



Media Release

**RECYCLING IN THE BUSH:  
GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PM AND DEPUTY PM**

During their tour of drought-impacted districts, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack have a great opportunity to consider recycling's benefits for the bush and drought resilience.

"Recycling has a good base in regional Australia, and it can be further grown for more jobs and economic value in country areas. It's one of the readily accessible ways to diversify regional economies and make them more resilient against droughts and global market forces," Pete Shmigel, CEO of the Australian Council of Recycling said.

"Our industry already has a good place in the bush including lube oil recycling, battery recycling, tyre recycling, industrial plastics recycling, and consumer packaging recycling in country centres. That's largely been achieved through hard work and private initiative. With the right policy support and one-off investment, as independent assessment has shown, there can be up to 500 more jobs in places like country towns that really need them," Shmigel said.

"The answer to the 'China recycling crisis' can be in our own bush by doing things like sorting and remanufacturing recycle in regional Australia.

"We can even go fully circular with aspects like taking used plastic silage and putting it into agricultural irrigation pipes.

Or, we can recover material necessarily headed to landfill for micro-generation of affordable energy in country areas.

Or, we can use waste plastics and glass that can't go back into bottles as part of asphalt in government-funded road projects. Roads are the biggest asset in country areas and they can be recycled content rather than virgin resources at competitive cost and quality - if governments positively procure for that.

"Using recycled content materials in the Snowy 2.0 scheme alone would massively contribute to more jobs here and delivering on the community's strong expectation that the material they put out is recycled here," Shmigel said.

ACOR members with operations in regional areas include Southern Oil Refinery and Kurrajong Recycling in the Deputy Prime Minister's electorate, as well as companies like Re-Group, Visy, Envirostream, Tomra, SIMS Metal Management, ResourceCo, O-I and Downer Group.

To address the 'China crisis' and reboot recycling in Australia, ACOR has called on governments to make a one-off \$150m investment in better sorting, increased reprocessing, community education and government procurement of recycled content product.

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