

This Week in Recycling Reforms

Key Announcement	Funding	What it means
Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF)	\$190 million	The Federal Government has committed \$190 million to a new Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) with Commonwealth funding contingent on co-funding from industry, states and territories. The RMF will support innovative investment in new infrastructure to sort, process and remanufacture materials such as mixed plastic, paper, tyres and glass. The fund aims to generate \$600 million of recycling investment and drive a billion-dollar transformation of Australia's waste and recycling capacity. Further details available here .
Product Stewardship Investment Fund	\$20 million	The Federal Government has launched a new \$20 million Product Stewardship Investment Fund to ensure manufacturers, retailers and industry groups take greater responsibility for the entire lifecycle of the products they produce and sell. Grants of up to \$1 million will be available for individual applicants to expand existing schemes or develop new ones, with first-round applications opened on July 9. Further details can be found here .
Review of the <i>Product Stewardship Act 011</i>	None	The Federal Government has released the Review of the Product Stewardship Act 2011 , supporting all 26 recommendations to improve product stewardship outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a new Centre of Excellence to mentor and drive best practice product stewardship schemes across the nation • broadening the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme to include all electrical and electronic products (e-waste), so that all consumer products with a plug or battery can be recycled

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● shifting the emphasis from stand-alone products to entire material streams ● reducing the costs and improving the benefits of scheme accreditation so consumers have confidence in their recycling ● strengthening the Minister's priority products list to encourage brands to work together towards an industry-led scheme by adding clear timeframes ● calling out those letting consumers and their industry down by not participating in a scheme.
New Commonwealth commitments under Australia's National Waste Policy Action Plan	\$35 million	This new funding was announced by the Federal Government to support the implementation of the Commonwealth commitments under Australia's National Waste Policy Action Plan, which sets the direction for waste management and recycling in Australia until 2030.
New commitments to improve national waste data	\$24.6 million	The Federal Government has made a new commitment to improve Australia's national waste data so it can measure recycling outcomes and better track progress against the national waste targets.
New Commonwealth waste legislation	None	This relates to the introduction of new Commonwealth waste legislation to formally enact the Government's waste export ban and encourage companies to take greater responsibility for product stewardship. This draft legislation is currently being consulted about on limited basis, including with ACOR, for a fast introduction to Parliament. Companies also face being named and shamed, under these proposed changes.