. financial support for those companies experiencing a reduction in operations severely impacting cash flow in the coming months. While we appreciate the support provided for wage subsidisation, many of our members are seeing a reduction in work activity that is now impacting on their very survival. If this is allowed to occur there will be a follow-on negative impact on human health and the environment arising from inappropriate accumulation and disposal of hazardous batteries.**

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your officials online to discuss the details and identify appropriate options moving forward.

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- increased reliance on battery technology as workers establish work from home environments that can be properly managed.



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- restrictions in international shipping due to countries locking down their borders to freight
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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
GPO Box 5078
BRISBANE QLD 4001

31 March 2020

Dear Minister

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Environment
12th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

31 March 2020

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Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Environment and Parks
Parliament House
HOBART, TAS 7000

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Matthew Kean MP
Minister for Energy and Environment
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

31 March 2020

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Libby Chaplin
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The Hon. Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Industry, Science & Technology
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
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The Hon. Martin Pakula MP
Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade
Level 36, 121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE, VIC 3000

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

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The Hon. Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

31 March 2020

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Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
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The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

31 March 2020

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The Hon. Paul Kirby MLA
Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

31 March 2020

Dear Minister

Request for Hazardous Waste and Recycling Industry support during COVID-19 pandemic

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) is the peak body representing the battery industry in Australia. It is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. Our members represent the entire supply chain for batteries including import, distribution, retail, used battery collection and recycling.

We respectfully request your support in this matter to ensure the short- and long-term viability of this essential service. In particular we are seeking:

- 1. continued classification of businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services as essential services.**
- 2. financial support for those companies experiencing a reduction in operations severely impacting cash flow in the coming months. While we appreciate the support provided for wage subsidisation, many of our members are seeing a reduction in work activity that is now impacting on their very survival. If this is allowed to occur there will be a follow-on negative impact on human health and the environment arising from inappropriate accumulation and disposal of hazardous batteries.**

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your officials online to discuss the details and identify appropriate options moving forward.

Context

The battery supply chain is becoming increasingly important as our communities and workplaces adjust to the new normal. It is also critical that we ensure that this change does not result in an unintended increase in fires in the home/work environment or as stockpiles remain in battery collection points.

Our sector is experiencing challenging times and continuation of these essential services will ensure:

- hazardous waste including batteries are properly managed during the emerging lock down arrangements
- reduce stockpiling of used batteries either in the home or at collection sites – this is important to ensure that fire hazards associated with storage of lithium batteries are minimised
- business continuity of industry and prevent the loss of a critical sector just at a time when we were gearing up for true stewardship of this problematic waste stream
- increased reliance on battery technology as workers establish work from home environments that can be properly managed.



We are concerned that we may see a significant downturn in the industry due to disruptions within Australia, across state and territory boundaries and internationally. Our experience this past few weeks indicates that battery recyclers are already seeing problems emerging including:

- restrictions in international shipping due to countries locking down their borders to freight
- loads being rejected at receiving ports
- contracts yet to leave the country being cancelled
- cancellation of battery collections locally

Our industry is well versed in operating with strict health and safety protocols and continued operation would require only a small adaptation of that to ensure that social distancing requirements are met. Collection and recycling services will not require large gatherings as most are either small businesses or distributed networks. We are working on industry protocol to ensure continued safe operations are adopted and are effective.

Earlier this month the Battery Stewardship Council, of which ABRI is a founding member, submitted its application to the ACCC for authorisations necessary for the establishment of a national battery stewardship Scheme. It was anticipated that this Scheme would commence early in the new financial year, however the response to COVID-19 has potentially impacting on proposed implementation.

Yours sincerely

Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Mark McGowan MLA
Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

31 March 2020

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Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. David Pisoni MP
Minister for Innovation and Skills
GPO Box 11071
ADELAIDE SA 5001

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Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries
Parliament House
HOBART, TAS 7000

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The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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