



MEDIA RELEASE

BIG BUCKS FOR RECYCLING: 'BONZA' ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY

EMBARGOED UNTIL JULY 6

Today's announcement by the Commonwealth Government of investment in resource recovery infrastructure is a massive milestone for recycling, according to the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), the national peak body for the \$1.5 billion industry which employs 50,000 Australians.

"The environmental and jobs benefits of recycling will be turbo-charged by the Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) commitments made today. This bonza and unprecedented investment will transform Australian recycling and help make it domestically sustainable. RMF builds on our industry's own innovation and investment in making more recycled content products and generating hi-vis regional jobs right here in Australia," Pete Shmigel, ACOR CEO, said.

According to ACOR, the RMF is bonza and unprecedented in several ways:

- Scale of investment – whereas around a combined \$100m was spent last year by all constituencies on recycling infrastructure;
- The joint participation of the Commonwealth, States/Territories and industry on a mutual investment basis – whereas past policy has been highly fragmented;
- Emphasis on 'pulling' new products, including for plastics – rather than 'pushing' through collection of material from Australia's homes and businesses, and;
- Meets the investment target that ACOR has been calling for since early 2018.

"Full marks to Ministers, especially Commonwealth Ministers, in going where recycling policy has not gone before: real recognition of recycling's benefits, real coordination, real money, and now real results," Shmigel said.

"The next key step for the transformation of Australian recycling and to meet Australians' expectation that their efforts stack up is 'buying recycled' by Governments, corporations and the community. More recycling factories only make sense when there is demand for their recycled content products, such roads and packaging," Shmigel said.

"Lighthouse projects using recycled content materials are needed so that the community can see the positive results of their on-going participation. With ambitious National Waste Policy targets only 4 years away, it's time Governments further put money – such as from \$1.5 billion collected from the community in landfill levies - where their mouths are in that respect too," Shmigel said.

An independent 2019 analysis commissioned by ACOR found that Australia's soft plastics recycling rate would be doubled by using secondary plastics (like shopping bags and tray film) instead of virgin hydrocarbons in road building in two current road projects per State/Territory.

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