



Received	From
29/9/2020	Lily D'Ambrosio MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
29/7/2020	Chris Steel MLA ACT Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
23/7/2020	Kathryn Bellette Director, Strategy and Assessment Environment Protection Authority (on b/h of SA Premier and Minister for Environment & Water)
26/6/2020	Letter from Dave Stewart Director-General QLD Department of Premier and Cabinet
18/5/2020	Chris Steel MLA ACT Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
30/4/2020	Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council
17/4/2020	Monica Dimanoski Assistant Adviser (Invitations and Messages) Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 p. (02) 6277 7700
3/4/2020	Kate Densmore Executive Officer to the Chief Minister Office of the Chief Minister Northern Territory Government
3/4/2020	Eva Lawler NT MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS
2/4/2020	Andrew Fattal Senior Policy Adviser NSW Office of the Premier
2/4/2020	Kylie Hughes Director Waste Avoidance & Recovery Policy Office of Resource Recovery Department of Environment and Science
14/4/2020	Jae Lancaster Executive Director Regional and Infrastructure Strategy Economic and Infrastructure Strategy Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
6/3/2020	Martin Squire General Manager Trade and International Branch Strategic Policy Division Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 9504
DX210098

Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Ref: MIN076914


Dear Ms Chaplin

REQUEST FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2020 about coronavirus (COVID-19) and the hazardous waste and recycling industry.

I appreciate the impact of current circumstances on your member businesses and the battery industry, and your concerns regarding the risks to human health and the environment associated with stockpiling and inappropriate disposal of used batteries. The Victorian Government recognises the waste and recycling sector provides crucial services and operates key infrastructure to support Victorian communities to dispose of waste safely, which becomes particularly important under these current circumstances.

The Premier released a 'reopening roadmap' on Sunday 6 September 2020 to provide certainty and clarity to businesses and the community on the pathway to 'COVID Normal' for Victoria. Prior to taking further steps under this roadmap, the current restrictions continue to apply, and I have provided some information below for you to pass on to your members about what these mean for waste and recycling services.

Provisions for permitted work premises

Under Stage 4 restrictions, the default is that workplaces in metropolitan Melbourne are required to close unless listed as a 'permitted work premises'. Among the permitted work premises are those providing waste and resource recovery services, including collection, treatment and disposal; transfer stations are permitted to remain open for commercial customers but are required to close to the public.

The Department of Health and Human Services website (www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/workplace-obligations-covid-19) provides information on the requirements for businesses that are permitted to operate in metropolitan Melbourne, which must:

- comply with the Permitted Worker Scheme;
- take reasonable steps to ensure workers are wearing face coverings and the appropriate level of personal protective equipment;
- record contact details for all workers and visitors to the premises who attend for longer than 15 minutes;
- comply with density quotient of one worker per four square metres in shared spaces and other publicly accessible areas;
- adhere to signage and cleaning requirements;
- reduce work across multiple sites;
- make sure workers who are unwell do not attend work; and
- have a COVIDSafe Plan in place which meets the requirements above and is regularly updated.

Support for business and industry

On 13 September 2020, the Government announced a \$3 billion package to further support businesses that have been affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) and to assist with the transition to 'COVID Normal'.

Key elements of this latest package include:

- assistance for eligible small and medium businesses with grants of up to \$20,000 through the Business Support Fund;
- support for Victorian businesses to increase exports, including by helping them to address logistics and supply chain issues, establish new trade channels and adapting export strategies; and
- waivers and deferrals of taxes and charges, including payroll tax deferrals, bringing forward the stamp duty discount for commercial and industrial property in Regional Victoria and deferring the landfill levy.

Further information, including how to access key programs, is available at: <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-resilience-package>

If you would like more information about this matter, please call Sebastian Chapman, Executive Director, Waste and Recycling, in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on (03) 9637 8372 or email sebastian.chapman@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for writing to me and I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes

28 / 09 / 2020



Minister for City Services
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
Minister for Roads and Active Travel
Minister for Transport
Member for Murrumbidgee

Ms Libby Chaplin
CEO
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2020 to Mr Mick Gentleman, MLA regarding your request for the Hazardous Waste and Recycling Industry to be added to the list of essential services. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities and I apologise for the delay in responding.

I agree that unfortunately a range of industries currently face unprecedented and challenging operating conditions. This pandemic has only served to underline the importance of industry, including the waste and recycling sector, to our community.

I am committed to seeing the continued operation of waste and recycling services in the ACT, and I am pleased to inform you that waste services are already classified as essential in the ACT, as established by the *Emergencies Act 2004*. This designation applies to businesses providing waste disposal services to the Territory.

Thank you for raising the specific risks of fire and explosion associated with batteries, and the potential for those risks to increase if battery stockpiles build up as a result of COVID-19. I have passed your correspondence on to ACT NoWaste, who remains vigilant of the risks presented by inappropriate battery disposal. Our education team works to raise community awareness of recycling behaviours, including correct battery disposal.

The ACT Government is committed to helping industries survive the disruptions caused by the current pandemic and has been working cooperatively with a range of local businesses. Given the range of pandemic-related challenges now faced by all governments, support for the battery industry and its stakeholders has been made available through a range of the Federal Government's economic stimulus packages.

As a signatory to the National Waste Policy Action Plan, the ACT Government is committed to not only seeing a preferred stewardship scheme for batteries identified in 2020 and in place in 2022, but also support sustainable solutions to manage all products at their end of life.

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 1470 Email steel@act.gov.au



@ChrisSteelMLA



chrissteellabor



chrissteelmla



To this end, I recently made a [submission](#) to the Battery Stewardship Council's (BSC) application for authorisation with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, noting the importance of establishing a fit-for-purpose national stewardship scheme. I am committed to ensuring we manage hazardous and potentially valuable waste streams such as batteries appropriately in the Territory and across Australia. I look forward to further engagement with the Australian Battery and Recycling Initiative and the BSC into the future.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Steel', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction

18 May 2020



Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8204 2004

Country areas 1800 623 445

20EW0009805

Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
Email: secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your letter dated 30 June 2020, regarding harmonisation to support battery stewardship that was sent to both the South Australian Premier, Hon Steven Marshall MP, and the Minister for Environment and Water, Hon David Speirs MP. As the lead environmental regulator in South Australia, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been asked to respond to you on behalf of the South Australian government.

The South Australian government is committed to significantly increasing the rate of battery recycling in Australia and to the establishment of an industry-led stewardship scheme for batteries. We strongly support the principles of sustainability and the circular economy.

On 29 January 2020, the SA EPA and Green Industries SA wrote to you indicating our support and endorsement of the BSC's proposed Battery Stewardship Scheme (the scheme), including the BSC's application for authorisation for the proposed scheme.

I note the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission released a draft determination on 14 July 2020 indicating that it proposes to grant authorisation for the BSC to establish and operate the scheme and that it is keen to see operational procedures for button battery safety developed as a priority.

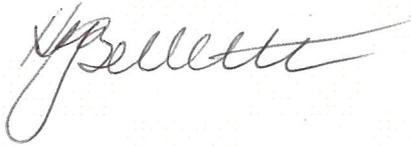
I note that ABRI is seeking the South Australian government's support for the national harmonisation of battery stewardship including the storage and transport of used batteries to create a level playing field and protecting environmental health and safety of workers and the community. Thank you for providing a presentation on the specific challenges faced by this emerging industry and the impacts of COVID-19 on the industry.

In relation to your request for specific information on ABRI initiatives and to assist you to update your government resources portal, please find attached a list of responses to your questions (**Attachment A**).

I trust this information will assist you in updating your government resources portal and we look forward to the implementation of your initiatives.

For further information on this matter, please contact Kerryn Suthern at the EPA on (08) 8204 2682 or kerryn.suthern@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kathryn Bellette
DIRECTOR, STRATEGY AND ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 23/7/20

Att: Information on ABRI initiatives

Request for information/support from ABRI	Further information provided by ABRI	SA Government response
<p>1. Work with the Commonwealth Government to introduce single touch digital reporting for transport of batteries/dangerous goods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been a priority for ABRI for some time as members believe this to be essential to facilitate market development in a sector where economic viability is marginal yet community benefit significant. The importance of this activity has escalated in the current climate as it would reduce potential for spread of Covid 19 and protect workers far beyond the battery sector. 	<p>Key contacts in the SA government responsible for cross jurisdictional work on transport of batteries and hazardous waste: EPA - Manager Regulatory Reform Projects phone enquiries (08) 8204 2038 or steven.sergi@sa.gov.au</p>
<p>2. Inform ABRI of any existing or planned South Australian initiatives, policies or guidelines specifically addressing batteries</p>	<p>E.g. landfill bans, health and safety, facility management, circular economy, or stewardship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 Schedule 4 provides a list of landfill waste or matter prohibited from landfill, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous waste Lead acid batteries Electrical or electronic equipment However does not specifically ban other types of batteries. The EPA has started work relating to the banning of other hazardous wastes in SA. The 'Draft South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025: A vision for a circular economy' (Waste Strategy) is currently out for consultation. You can find further information about the draft Waste Strategy and provide feedback at the Your Say website, the closing date for feedback is 28 August 2020. <p>The draft Waste Strategy includes a priority area to increase municipal solid waste diversion and encourage diversification of materials captured and processed for recycling, including batteries, away from the kerbside recycling bins. It also promotes the adoption of and encourages continuous improvement in extended producer responsibility and related schemes such as batteries (including from electric vehicles).</p>

Request for information/support from ABRI	Further information provided by ABRI	SA Government response
<p>3. Identify key contacts in the SA government responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility permitting requirements • Dangerous goods transport • Safety requirements • Fire services • Other relevant agencies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Waste Strategy aligns with the National Waste Policy and the Product Stewardship Act 2011 (PS Act). • GISA has invested in establishing four permanent facilities in metropolitan Adelaide for the free drop off of hazardous waste including batteries. For more information go to: https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/hazwaste <p>Key contact in the SA government responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility permitting requirements – EPA, Licensing & Community Response, phone enquiries Senior Licence Officer (Notifications and Waste Tracking) (08) 8204 2039 or epalicensing@sa.gov.au • SafeWork SA – Forms and requirements available at Dangerous Substances – Transport and Storage Licences or phone enquires to 1300 365 255 • Dangerous goods transport – SafeWork SA, Transport of Dangerous Goods, enquires to chem.safework@sa.gov.au • Safety requirements – SafeWork SA as above • Fire services – SA Metropolitan Fire Service, Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Planning, phone the MFS Scientific Officer on (08) 8204 3600. <p>Other EPA contacts: Manager Regulatory Reform Projects steven.sergi@sa.gov.au or Kylie McLeod, Waste Tracking/Licensing Officer kylie.mcleod@sa.gov.au</p>
<p>4. Provide ABRI with an overview of regulatory requirements in SA, for specific chemistries and mixed loads</p>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage limits/thresholds • Facility permits and related safety requirements • Transport of batteries within the state and into other jurisdictions • Waste codes applicable to specific battery chemistries and mixed loads 	<p>SA regulatory requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage limits/thresholds – Schedule 1 of the Environment Protection Act 1993 sets out licensing limits for waste lead acid battery treatment works, being a depot, facility or works with the capacity to treat more than 500 waste lead acid batteries during a 12 month period. • SafeWork SA - Transport of Dangerous Goods, Lead acid batteries for safe handling, storage and transport enquires to chem.safework@sa.gov.au

Request for information/support from ABRI	Further information provided by ABRI	SA Government response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government forms required to be submitted by the battery industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility permits and related safety requirements and transport of batteries within the state and into other jurisdictions – go to: https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/tracking_and_transporting_waste/fact_sheets/waste_tracking_for_waste_transporters Phone enquiries to EPA Licencing & Community Response, Senior Licence Officer (Notifications and Waste Tracking) ph: (08) 8204 2039 or epalicensing@sa.gov.au SafeWork SA – Forms and requirements available at Dangerous Substances – Transport and Storage Licences or phone enquiries to 1300 365 255 Waste codes applicable to specific battery chemistries and mixed loads – go to: https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/tracking_and_transporting_waste/resources/waste_codes_and_descriptions Relevant codes include: D220 - lead acid batteries D151 - Nicad batteries D120 - Mercury cell batteries These must be tracked on the waste tracking system, go to: https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/tracking_and_transporting_waste/fact_sheets/waste_tracking_for_waste_transporters Enquiries to EPA Licencing & Community Response, Senior Licence Officer (Notifications and Waste Tracking) ph: (08) 8204 2039 or epalicensing@sa.gov.au. Government forms required to be submitted by the battery industry – contacts as per above dot points
<p>5. Identify any upcoming changes including efforts to harmonisation with other states including changes arising from ADG 7.7</p>	<p>Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail Edition 7.7 - 2020 (AGD 7.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All changes to ADG codes are reflected in the EPA waste tracking system – go to: https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/tracking_and_transporting_waste/fact_sheets/waste_tracking_for_waste_transporters Enquiries to EPA Licencing & Community Response, Senior Licence Officer (Notifications and Waste Tracking) ph: (08) 8204 2039

Request for information/support from ABRI	Further information provided by ABRI	SA Government response
<p>6. Support the option identified by the National Transport Commission (NTC) to adopt the ADG Code into Australian law using the 'applied legislation' model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the same model used by jurisdictions to adopt amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law made by the Queensland Parliament. ABRI is of the view that this would greatly enhance industry compliance and efficiency both of which are essential as battery stewardship becomes an increasing priority. 	<p>For further information go to SafeWork SA - enquires to 1300 365 255 or help.safework@sa.gov.au</p>
<p>7. Support the option identified by the NTC to develop a common operations manual adopted by all jurisdictions to encourage a more uniform interpretation of the ADG.</p>		<p>For further information go to SafeWork SA - enquires to 1300 365 255 or help.safework@sa.gov.au</p>



Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery and Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your letter requesting support for the hazardous waste and recycling industry and continued status as an essential service. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade and I apologise for the delay in responding.

While protecting the health of Queenslanders is the number one priority, the Queensland Government knows extra support is needed to help workers and businesses get through what is one of the most difficult periods ever experienced.

The Queensland Government has announced more than \$6 billion in measures to support Queenslanders through this time, including more than \$4.4 billion in assistance for workers and businesses since the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak began. The Queensland Government is working closely with the Federal Government through a National Cabinet, and welcomes the unprecedented national economic responses, which total more than \$300 billion.

The National Cabinet is continuously monitoring the impacts on the economy. The Queensland Government will ensure the National Cabinet considers further measures as they are needed, so the individuals and businesses involved in the hazardous waste and recycling industry, are supported and can continue their important work.

Advice from the Queensland and Federal Governments, including information on business and industry support packages are available on the Queensland Government website at www.covid19.qld.gov.au and then under the heading 'Business, industry and working safely', click on 'Business Queensland', and on the Federal Government Business website at www.business.gov.au and click on 'Coronavirus information and support for business'. These websites are being updated as decisions are being made, and you are encouraged to continue to check them for relevant support measures.

Regarding your request to continue being deemed an 'essential service', businesses are considered essential unless they are deemed 'non-essential' by the Chief Health Officer under a Public Health Direction. Businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services have not been directed to close by the Chief Health Officer, meaning they have been able to continuously operate.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier.

Yours sincerely

Dave Stewart
Director-General

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3224 2111
Facsimile +61 7 3229 2990
Website www.premiers.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

From: PmlInvites PmlInvites@pmc.gov.au
Subject: Meeting request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: 17 April 2020 at 9:35 am
To: secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au
Cc: Howard, Jenny (S. Ley, MP) Jenny.Howard@aph.gov.au



OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Libby Chaplin,

Thank you for your letter requesting a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP to discuss support for Hazardous Waste and Recycling Industry during COVID-19.

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister is unable to accept your meeting invitation and has asked that you contact the Hon Trevor Evans MP, Assistant for Water Reduction and Environmental Management.

Kind regards,

Monica Dimanoski | Assistant Adviser (Invitations and Messages)
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
p. (02) 6277 7700

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Minister for City Services
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
Minister for Roads and Active Travel
Minister for Transport
Member for Murrumbidgee

Ms Libby Chaplin
CEO
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

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As a signatory to the National Waste Policy Action Plan, the ACT Government is committed to not only seeing a preferred stewardship scheme for batteries identified in 2020 and in place in 2022, but also support sustainable solutions to manage all products at their end of life.

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 1470 Email steel@act.gov.au



@ChrisSteelMLA



chrissteellabor



chrissteelmla



To this end, I recently made a [submission](#) to the Battery Stewardship Council's (BSC) application for authorisation with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, noting the importance of establishing a fit-for-purpose national stewardship scheme. I am committed to ensuring we manage hazardous and potentially valuable waste streams such as batteries appropriately in the Territory and across Australia. I look forward to further engagement with the Australian Battery and Recycling Initiative and the BSC into the future.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Steel', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction

18 May 2020

From: Andrew Fattal Andrew.Fattal@premier.nsw.gov.au 
Subject: COVID-19 and NSW Public Health Orders
Date: 2 April 2020 at 10:38 am
To: secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au



Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the temporary restriction of some activities and businesses in New South Wales.

The National Cabinet, consisting of the Prime Minister and leader of each State and Territory, is meeting on a regular basis. It has put in place significant restrictions on gatherings and on some business activities to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In New South Wales, these restrictions are enforceable under Public Health Orders issued by the NSW Government.

Given this is an evolving situation, I strongly encourage you to visit www.nsw.gov.au for the latest advice. Information on what business activities are restricted is available at that site, as well as restrictions on gatherings that may apply to businesses that remain open.

I can assure you that your representations are being considered, and will be noted as any future decisions are made.

Regards,

Andrew Fattal
Senior Policy Adviser
Office of the Premier

T: 02 8574 5000
E: Andrew.Fattal@premier.nsw.gov.au



For the latest COVID-19 information & advice please visit:

www.nsw.gov.au

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it & notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and are not necessarily the view of this office.

Dear Ms Chaplin

On behalf of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Michael Gunner MLA, thank you for your correspondence dated Tuesday 31 March 2020 regarding 'essential services' classification and financial support for your industry during this time.

Currently, all businesses are permitted to operate, except those deemed as [non-essential](#). Refer to <https://business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/restrictions-on-non-essential-services> for details on restrictions on non-essential services.

There is currently no formal process for awarding essential status, nor do we envisage declaring it for individual businesses or industries on a case-by-case basis. We want to assure you that the NT Government is very aware of the need to ensure that those who service and contribute to the continued operation of manufacturing supply chains for food and health, or support the provision of those services or other vital community infrastructure, must remain operational at all times for the benefit of the community.

As of today the message is clear:

- If you have a service or business and employing staff then keep working (please note the National Cabinet's latest advice for Senior Australians – those over 70 years of age, those over 60 years of age with existing health conditions and Indigenous Australians over the age of 50).
- If you can support your team to work from home, that's great and encouraged.
- Make sure you and your team is mindful of their mental health and wellbeing and have access to online mental health support (www.headtohealth.gov.au – is a new Government digital mental health portal with access to a wide range of information and sources, especially during the coronavirus pandemic).
- Your workplace must have procedures in place. Everyone must ensure and adhere to good hygiene and especially social distancing - check your meeting rooms and point of sale counters.
- If your job/service requires you to leave the workplace and deliver a service off site, the same rules apply, for both your employees and customers. You may need to consider staff/workers travel in more than one vehicle.

As you are aware, this is a rapidly evolving situation which the NT Government is constantly monitoring. The most accurate and up to date information on COVID-19 in the Northern Territory and the Territory's response is available at <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/> or refer to the SecureNT Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/secureNT/>. The Australian Government business.gov.au website will also be updated should further restrictions be put in place.

With regards to financial support, please refer to the links below for all the latest information regarding programs, services and grants from the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government:
<https://nt.gov.au/industry/support-for-business/programs-and-initiatives>

<https://business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business>

Unfortunately I am unable to schedule a meeting with the Chief Minister at this very busy time due to diary constraints but I have referred your concerns to the appropriate area for action.

Thank you for taking the time to write to Chief Minister. We understand this is a challenging time for all thank you for your continuing contributions to the Territory and the Australian community.

Yours sincerely
Kate

Kate Densmore
Executive Officer to the Chief Minister
Office of the Chief Minister
Northern Territory Government

Parliament House, Darwin
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801

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MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

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minister.lawler@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5566
Facsimile: 08 8936 5616

Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative

Email: secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 March 2020 requesting that the hazardous waste and recycling industry be considered an essential service in the Northern Territory during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Please be assured that the Northern Territory Government is very aware of the need to ensure that those who service and contribute to the continued operation of our supply chain, must remain operational at all times for the benefit of the community. That is why all freight and logistics are currently considered an essential service in the Northern Territory.

I note your concerns and will share these with the relevant Northern Territory Government agencies, who are working through the operational needs of Government, businesses and the community.

In regards to financial relief for businesses, the Northern Territory has released a Jobs Rescue and Recovery plan. Information on support services and grants for businesses is available at <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/business>.

We understand this is a challenging time for all Australians and thank you for your continuing contributions to the Australian community. If you have any additional questions or concerns in relation to this matter, please contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Emergency Operations Centre on (08) 8946 5077.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Lawler'.

EVA LAWLER

3 APR 2020

From: **HUGHES Kylie** Kylie.Hughes@des.qld.gov.au 
Subject: COVID-19 letter to Minister
Date: 2 April 2020 at 9:51 am
To: secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au



Hi Libby

With reference to your letter of 31 March 2020 regarding a request for support for classification of businesses providing hazardous waste and recycling services to be classified as an essential service.

I can inform you that waste and recycling management is listed as an essential good and service under the **Border restrictions (No. 2)** Public Health Order (Qld) issued by the Chief Health Officer on 31 March 2020. All current PHOs can be found at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>

In addition, unless a business is listed as a non-essential business under the **Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (No.4)** (March 31 2020) a business may continue to operate in compliance with other directions and orders in effect. This order can be found at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/non-essential-business-closure-direction>

I suggest that, as the situation is evolving rapidly, you regularly check the website for updates to the orders. Please note that these orders relate to Qld and may differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Please let me know if you have any queries regarding this information.

Cheers

Kylie



Kylie Hughes

Director

Waste Avoidance & Recovery Policy | Office of Resource Recovery

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3330 5020 M 0438 164 798

Level 27 400 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454 Brisbane QLD 4001

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**Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Our Ref: 62-19919

Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your correspondence, received in this office on 7 April 2020, regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on waste management and battery recycling.

The McGowan Government acknowledges waste and recycling services as essential to the proper functioning of the State in all aspects, including collection, transport, processing and disposal. It has provided advice to this effect to the Australian Government and to the State Government's State Emergency Management Committee for the purposes of coordinating services in response to COVID-19.

I have also received a copy of the Battery Stewardship Council's submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and look forward to the outcomes of this process.

Further information about the Government's COVID-19 response is set out in the *Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan (March 2020)*. You can view the plan at www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/WAGPP.pdf.

I encourage you to continue liaising with the Government to ensure that problems that may arise in response to COVID-19 impacts are able to be considered as early as possible.

I value and appreciate the services provided by the waste and recycling sector and would like to acknowledge the effort that the sector is making to ensure ongoing services during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

30 APR 2020

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

Jae Lancaster <Jae.Lancaster@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>

Tue 14/04/2020 12:46 PM

To: Libby Chaplin <secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au>

Cc: William Hyams <William.Hyams@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>; Grant Perry <Grant.Perry@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>; ERS <ERS@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>; EIS Correspondence <EISCorrespondence@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>; Sally Harris <Sally.Harris@dsdmip.qld.gov.au>; StateDevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au <StateDevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

 1 attachments (163 KB)

ABRI-COVID Letter-QLD Minister Dick-200331.pdf;

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your email to The Hon. Cameron Dick MP regarding supporting the battery industry. I respond on behalf of the Queensland Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, and apologise for the delay in replying to you.

Hazardous waste collection and recycling services are vitally important to Queensland. I note that your organisation is concerned with environmental management issues for the battery industry in Australia. In reference to your request for the recognition of businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services as essential services, the Government's intent, shared nationally, is not to designate a list of essential services that are allowed to operate. Rather, the intent is to prescribe those businesses which may not operate. Non-essential businesses, activities, and undertakings are defined by the latest relevant Queensland Chief Health Officer's Public Health Direction which can be found here:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/non-essential-business-closure-direction>.

If an activity, business or undertaking is not defined by this Direction as 'non-essential', it can continue. It must, however, comply with all other relevant health directions and guidelines including, for example, directions about social distancing. Special restrictions may apply if businesses or their employees have been in COVID-19 hot spots.

While this is a point in time directive, I hope this gives you confidence about the operating status of businesses you represent in Queensland.

With respect to your query regarding financial assistance for the hazardous waste collection and recycling services, there are a number of government programs available to businesses.

As you may be aware the Federal Government recently announced a stimulus package including the \$130 billion JobKeeper Payment which will provide eligible businesses a wage subsidy for up to six months.

The Federal Government has also announced a range of supports specifically for businesses, including tax support, temporary relief for financially distressed businesses, the increased instant asset write-off, and increased and accelerated income support. For information on these and other initiatives <https://www.business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business>

Additionally, the Queensland Government's \$4 billion COVID-19 rescue package includes \$2.5 billion for measures including payroll tax relief, a Jobs Support \$500 million loan facility and an initial \$27.25 million package to assist business and industry with resilience and recovery strategies, targeted financial support and counselling. For more information on these initiatives please see <https://www.business.qld.gov.au>

I hope that this information will provide some assistance to your members in navigating to the appropriate supports where required. The response to COVID19 is an evolving situation and the Queensland Government

is supporting Queensland industry with their strategies to continue to operate and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Jae.Lancaster@dsdmip.qld.gov.au or on 0477 718 254.

Warm regards,



Jae Lancaster
Executive Director
Regional and Infrastructure Strategy
Economic and Infrastructure Strategy
Department of State Development,
Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

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LET'S CONNECT



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RE: Our ref - MC20-003877: Request for Hazardous Waste and Recycling Industry support during COVID-19 pandemic - updated [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

nCOV response <ncovresponse@industry.gov.au>

Tue 7/04/2020 12:46 PM

To: Libby Chaplin <secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au>

Cc: nCOV response <ncovresponse@industry.gov.au>

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2020 to the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP, in relation to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impacts to the stakeholders Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) represents. The Minister has asked that the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources respond on her behalf.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Australia stays strong and resilient as the pandemic spreads globally and impacts the world economy. The Government will continue to act decisively to meet the needs of businesses, including our hard-working SMEs, as well as our most affected sectors, industries and regions.

I want to assure you that the Government is very aware of the need to ensure that those who provide vital community infrastructure and services, remain operational for the benefit of the community. Currently, all businesses except those deemed as non-essential are permitted to operate. The business.gov.au website will be updated should further restrictions be put in place.

In relation to financial support for those companies experiencing a reduction in operations, I can advise you that the Government is enhancing the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers measure it announced on 12 March 2020. The Government is providing up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits (NFPs) that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000. These payments will help businesses and NFPs with their cash flow so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity, other bills, and retain staff. The Government is also temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and to initiate bankrupt proceedings against an individual, as well as temporarily increasing the time companies and individuals have to respond to statutory demands they receive.

The Government, the Reserve Bank of Australia, and the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority have taken coordinated action to ensure the flow of credit in the Australian economy. Timely access to credit is vital for businesses to manage the impacts of the COVID-19. The Government is also providing temporary relief for financially distressed businesses to lessen the threat of actions that could unnecessarily push them into insolvency, and force the winding up of the business.

Business and community resilience is of the utmost importance to the Government, and we have already announced strong and broad assistance measures. The Government is acting decisively in the national interest to support businesses and address the significant economic consequences of the COVID-19.

For up to date information on support and advice for businesses, please visit www.business.gov.au/Coronavirus or call on 13 28 46.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the Minister.

Yours sincerely

Martin Squire

General Manager

Trade and International Branch

Strategic Policy Division

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au



Ms Libby Chaplin
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Battery and Recycling Initiative
secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au

Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

Dear Ms Chaplin

Thank you for your letter requesting support for the hazardous waste and recycling industry and continued status as an essential service. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade and I apologise for the delay in responding.

While protecting the health of Queenslanders is the number one priority, the Queensland Government knows extra support is needed to help workers and businesses get through what is one of the most difficult periods ever experienced.

The Queensland Government has announced more than \$6 billion in measures to support Queenslanders through this time, including more than \$4.4 billion in assistance for workers and businesses since the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak began. The Queensland Government is working closely with the Federal Government through a National Cabinet, and welcomes the unprecedented national economic responses, which total more than \$300 billion.

The National Cabinet is continuously monitoring the impacts on the economy. The Queensland Government will ensure the National Cabinet considers further measures as they are needed, so the individuals and businesses involved in the hazardous waste and recycling industry, are supported and can continue their important work.

Advice from the Queensland and Federal Governments, including information on business and industry support packages are available on the Queensland Government website at www.covid19.qld.gov.au and then under the heading 'Business, industry and working safely', click on 'Business Queensland', and on the Federal Government Business website at www.business.gov.au and click on 'Coronavirus information and support for business'. These websites are being updated as decisions are being made, and you are encouraged to continue to check them for relevant support measures.

Regarding your request to continue being deemed an 'essential service', businesses are considered essential unless they are deemed 'non-essential' by the Chief Health Officer under a Public Health Direction. Businesses providing hazardous waste collection and recycling services have not been directed to close by the Chief Health Officer, meaning they have been able to continuously operate.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Stewart".

Dave Stewart
Director-General

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