



### MEDIA RELEASE

## **EXCELLENT TRIFECTA OF PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP REFORMS WELCOME – AND NOW LET’S GO FURTHER AND FASTER**

The Federal Government’s announced changes to product stewardship are super welcome and provide a strong basis for keeping material out of landfill and in the productive economy, according to the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), the peak body for companies who recycle materials such as e-waste, tyres, batteries, oil, beverage containers and others subject to product stewardship.

Pete Shmigel, ACOR CEO, said: “For greater success in Australia, product stewardship needs three things: increased seed funding, a policy with clear processes and consequences for companies, and Ministerial leadership at the national level. By announcing \$20 million to build new or improve current product stewardship initiatives, by accepting all the recommendations of the review of the Product Stewardship Act, and by taking direct ownership, Ministers Ley and Evans have landed an excellent trifecta.

“Particularly handy features of the reform are: improving the current television and computer recycling scheme; extending product stewardship requirements to all items with a cord or battery; enabling product stewardship over a material stream; improving the Minister’s priority list to better call out free-riders and poor actors, and establishing a Centre for Excellence.

“ACOR looks forward to these measures being enabled in upcoming legislation. While we anticipate and welcome improvements in the Priority List system for product stewardship, we believe there is an opportunity to go further and be more decisive. Namely, the Minister should have unambiguous and specific power to order a company, supply chain or material stream to produce a Product Stewardship Plan. This would provide a very clear focus and accountability for driving improved recycling and better design for the environment forward.

“For example, efforts to improve plastics recycling, including the target of 70% for plastic packaging, could be enshrined in a binding Product Stewardship Plan.

“Our Ministers are fully committed to make change in this important area, and that is largely unprecedented and very laudable. Let’s make sure that they have the specific power to meet their goals,” Shmigel said.

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