

Media Announcement

28th of April 2025

Major inquiry recognises strong future for tyre recycling

Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) welcomes the findings of the Australian Senate Inquiry's report 'No Time to Waste' (the Report).

Commending the Senate Committee and its Chair Senator Whish-Wilson for making sense of Australia's current policies and regulations, Ms Goodman said:

"It is clear that there is overwhelming industry and community support for a cohesive national approach to better waste management and transition to a circular economy.

And the big news from this Inquiry is that there is again overwhelming industry support for regulated product stewardship schemes as the path forward."

TSA agrees with the need for a Circular Economy Act to get regulated product stewardship schemes up and running as the most effective approach to achieving Australia's circular economy ambitions.

The Report findings show that the Senate Committee has listened to logic and industry insights on the road map for a way forward.

"With the federal election underway, we call on all the parties to commit to creating an efficient set of rules for product stewardship. And empowering product stewardship schemes and industry, together, to deliver a fit-for-purpose approach," Goodman said.

Effective product stewardship supports material circularity throughout the entire value chain, from product design, through production, use, re-use, collection, recycling, reprocessing and end-of-life product management.

"The circular economy is a huge opportunity, and industry is ready to make the most of it. CSIRO modelling shows that doubling the circularity of the economy can deliver a net economic benefit of \$26 billion in GDP by 2035."

"Our current voluntary product stewardship scheme on tyres is working to the extent it can, but the need for mandatory participation by all tyre importers, will create a level-playing field for all businesses, improve outcomes, lower costs, remove free riders and help stop rogue operators and illegal dumping of tyres."

"Only Federal Government action can establish the uniform, best-practice regulation so urgently needed to achieve mandatory product stewardship objectives effectively and economically efficiently across Australia."

“The time for voluntary schemes has long passed – we need decisive federal action to implement a comprehensive national regulatory framework for stronger stewardship schemes, including tyres alongside other priority products such as batteries,” Goodman continued.

“Without Federal Government leadership, Australia’s circular economy ambitions will remain fragmented and unfulfilled.”

“TSA has made submissions to the Productivity Commission’s current public inquiry into the Opportunities in the Circular Economy. Our key recommendation has been for them to listen to the call from the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group to establish a federal Circular Economy Act. It was heartening to see that this is also the key recommendation of the Senate Inquiry.”

“A week out from the federal election, we hope all parties will approach the next federal term of government with real intent to get serious about building Australia’s circular economy.”

TSA made a detailed submission to the Senate Inquiry into Waste Reduction and Recycling Policies

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Wastereduction/Submissions)

The Inquiry and Report

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Wastereduction) sets out a better and stronger future for product stewardship and by extension, tyre recycling.

TSA Submission to Productivity Commission public inquiry into Opportunities in the Circular Economy <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/circular-economy/submissions>

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Background on Tyre Stewardship Australia

Australia's tyre product steward was established in 2014 to implement the national Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme (TPSS) – an ACCC-authorised industry framework to reduce the environmental, health and safety impacts of the 56 million Equivalent Passenger Units (EPUs) which reach their end of life in Australia each year.

TSA's vision is of a circular economy for end-of-life (EOL) tyres that contribute to a sustainable society.

It works all along the tyre supply chain to minimise waste and increase value for government, industry, businesses, and consumers, by:

1. Accrediting and monitoring compliance of TPSS participants – now 1,700 and counting, including tyre manufacturers, retailers, collectors, and recyclers who are committed to sustainable practices.
2. Working with levy contributors to invest in market development initiatives – up to \$9 million invested to date, including: research and development commercialisation of new productive uses for EOL tyres driving the transformation of a waste product into a useful commodity, creating new industries and jobs while reducing the environmental harm caused by the illegal dumping of old tyres.
3. Providing a range of ESG tools and services for use by government, industry, R&D, and consumers, including:
 - a. Foreign End Market Verification (FEMV) platform – the only global platform that verifies Australian-generated end-of-life-tyres are not causing environmental or social harm at their final destination.
 - b. Sustainable Outcomes Indicator star rating which drives and promotes best practice operations and the development and use of tyre-derived materials and products in the Australian market.
 - c. Circular Collaborator platform which supports products manufactured in Australia using Australian-made tyre-derived material.

For more information: www.tyrestewardship.org.au

