



Recycling Industry Welcomes COAG Announcement: Deeds & Dollars Must Match Discussions

ACOR has long advocated greater domestic sustainability for Australian recycling. Today's COAG announcement is aligned with that goal and follows industry's own massive efforts and investment over many decades to establish a \$15 billion sector with 50,000 jobs.

ACOR strongly notes the leadership commitment by COAG to 'building Australia's capacity to generate high value recycled commodities and associated demand' and 'maximising the capability of our waste management and recycling sector to collect, recycle, reuse, convert and recover waste'.

Pete Shmigel, ACOR CEO, said: *"The only route to COAG's vision of recycling sovereignty and security is Governments now matching very big deeds and dollars to their discussions. This great leadership by COAG must be followed by great investment."*

"As part of the Environment Ministers' upcoming plan, that means: major scale support for reprocessing and remanufacturing infrastructure; unprecedented public sector purchasing of recycled content products and other bold incentives for domestic use of recyclate, such as tax credits for manufacturers, and; removal of ridiculous regulatory barriers and indeed proposed bans for recycled content products in some States."

"It is perverse to punish recycled content products when COAG has set this goal."

"Moreover, the \$1.5 billion per year collected by the States in waste disposal levies must now be more adequately redirected from consolidated revenue where it was not intended to go. And, levy fees must be harmonised across jurisdictions at appropriate levels."

At the same time, material export bans must be implemented over a clear timetable with consultation and care to avoid unintended consequences. If there are no new and sustainable markets established for the 4.5m tonnes of currently exported material, there will only be the option of domestic disposal - which is highly undesirable."

Equally, it would be counter to the decision to ban the overseas sale of stock where product value has been added by Australian industry and there are good environmental outcomes."

However, If 4.5m tonnes can be integrated into a domestic circular economy, it can generate an additional 5000 recycling jobs or a growth of some 10% on current employment figures, and that would be an awesome environmental and economic outcome."

ACOR notes that Ministers must also remain open to alternative waste treatment and waste to energy where Australia only uses some 2% of its waste which is massively below EU countries who also have much higher recycling rates.

**For more information: Pete Shmigel 0419 541 531
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