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## RECYCLERS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE RECYCLING

A collection of the biggest recyclers in the country is calling for the Federal Government to give serious recognition to recycling's valuable contribution to combating climate change.

Speaking at the *Climate for Change* conference in Adelaide today Anne Prince, the chief executive of the Australian Council of Recyclers (ACOR), said that recycling was effectively taking 1.8 million passenger cars off the road each year in reducing the nation's greenhouse liability.

"Recycling saves on emissions that would have come from manufacturing products out of raw materials. The abatement of emissions through recycling, at 8.8 million tonnes of CO2, is around 30 percent of the Australian Greenhouse Office's latest estimates of total abatement measures of 30 million tonnes of CO2.

"Landfill emissions from the waste sector is slated for coverage in the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Greenpaper but there is no reward, recognition or accounting for the major contribution of recycling", Ms Prince said.

Ms Prince made the call as she announced the results of a major study into the benefits of recycling, *Australian Recycling values – a Net benefits assessment*, which shows that the recycling industry had a direct turnover in 2006 of \$11.5 billion, with a "knock-on" effect to jobs and industry of \$55 billion.

The report also shows that each year recycling:

- Provides major energy savings equivalent to the average electricity consumption in 2.1 million households.
- Enables water savings equivalent to more than 37,000 olympic pools
- Conserves natural resources including bauxite, iron ore, sand, oil for plastic production and timber equivalent to 8.8 million tonnes
- Aluminium accounts for well over 50 percent of the greenhouse savings with the emissions abatement equal to taking more than 1 million cars off the road
- Steel and aluminium account for 78% of the energy savings

ACOR's members recycle aluminium, paper and cardboard, glass, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, concrete and plastic. They reported total recovery of 9 million tonnes of material in 2006 with only 5 percent ending up in landfill after processing.

## STATE VERSUS STATE

The recycling study also shows how the individual States' waste strategies are performing and how they rank as recyclers. On the score of greenhouse gas avoided and energy savings, Victoria and South Australia are out in front.

"South Australia avoided 483 tonnes CO2 per 1000 people and was just pipped by Victoria (516t) with NSW third (431t). That includes all products collected in kerbside programs run by local councils but excludes organic waste – garden and food waste", Ms Prince said.

"That means that South Australia is effectively taking 99 cars off the road for every 1000 people".

For energy savings SA is second behind Victoria again, providing savings equivalent to the electricity consumption in some 189,000 households.

"The ACOR study shows South Australia's Zero Waste strategy is paying dividends for the economy and the environment with huge greenhouse gas and energy savings. If there is improvement to be made it's in SA industry lifting its game in the paper and cardboard recovery", said Ms Prince.

"Recycling efforts are improving annually as more households and the business community embrace recycling as a way of life".

***Please find attached recycling facts and tables***

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### Greenhouse Gas Savings State and Population

State	Total	t CO2eq / 1000 pop.	Ranking per 1,000 pop.
NSW	2,987,676	431.31	3
Vic	2,705,121	515.64	1
Qld	1,273,815	301.26	5
<b>SA</b>	<b>769,134</b>	<b>483.15</b>	<b>2</b>
WA	674,723	316.65	4
Tas	204,416	12.30	8
NT	72,348	32.48	7
ACT	155,786	57.12	6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>8,843,019</b>	<b>Av. 417.55</b>	-

# Australian Recycling Values – A Net Benefits Study - July 2008

## RECYCLING FACT SHEET

### STATES COMPARISON (Illustrated by attached tables)

- On a “pound for pound” basis Victoria and South Australia are the most effective recyclers with the ACT third.
- For every 1000 people Victoria’s recycling avoids 516 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> only just ahead of South Australia at 483t (table attached)
- South Australia’s recycling effectively takes 158,000 cars off the road. (When you throw in organics (mainly timber and food wastes) a recent Hyder Consulting study stretches that figure to 214,000 cars a year).
- South Australia is effectively taking 99 cars off the road for every 1000 people, against Victoria’s 106 cars. ( Other States – ACT 94, NSW 88.5, Tasmania 85, NT 68, WA 65 and Queensland 62)
- South Australia’s Zero Waste SA strategy is paying dividends. The State leads the way on a population basis in greenhouse gas savings and in energy savings in the recycling of both glass and ferrous materials and runs a close second to Victoria in aluminium recycling.
- In recycling paper and cardboard SA can improve. Greenhouse benefits per 1000 people at 38 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e puts it well behind the all States average of 57t and less than half of the leader Victoria.

### NATIONAL BENEFITS

#### Economic Benefit

- Recycling industry has turnover of \$11.5 billion, contributing 1.2 % to Australia’s GDP and has capital investment of over \$6 billion
- Employs 10,900 people and indirectly employs another 27,700
- Direct and indirect economic benefits of an estimated \$55 billion

#### Environmental Benefit

- Total greenhouse benefit of over 8.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, with the emissions avoided effectively taking 1.8 million cars off the road.
- Recycling emissions abatement is greater than the average annual emission abatement achievements across all sectors throughout Australia reported from the base year of 1990 to 2005 (Australian Greenhouse Office)
- Aluminium recycling effectively takes more than 1 million cars off the road.

#### Energy Saving

- Total energy saving through recycling equivalent to annual electricity consumption in 2.1 million households

## **Water Saving**

- Water savings associated with recycling activities estimated at 90 Gigalitres – or 37,000 olympic-sized pools each year
- Aluminium recycling activity offsets the use of around 30,000 Olympic pools.

## **Resource Conservation**

- Reprocessing of “second-hand” paper and cardboard saves the equivalent of 3 million trees.
- Recycling saves around 365,000 tonnes of sand, 4 million tonnes of iron ore and 1.6 million tonnes of bauxite
- Recycling plastics saves the equivalent of 430,000 barrels of oil for PET and 650,000 barrels for HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)

## **Social Benefit**

- Recycling provides employment, quality of life and contributes to biodiversity and a sustainable future

## **Background Notes**

- Study was commissioned by Australian Council of Recyclers and jointly funded by Federal Department of Environment and Water and conducted by Hyder Consulting and based on calendar 2006 figures.
- Greenhouse benefits calculated using Life Cycle Assessment allowing “cradle to grave” assessment.
- The majority of recycling comes from the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) and Construction and Demolition (C & D) waste streams
- Basis for emissions abatement expressed in average family cars taken off the road assumes 8km a litre of petrol and 15000 km a year
- Energy saving expressed in households assumes average household usage of 20 Gigajoules and transmission losses of 78.8 percent
- Water savings based on 2.5 million litres required to fill an Olympic pool.
- Saving of trees based on fibre mass equivalent and 100 percent of the tree being used.
- Resource savings in plastics are based on tonne of oil equivalent (then converted to barrels of oil)

## **TABLES FOLLOW**

## Australian Recycling Values – A Net Benefits Study – July 2008

### Energy Saving by State and Population

State	Total Average annual HH electricity consumption	Total energy savings (TJ /1,000 pop)	Ranking
NSW	673,870	9.19	5
Vic	655,403	11.81	1
Qld	339,517	7.59	8
<b>SA</b>	<b>188,572</b>	<b>11.20</b>	<b>2</b>
WA	175,085	7.77	7
Tas	50,784	9.68	4
NT	19,192	8.34	6
ACT	35,363	9.81	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,137,786</b>	<b>9.54</b>	

### Water Savings by State and Population

State	Total	(ML / 1000 population).	Ranking
NSW	28,386	14.10	6
Vic	29,775	5.68	1
Qld	12,989	3.07	8
<b>SA</b>	<b>7,055</b>	<b>4.43</b>	<b>4</b>
WA	8,618	4.04	7
Tas	2,338	4.72	2
NT	946	4.35	5
ACT	1,515	4.45	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>91,622</b>	<b>4.33</b>	-

### Resource Conservation

Material	Raw material	Tonnes
Paper/ cardboard	Trees / wood	2,992,212
Glass	Sand	364,670
Ferrous	Iron ore	4,153,948
Aluminium	Bauxite	1,555,134
PET	Oil	60,548
HDPE	Oil	91,129
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,852,971</b>

### Greenhouse Gas Savings By Material

Material Type	Total greenhouse gas savings (t CO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr)	Average cars taken off the road
Paper/ Cardboard	1,215,448	249,323
Glass	524,064	107,500
Ferrous	2,107,031	432,211
Aluminium	4,933,503	1,011,967
PET	40,808	8,371
HDPE	22,164	4,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,843,019</b>	<b>1,813,919</b>



