



MEDIA RELEASE

QUEENSLAND RECYCLING STRATEGY A WINNER; NOW FOR CHICKEN DINNER

The Queensland Government's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy released yesterday is the most innovative recycling "to do list" in Australia, and now the "doing" is critically important, according to the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), the peak body for the nation's resource recovery sector. According to ACOR CEO Pete Shmigel:

"Queensland has set a new and very welcome high standard with its Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy. The Palaszczuk Government has truly recognised the combined environmental and economic benefits of optimised resource recovery and a circular economy. That is a credit to the real leadership of the Government, Minister Leeanne Enoch, and public sector agencies.

"The strategy, its Resource Recovery Industry Road Map, and new infrastructure funding go well beyond simply diverting material from landfill to fostering a real future-facing industry. It's about high-quality, high-viz jobs based on demand for recycled content products, as much as it is about trucks and tonnes. That is a great shift in approach.

"ACOR also welcomes the new levy arrangements for contaminated residuals from legitimate recycling and remanufacturing operations as an important incentive for continued industry investment in Queensland. To avoid unintended consequences, other States need to pursue parity in their levy approaches, including not punishing quality recyclers and recycled content product makers who are trying to add value and create jobs.

"But it's one thing to win Origin on paper, and another thing to win it on the paddock. Critical implementation jobs for the Government include:

- Ensuring new waste levy is effective in curtailing inter-State movement of waste, including through strong cross-border coordination, monitoring, measurement and disclosure;
- Establishing further targets for State and local government for procurement of recycled content products, including recycle from households in roads, and resource recovery outcomes at major State infrastructure projects;
- Having full disclosure, accountability and regular reporting about results – whether about waste movements, grant programs or from governance arrangements for container refund system;
- Using newly available resources to improve regulatory performance by agencies so there's a level playing field for operators and better outcomes for consumers;
- Making sure that kerbside recycling and container refund systems work in a complementary way and that potential efficiencies are implemented.

"The community and stakeholders are right to expect results from the new Strategy and the new levy – whether its reinvestment in recycling or pursuing the proximity principle when it comes to waste management. We look forward to working with the Queensland Government to deliver on the Strategy's huge potential."

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July 2, 2019