

Tyre Stewardship Australia

2018-19 Australian Tyre consumption & recovery

Vehicles in Australia

In 2018 there were 19 million vehicles on register in Australia (85.5 million tyres in use)



Tyre consumption in Australia

In 2010, the last Australian factory manufacturing tyres closed its doors.

Since then all tyres consumed in Australia are imported from overseas.

Tyres are imported loose (new and used) and on new and used vehicles.

Over the past five years, Australia annually imported on average:

23 million new tyres loose and 7 million tyres on vehicles



passenger & motorbike tyres

17 million 'loose tyres'

5.6 million 'on vehicles'



truck & bus tyres

5.5 million 'loose tyres'

700 thousand 'on vehicles'



off-the-road tyres

500 thousand 'loose tyres'

700 thousand 'on vehicles'

Often reported as equivalent passenger units (EPU) or tonnes, sales of tyres annually in Australia over the past five years have been steady and on average estimated to equate to around:

540,000 tonnes (57 million new EPU)

In 2018-19, the eight levy-paying tyre importers participating within the Scheme represent approx. 43% of the market.



BRIDGESTONE

Continental

GOODYEAR DUNLOP

KUMHO TYRE

MICHELIN

PIRELLI

TOYO TIRES

YOKOHAMA



Volkswagen

Used tyre or end-of-life tyre (EOLT) generation

Over the past five years Australia annually generated on average an estimated:

450,000 tonnes of EOLT
(56 million used EPU)



190,000 tonnes
were passenger & motorbike tyres
(23.7 million used EPU)



158,000 tonnes
were truck & bus tyres
(19.7 million used EPU)



118,000 tonnes
were off-the-road tyres
(14.7 million used EPU)



Recovery of used tyres

Recovery broadly refers to used tyres that are collected to be either reused (after re-treading or repair in the case of large OTRs), processed into tyre derived products (TDPs) including tyre derived fuel for embodied energy (energy recovery) or for use whole in thermal processing either in Australia or overseas. Used tyres that are not recovered are mostly disposed (in licence landfills or buried on-site where permitted) or dumped/stockpiled.

In 2018-19 it was estimated Australia:

Recovered 323,000 tonnes
(40.3 million used EPU) (69%)

- **85,000 tonnes**
(10.6 million used EPU) for reuse
- **190,000 tonnes**
(23.8 million used EPU) for processing into tyre derived products
- **48,000 tonnes**
(5.9 million used EPU) for use whole in thermal processing

Disposed to landfill or onsite

130,000 tonnes (16.2 million used EPU) - 28%

Dumped or stockpiled

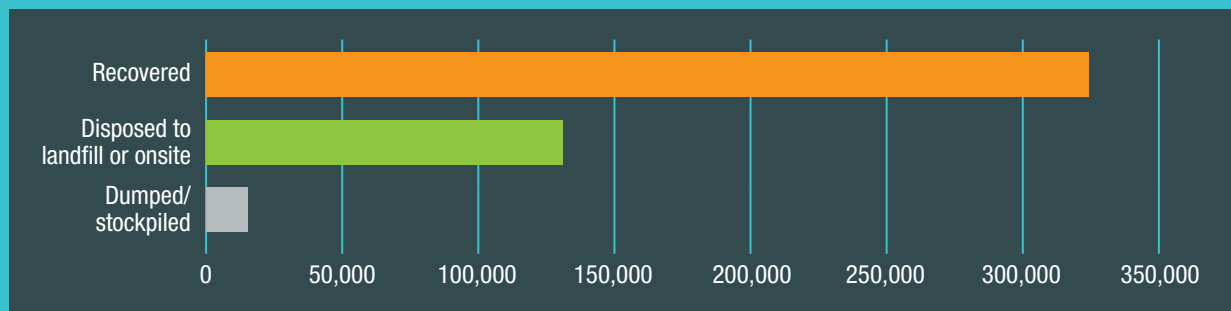
13,000 tonnes (1.6 million used EPU) - 3%



The decline of stockpiling in 2018/19

Historically stockpiling had been a major issue for passenger EOLT. In 2018-19, industry reported that stockpiling had largely ceased as a result of tighter EPA regulations around the country and in response there has been an increase in the amount of baling and export of passenger tyres.

Figure 1: Fate of EOLT generated (tonnes) in Australia, 2018-19



In 2018-19, National Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme (NTPSS) accredited collectors and recyclers managed 64% of the estimated recovered tyres or:

208,000 tonnes
(26 million used EPU)

The National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019:

In December 2018, the 2018 National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources was agreed by Australia's Environment Ministers setting a new unified direction for waste and recycling in Australia. The National Action Plan presents targets and actions to implement the 2018 National Waste Policy which includes a target of 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030.

In 2018-19 it was estimated the resource recovery rate of tyres in Australia was:

Total end-of-life tyre recovery rate of 69%



89% tyre recovery rate
Passenger & motorbike tyres



89% tyre recovery rate
Truck & bus tyres



11% tyre recovery rate
Off-the-road tyres

Passenger tyres are the dominant tyre in use in Australia making up over 70% by quantity. The recovery in 2018-19 was estimated to be around 89% with NTPSS accredited collectors and recyclers managing 84%.

Used tyre recovery for domestic and export markets

In 2018-19, of the estimated 323,000 tonnes of used tyres recovered



64,000 tonnes
(7.9 million used EPU) were recovered for use in domestic markets



259,000 tonnes
(33.3 million used EPU) were recovered for use in export markets

Of the estimated 259,000 tonnes in 2018-19 recovered for export markets



131,000 tonnes
(16.3 million used EPU) were reprocessed & exported



128,000 tonnes
(16.0 million used EPU) were exported whole

Data sources

Data sources used in the compilation of this information sheet: *2018-19 Australian Tyre consumption and recovery* include: ABS, 93090DO001_2018 Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 2018, ABS Cat No 5368.0 - International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, September 2019, and End-of-life tyres supply chain and fate analysis, TSA 2020 unpublished.