



Media Release

VICS TAKE A FLYING RECYCLING MARK

The Victorian Government's "Recycling Industry Strategic Plan" shows leadership and delivers needed certainty in uncertain times, according to national peak body, the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR).

"The lesson for all from the China Sword situation is that we need to pivot to a secure, self-reliant system of domestic recycling. This package is a positive shot in the arm," Pete Shmigel, ACOR CEO, said.

"It's particularly timely amid fresh reports of further restrictions by China - and the flow-on effects throughout Asian markets - by 2020. We now have a real deadline to future-proof and grow Australian recycling's 50,000 jobs and \$20 billion of value.

"When industry knows it has public policy support and clear rules, such as that delivered by Minister D'Ambrosio's package, it is more confident about private investment, such as in better and additional reprocessing technology in Victoria. ACOR is pleased that it's counsel has been picked up on.

"ACOR especially applauds the package's measures to 'buy recycled' by Government. Closing the loop means opening up jobs and business growth, and this commitment to recycled content should be mirrored by more members of the packaging supply chain too, a move the community strongly supports.

"Support for better equipment and for education to decontaminate recyclate - along the lines of Project Yellow initiated by ACOR - are also very appropriate and welcome.

"It's all about getting better supply and greater demand and that means 'big thumbs up' for the Vic's, the Minister and her team.

"Where more work is now needed is in promoting better contractual and performance standards for kerbside recycling. That means there needs to be real recognition of the value of a key community and environmental service – not just a reliance on commodity prices - and real management of the mutual risks," Shmigel said.

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ACOR is the national peak body for the recycling sector with member companies operating across the spectrum of recycling activities of: recyclate collection, sorting, reprocessing and recycled content product manufacturing; recycling supply chains in the municipal, commercial & industrial, and construction & demolition spheres, and; recyclate streams from domestic kerbside materials to e-waste materials.