



### MEDIA RELEASE

## **NATIONAL PLASTICS PLAN WELCOMED BY INDUSTRY, MORE DEVELOPMENT OF END MARKETS NEEDED**

Today's announcement of a National Plastics Plan by the Commonwealth Government sets ambitious recycling and resource recovery goals and has been welcomed by the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), the national peak body for the \$1.5 billion industry which employs 50,000 Australians.

Last year, ACOR convened a Plastics Recycling Roundtable with industry and a goal to produce a practical and achievable Plastics Recycling Roadmap to represent the recycling supply chain and identify recycling priorities to the Commonwealth Government. The roundtable process provided a practical, real-world approach to achieving plastics recycling results over the near-term.

Key priority areas of the National Plastics Plan include:

- Increasing innovations and incentives to boost plastics recycling activity and performance, including a Plastics Design Summit to focus on sustainable design.
- More targeted initiatives for specific plastic polymer types including support for industry to transition towards higher-value, easily recyclable plastics such as PET, HDPE, LDPE and PP.
- Interventions that add value and keep plastics circulating in the economy.
- Increased product stewardship solutions for difficult to recycle plastics.

“We commend the Morrison Government on its commitment to plastics recycling. This National Plastics Plan is a welcome outcome from last year's National Plastics Summit, and will directly contribute to achieving some of the plastics targets of the National Waste Policy Action Plan, while also creating new job opportunities,” Cameron O'Reilly, ACOR CEO, said.

“Minister Sussan Ley and Assistant Minister Trevor Evans must be particularly commended for their exemplary work pulling this plan together and their ongoing consultation with the plastics recycling industry,” he said.

“The government has an incredible opportunity here to align this Plastic Plan with its Modern Manufacturing Strategy which identified recycling as one of six national manufacturing priorities. The success of both initiatives will come down to the strength of the domestic and international markets for Australian manufactured recycled plastic products,” he said.

“The Commonwealth Government can show its commitment to supporting resilient end markets with ‘Lighthouse projects’ - major, publicly-procured infrastructure projects built using Australian recycled plastic content.

“Commonwealth and state governments’ procurement policies continue to hold back end market development. Safe and reliable products already exist using recycled plastic that could be used across a range of major building and infrastructure projects, yet procurement specifications remain in place that do not allow for their use,” he said.

“Many governments have shown tremendous initiative in supporting recycling innovations, and now we need them to lead by example and use these cutting edge recycled plastic products in major infrastructure projects.

“Lighthouse projects allow the community to see the positive results of their on-going participation in recycling, allow corporations and agencies to gain the confidence to use more recycled products, and gives our industry the confidence to explore new innovations knowing there is a resilient recycled plastics end market,” he said.

“The National Plastics Plan provides a realistic and necessary suite of measures and interventions that can deliver cleaner streams of material while also building the demand for recycled plastics at scale.”

**For more information: Cameron O’Reilly, ACOR CEO, 0413 150 560  
March 4, 2021**