

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Battery Stewardship Council

Creating an effective & efficient  
national stewardship scheme  
for batteries in Australia



4 September 2020



### ACCC Authorisation granted

#### **Battery Stewardship Council welcomes ACCC authorisation for an industry-led battery stewardship scheme**

The Battery Stewardship Council (BSC) welcomed the announcement today by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) that it has granted the two authorisations necessary for the implementation of an industry-led stewardship scheme that aims to significantly increase the recycling of batteries and end the wasteful and dangerous practice of landfill disposal of batteries.

"This is a very important milestone on the pathway to sustainable use and disposal of all batteries which play an essential role in our modern society" said Mr Gerry Morvell, Chair of the BSC.

"Battery stewardship will ensure that all end of life batteries have a recognisable pathway from home, office or workplace to an accredited domestic recycler".

Acknowledging the important contributions and support for the Battery Stewardship Scheme from all governments, industry and community organisations, the CEO of the Council, Ms Libby Chaplin, said "The leveraging model which is at the core of the Scheme is designed to support existing and new Australian businesses and community organisations that are involved in the safe collection, sorting and processing of batteries. Our aim is to increase recycling and improve safety whilst encouraging innovation in the supply chain."

BSC welcomed the ACCC conditions including that relating to button batteries.

The Scheme will be funded by a levy on battery imports and a system of rebates to accredited collectors and recyclers who will have to meet safety and fire standards. The Scheme has been designed to complement and support other electronic waste stewardship schemes such as MobileMuster and the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.

Australia imports over 900 million Equivalent Battery Units, (i.e. equivalent to a small AA battery) each year. The recycling rate for end of life batteries in Australia is only 10%, which compares poorly with best rates for developed countries of over 70%.

The final step in development of this Scheme is the Operational Design Phase which includes development of detailed guidelines and procedures as well as working arrangements for battery tracking system, auditing, financial systems for the levy and rebates, and education and communications.

This phase is planned for completion next year with the Scheme being implemented in the second half of 2021 in line with the aim of the National Waste Policy Action Plan.

[ACCC Website](#)

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You are receiving this invitation because you are a valuable member of the Battery Stewardship Council or because you have been identified as an important stakeholder as we refine the design of the proposed scheme.