



For Immediate Release

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ACOR and Boomerang Alliance announce the 5 Big Waste Policies for Federal Election

The Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) and national recycling campaign group, the Boomerang Alliance, have today released their 5 priority actions the next Commonwealth Government needs to implement to solve Australia's waste and recycling crisis.

"Talk is cheap and that's largely all we have so far seen while delay is prohibitively expensive for the environment, business, local councils and the community", the groups said.

"With Asian markets for recyclable materials from Australia closing down and local governments confronted with potentially sending their kerbside recycling to landfill, it's time to recognise that the system Australians value is greatly under threat. The National Waste Policy (NWP), recently agreed upon with all States, tries to set out an agenda for the future, but its aims cannot be achieved without investment and policy support," said Peter Shmigel, CEO of ACOR.

"At the same time the world is facing a plastic pollution epidemic caused by plastic wastes that can't be reused, composted or recycled. Australia must play its part in breaking that excessive plastic habit," said Jeff Angel, Director of the Boomerang Alliance of 48 groups.

"Without concerted and effective action, Australia is set to go back 50 years to the days when waste was dumped or burned and the only things recycled were the bottles collected for a refund," said Angel.

The two organisations are calling on all political parties to support five key measures.

The 5 Big Policies for the next Commonwealth Government:

- \$150 million investment in a **National Recycling Industry Development Fund** along with clean energy funds to build a domestic recycling industry and create 500 new jobs and attack climate change
- **Tax incentives for a business and industry 'Buy Recycled'** program to meet a 30% average recycled content of products by 2025
- **Strengthen the Product Stewardship Act** on imported packaging and to meet packaging targets of 70% composted or recycled by 2025
- Adopt a **Plastic Pollution Reduction Strategy** within 6 months of Government to address escalating plastic waste problems in industry, agriculture and community sectors and in the terrestrial and marine environment
- Develop new **national data metrics on waste and litter** to accurate record waste, litter and resource recovery statistics and recognise the broad social, environmental and economic benefits of resource recovery.

For more information:

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