

# MEMBER FORUM

## **Batteries in Focus:**

# **Advancing Safety, Recycling, and Responsible Stewardship**

**March 5, 2025**

sircel



# Acknowledgement of Country

*Today we are meeting in Naarm (Melbourne), the land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin. Our work stretches right across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country of all these places, and on the land that we work throughout Australia and Aotearoa.*

*We pay our respect and thanks for their ongoing care for country and leadership.*

*We engage and collaborate with indigenous communities around Australia and Aotearoa, working in partnership at some of the remotest locations to provide access to e-stewardship services.*



# Welcome



# Agenda today

12:30 pm	Introduction and Housekeeping	Carla Vasconi, CEO, ANZRP
12:35pm	An update from ANZRP	Anne Stonier, CMCPO, ANZRP
12:45pm	The battery recycling landscape in Australia	Anthony Karam, Sircel Limited
1:00pm	The proposed design for B-cycle 2.0	Libby Chaplin, Battery Stewardship Council
1:15pm	The NSW Government's commitment to mandatory product stewardship for batteries	Phoebe Ashe, NSW Environmental Protection Authority
1:35pm	Panel discussion	Facilitated by Janet Leslie, ANZRP
1:55pm	Closing	Anne Stonier, ANZRP



# Housekeeping

- This session will be recorded
- You can ask questions through the chat or Q&A function
- If we are unable to answer your question during the Forum due to time constraints, we will revert to you post event
- During and after the event – we will provide a link and QR code to the feedback form and will send a copy of the presentation to participants

## Feedback Form



<https://survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/djBJoK>

# An update from ANZRP



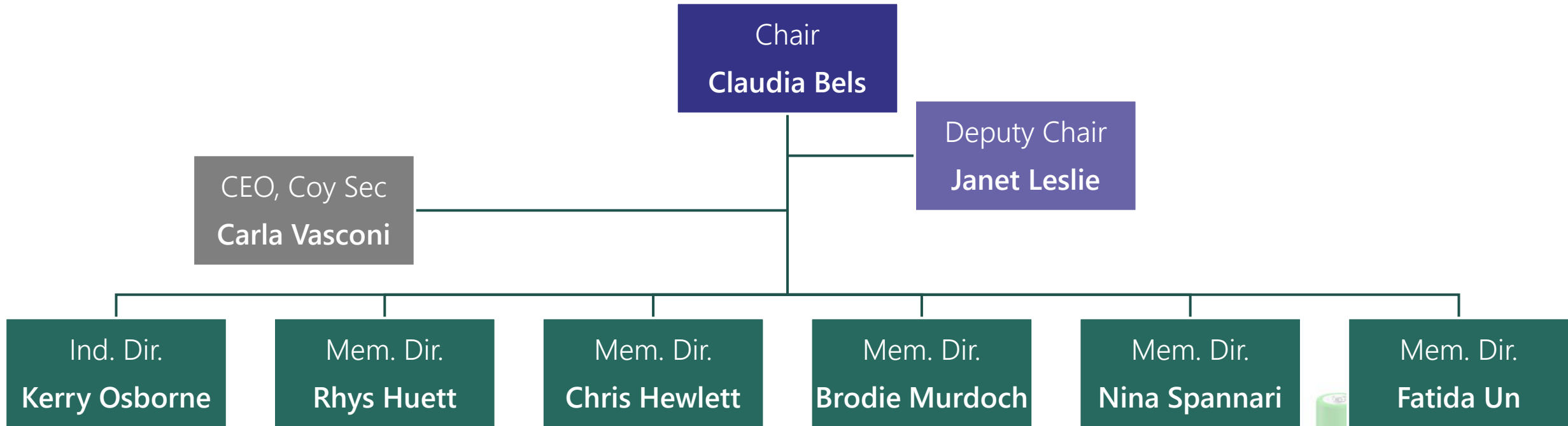
## **Anne Stonier**

Chief Marketing, Communications,  
and People Officer

Australia and New Zealand Recycling Platform



# People - New Board Members



- **Claudia Bels** appointed Chair in Nov '24
- **Fatida Un** joined the Board as a member Director in Nov '24
- **Janet Leslie** joined the Board as an independent Director in Jan '25
- **Carla Vasconi** appointed CEO in Feb '25



# Our People

## Executive Changes

- Carla Vasconi appointed CEO

## Other Organisation changes

- Yvonne Terry – Finance Manager finished up on 24<sup>th</sup> February
- Thank you to Yvonne for 13 years of dedicated service to ANZRP
- Welcome Mike Griffith – CFO Advisor (part-time)
- Management Accountant – Recruitment underway
- Member Services now being managed by the marketing and stakeholder engagement function rather than finance.



**Carla Vasconi**  
CEO



**Mike Griffiths**  
CFO Advisor (part-time)



**Katie Webster**  
Member Engagement  
Coordinator



**Jan van de Graff**  
Advocacy and Strategic  
Communications Manager

# NTCRS Regulatory Targets and Recyclers

## RAWR Act Review

- DCCEEW released terms of reference for the statutory review of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (RaWR) Act in late January
- ANZRP attended DCCEEW workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Public consultation closed on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and ANZRP made a formal submission on relevant terms of reference following consultation with members.





# NTCRS Regulatory Targets and Recyclers

- Reasonable Access is at 99.5% for FY25 and expected to achieve in April 2025
- Recycling target for FY25 on track – with 52% achieved at mid year
- MRT – 84% achieved in FY24. Regulator still accepting 'best endeavours'
- Anticipate achieving the MRT of 89% in FY25 driven by higher plastic recycling rates.



# Other Key Activities

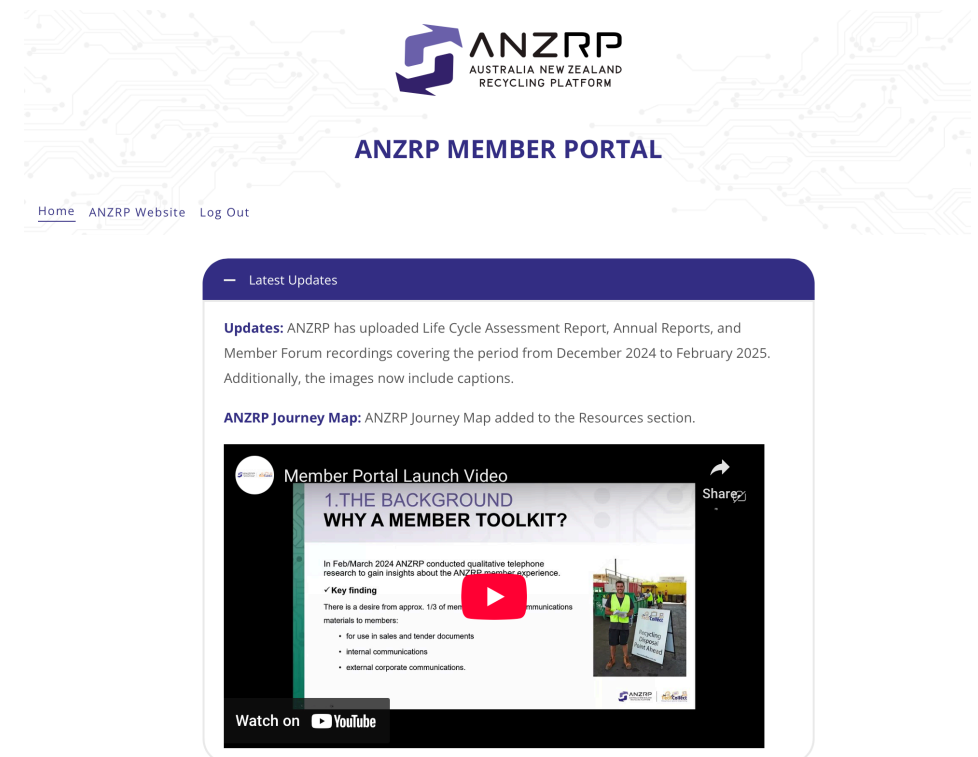
- Member annual meetings
- LifeCycle Assessment reports

## Potential environmental benefits of e-waste recycling in Australia FY24



Undertaken by Lifecycles for the Australian and New Zealand Recycling Platform (ANZRP)

- Member Portal Updates inc LifeCycle Assessment (LCA) reports, Member LCA Annual reports, Member Forum Recordings, ANZRP Journey Map, Image library
  - Go to SECTION 4





# Other Key Activities

- Reuse Position Paper in development
- CX/NPS Research 2025 underway 📞
- Initial SPREP training on Niue Island supported by ANZRP and the Recycling Group.





# Other Key Activities

- Business Clean Up Day – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025



# Moderator – Batteries in Focus Panel



**Janet Leslie**

Independent Director

Australia and New Zealand Recycling Platform





# The battery recycling landscape in Australia



**Anthony Karam**

Chief Executive Officer

Sircel Limited



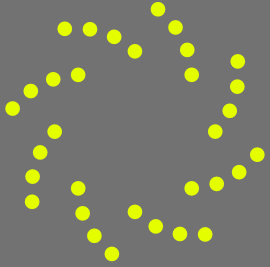


sircel

**ANZRP**

Working with batteries in an  
e-waste recycling facility

Anthony Karam, CEO



**Sircel is an Australian-owned and operated green tech company  
solving the global e-waste crisis with its world-leading, end-to-  
end, large-scale recycling process**


**Sircel's technology is modular, scalable and proven delivering  
best-in-class landfill diversion and commodity recovery rates**


# A growing operational footprint...

sircel



Sircel owns and operates sites across multiple locations in three eastern seaboard states with accredited partners in other states.

 Sircel-owned and operated site

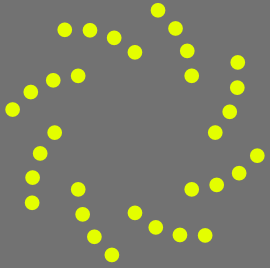
 Accredited downstream vendor

## And the thing that keeps up at night...

The risk of a battery fire:

1. At a client pick up location
2. In a truck – ours or a logistics partner
3. At one of our sites

It is one of the most significant risks we face, that is very hard for us to control...



Battery fires are a growing national crisis, with over 10,000 incidents annually across Australian waste and recycling facilities, causing significant risk to worker safety, facility damage and environmental harm.

ACOR and the broader recycling industry have consistently called for urgent action.

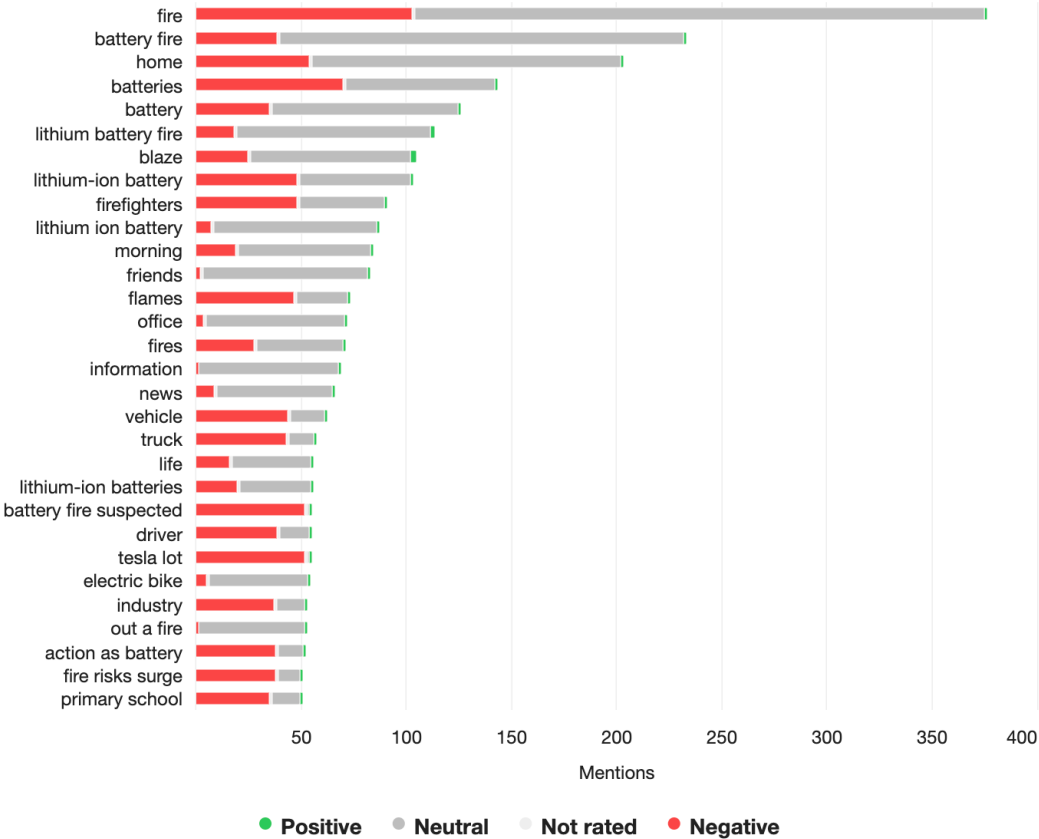
<https://www.sustainabilitymatters.net.au/content/sustainability/news/three-point-plan-to-fight-battery-related-fires-423396642#:~:text=Battery%20fires%20are%20a%20growing,consistently%20called%20for%20urgent%20action>



# Battery fires & the media...

## Top Keywords with Sentiment

Dec 19, 2024 - Feb 20



## Total Mentions

Dec 19, 2024 - Feb 20

1.13k ↑ 29%  
Previous Period 877

# What are the main issues?

Five main factors:

1. Safety of our staff, and yours
2. Ability to collaborate with our clients
3. Lack of confidence in compliance before receipt
4. The increased risk profile and \$\$\$
5. Impact on the community & environment

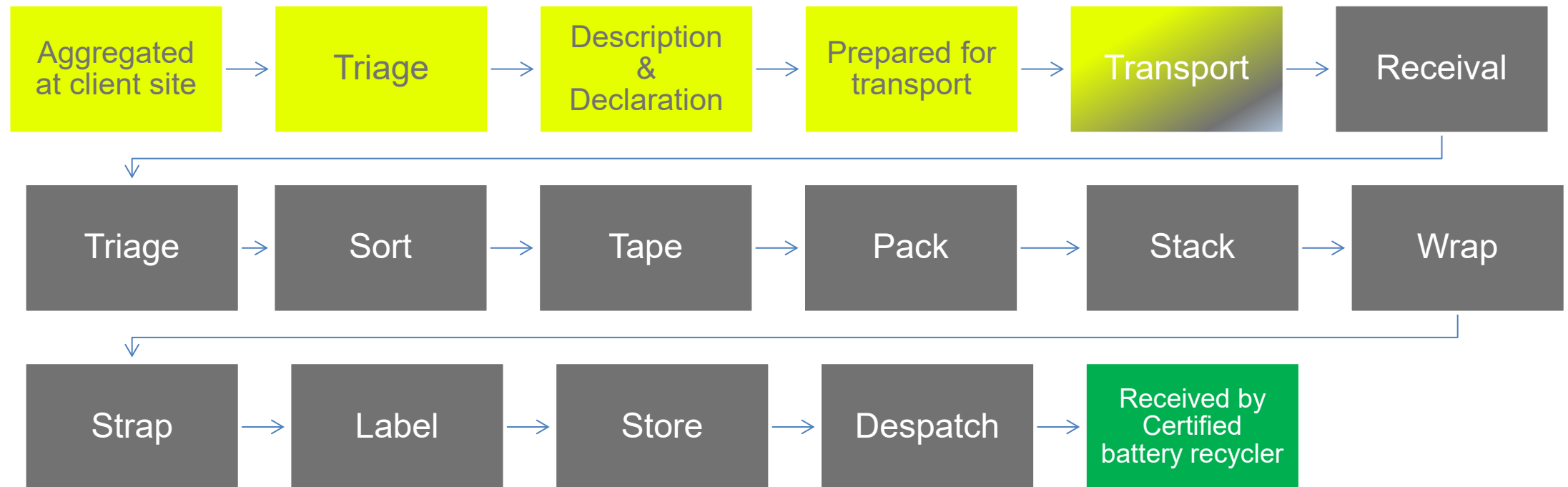
# 1. Safety of our people

Everyone has the right to be safe at work  
and to return home to their families and loved ones  
safely each and every day.

## 2. Collaboration

- Everyone knows batteries are a problem, but who's exactly?
- The costs associated with triage and handling are the responsibility of the manufacturer or customer who is providing us with the electronic waste

# Battery handling process – high level



### 3. Confidence in compliance

- Disconnect between procurement and implementation
- Comms and training materials co-developed
- Confidence in that training and compliance actually being delivered
- Trust that what is on the manifesto is accurate

## 4. The increased risk profile and \$\$\$

- Developing easy to use training material
- Education and training of staff (ours and customer teams) in the safe handling of batteries
- Compliance and knowledge in line with DG requirements
- Increased admin implementing customer declarations
- Investment in triage, packaging, storage infrastructure

## 5. Risk to community and environment

- Death
- Severe Injury
- Facility destroyed
- Facility damaged
- Environmental damage
- Reputational damage (facility and client potentially)

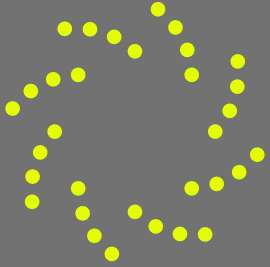


## Last word...

Embedded batteries that cannot be safely and easily removed must be legislated out of existence – design for re-use and dismantling is urgently needed.

Batteries need to be recycled not wasted - not just for safety reasons but also to tap into the reserve of critical minerals the world is demanding (and we can't afford to keep digging up...)

Let's work together to make better possible.



Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today.

Online  
[sircel.com](https://www.sircel.com)

GM – Brendon Wright  
[bwright@sircel.com](mailto:bwright@sircel.com)

CEO – Anthony Karam  
[akaram@sircel.com](mailto:akaram@sircel.com)

LinkedIn  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sircel-limited/>

# Q&A



**Anthony Karam**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sircel Limited



# The proposed design of B-cycle 2.0



**Libby Chaplin**

Chief Executive Officer

Battery Stewardship Council & B-cycle





**Battery**Stewardship**Council**



**ANZRP Member Forum**  
**Charging up battery  
stewardship with  
B-cycle 2.0**

**Libby Chaplin**  
**CEO, Battery Stewardship Council**

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



# Agenda

- 1** Why battery stewardship is important
- 2** BSC Mission and objectives
- 3** Regulatory reform
- 4** B-cycle progress report
- 5** B-cycle 2.0 Scheme design
- 6** How can we work together to support improved battery stewardship

# Why is Battery Stewardship important?

Future energy security



Key to emissions reduction



Exponential increase in battery sales



Changing technology & chemistries



Increased cost of doing business



Decrease in commodity values



Changed fire risk profile



Button Battery hazards



Stewardship is essential to address market failures

# Regulatory reform

- + BSC has been pro-actively advocating for national free rider regulation
- + EM Meetings in June & December
  - + State-based approach - beginning with NSW
  - + BSC has been working with state and territory jurisdictions to advocate for harmonised light regulation to minimise costs and maximise outcomes





# Regulatory reform

## Harmonised light regulation

Recycling and Waste Reduction  
(Product Stewardship – Batteries  
and Battery Products) Rules 2024

Reference: Draft Battery Rules 20240830.docx

- + Compel obligated parties to participate and fund market failure
- + 5yr plan addressing market failure
  - + Annual review to ensure funding is available to address market failure
    - + Forecast collection volumes
    - + CPI
    - + Market reality – informed by commodity prices etc.
- + Procedures for obligated parties with verification of outcomes
- + Annual reporting of outcomes
- + Independent audit of scheme

## 2023-24 year at a glance

716

Accredited participants



58



Importers

67



Retailers

10



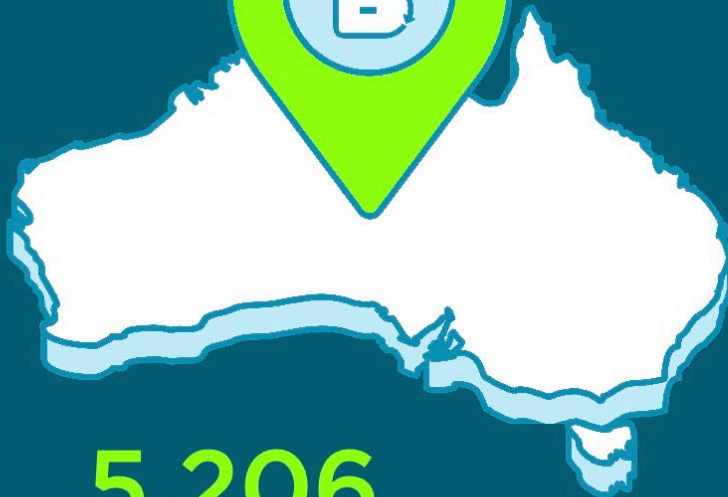
Collectors and Recyclers

636



Participants hosting  
accredited Drop off points

2,934,533 kg  
batteries collected



5,206

Drop off points across  
8 States and Territories

15.3%

Collection rate



Recovery rate

73%



90%

Loose battery  
market participation



60%

Power tool battery  
market participation



2%

E-bike market  
participation

Households  
reporting that they  
regularly  
recycle  
batteries

25%

2021

35%

2023

47%

2024



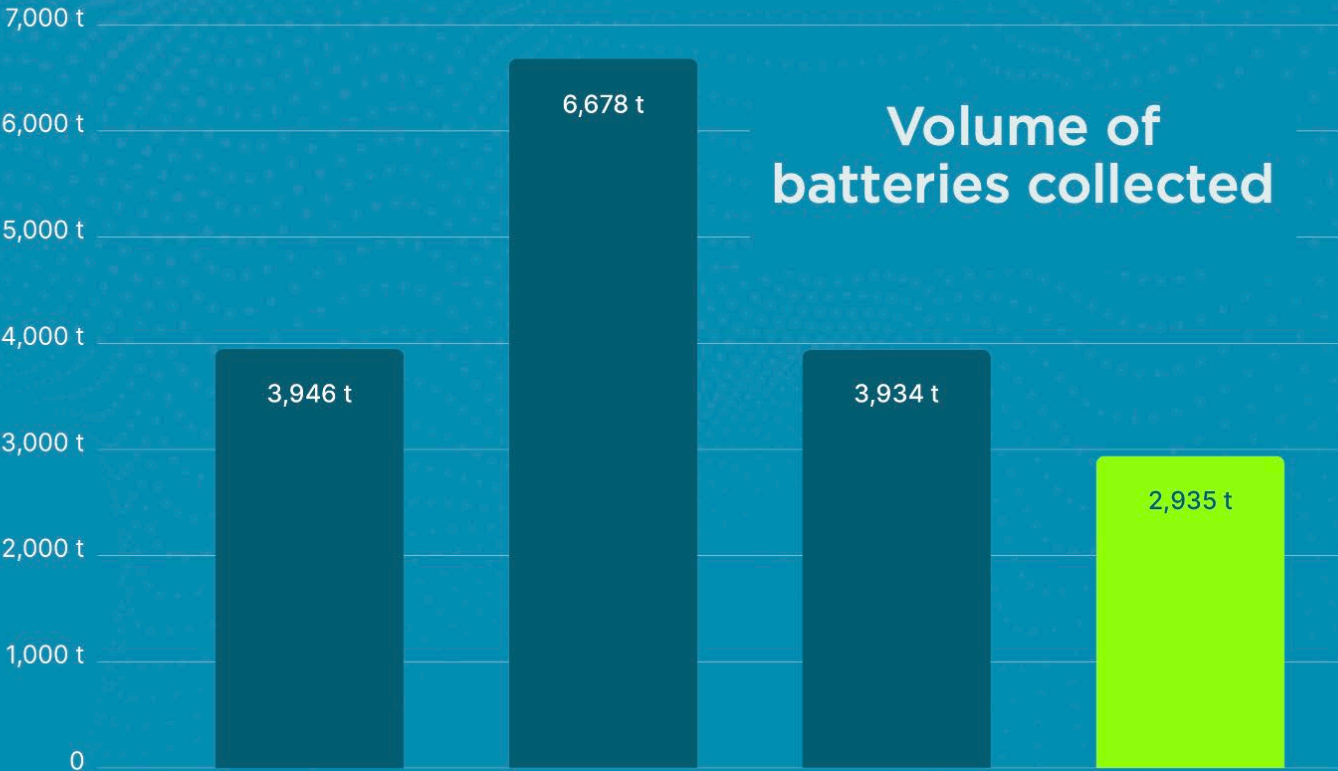
# International benchmarking (FY 2024)

## EU vs AU Collection Rate comparison at the end of second year of operation



PoM Collection Rate in  
Australia after 2 years of  
operation

PoM Collection Rate in  
European Countries after  
2 years of operation



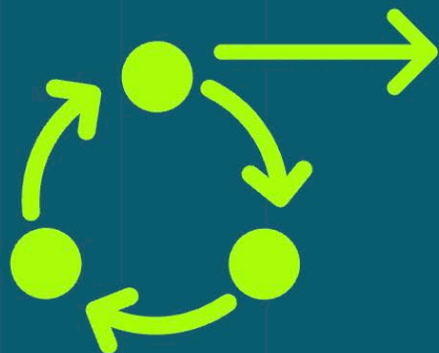
	USA	Canada	Belgium*	Australia
Scheme type	Largely unregulated	Regulated	Regulated	Voluntary
Years of operation	30 years	27 years	29 years	2 years

\*Belgium (Bebat) data is based on a calendar year. The collected volume shown here has been recalculated to align with the Australian fiscal year. Any data for 2024 is preliminary and subject to validation.

4



**B-cycle 2.0**





# Consultation feedback

## What B-cycle 2.0 needs to deliver

Address free riding to  
secure funding with a  
level playing field



Accelerate diversion,  
particularly of high-risk  
battery products



Change behaviour through  
marketing, education &  
incentives



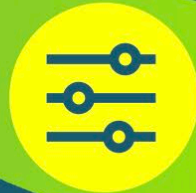
Cover the cost of collection  
& sorting operations &  
incentivise circularity



Ensure the design is sustainable  
and scalable as import and  
collection volumes change



Future proof for  
fluctuating market and  
changing technology



Ability to expand scope in  
response to change risk &  
government priorities



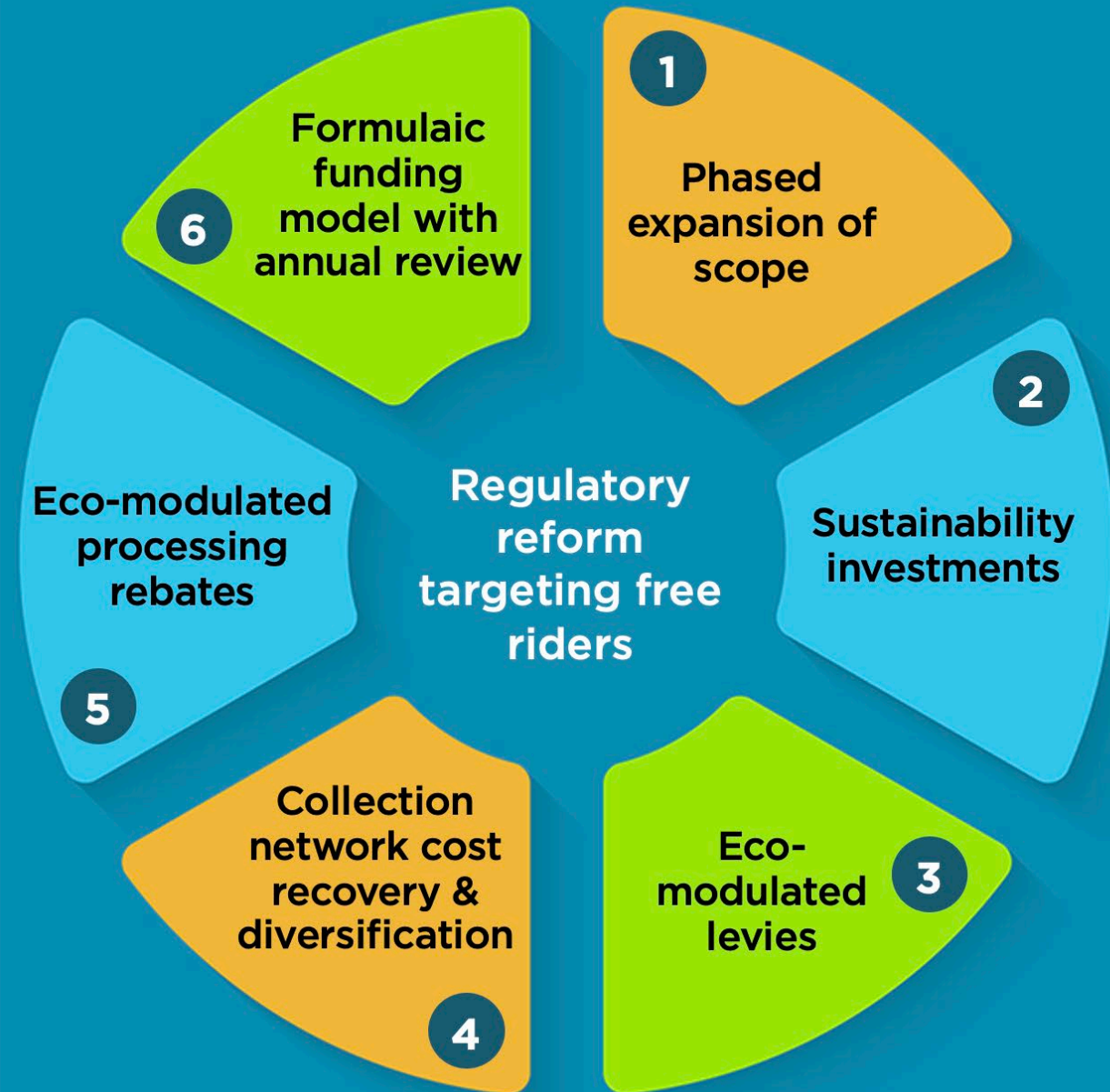
Comprehensively address  
fire risk & child safety



# B-cycle 2.0 Scheme Design

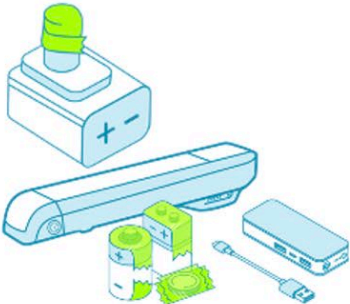
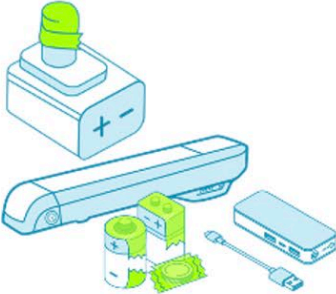
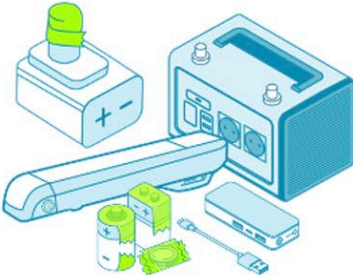
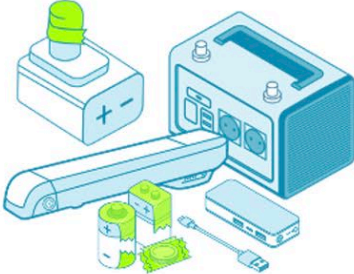

Scenarios have been developed to address stakeholder feedback

- + Designed to address feedback from participants and the broader industry
- + Regulation to prevent free riding and secure funding to solve the market failure
- + Ability to adapt to change
  - + Cover cost of forecast collections
  - + Ability to mitigate evolving risks
  - + Adapt to cost of economic fluctuations
    - + Imports
    - + Cost of living
    - + commodity prices

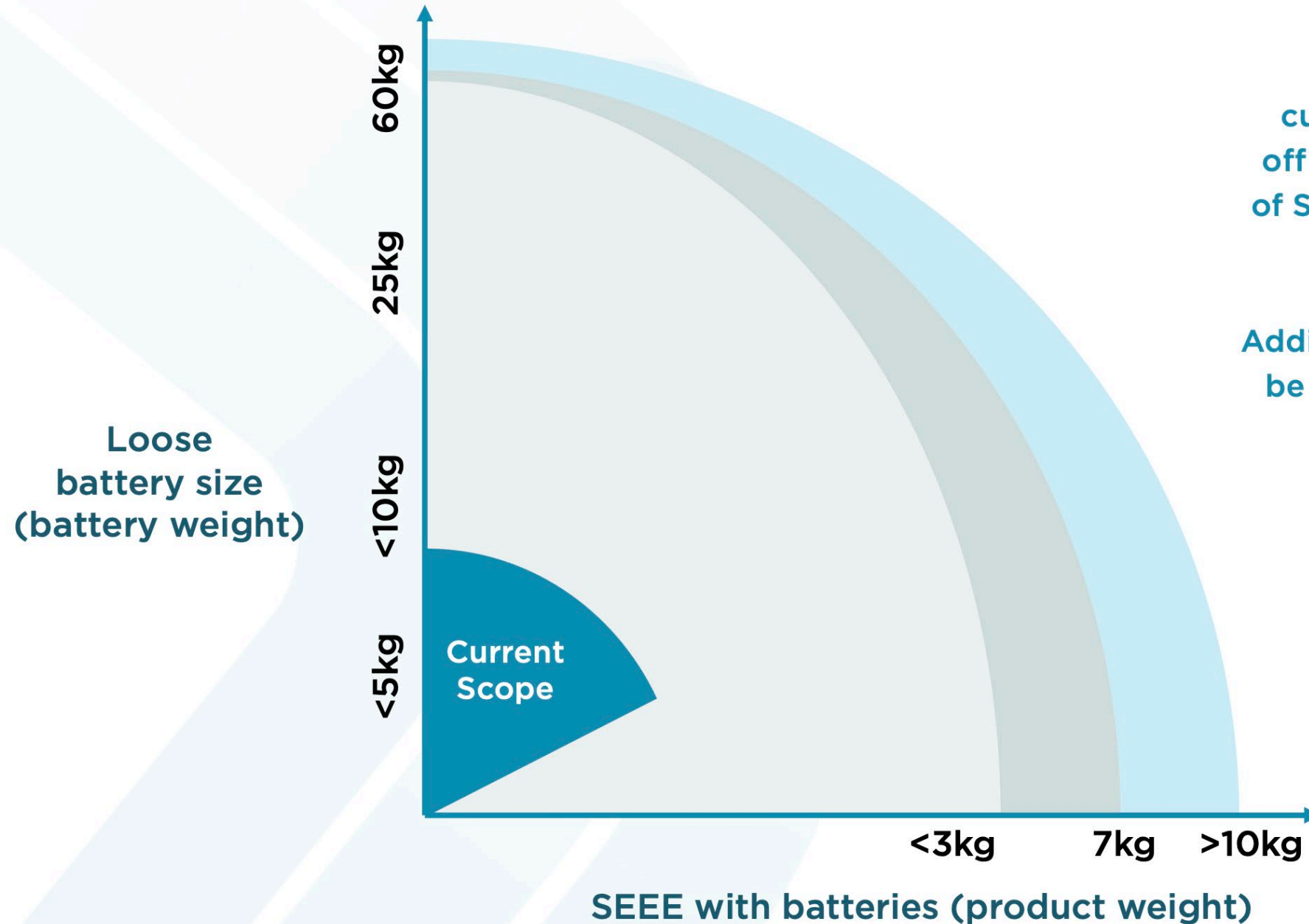




# Possible scenarios modelled for stewardship transformation

DEPENDENCIES	ACCC RE-AUTHORISATION	REGULATORY REFORM			
Scenario	1	2	3	4	5
	Sustaining the basics	Collector & recycler rebate stability	Guarding the foundations of our success	Major channel expansion & risk reduction	Transformational stewardship
	Current scope	Current scope	Current scope + <60kg	Same as Scenario 3 but with new elements to accelerate diversion and mitigate safety	Same as Scenario 4 + small electronics & electrical equipment with batteries & vapes
Scope					

# Potential scope



BSC has determined that the current network of 5,000+ Drop off points can accommodate 75% of Small Electronics and Electrical equipment with batteries<sup>1</sup>.

Additional channels would need to be developed for larger products

<sup>1</sup>.Building on BSC commissioned research and market analysis prepared by Paul Randall,



Leverage our networks to  
accelerate diversion of  
high-risk



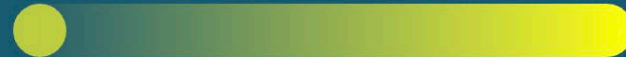
Import standards and  
product with Europe  
for quality & safety  
e.g. CE declarations



Sustainability Reporting



Comprehensively address  
product fire risk, reduce  
emissions & achieve  
circularity



**B-cycle  
& ANZRP  
collaboration**



Diverse and self-sustaining  
onshore recycling sector  
with improved transparency  
and recycler accountability



Advocate for light  
regulation that compels  
participation but allows  
schemes flexibility to adapt



Minimise duplication and  
ensure levy is only paid  
once on any one battery



Consistent messaging  
and education in the  
community and B2B





**Australian  
Government  
Accredited  
Product  
Stewardship  
Scheme**

# Thank you

**Battery  
Stewardship  
Council**



**B-cycle  
Battery  
Recycling**

# Q&A



**Libby Chaplin**

Chief Executive Officer

Battery Stewardship Council & B-cycle





# Feedback Form



<https://survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/djBJoK>



# Creating a circular economy for batteries



**Phoebe Ashe**

A/Director Circular Economy Policy

NSW Environment Protection Authority





# Product stewardship reforms for safer batteries

**Phoebe Ashe**

A/Director, Circular Economy Policy

5 March 2025





# Creating a circular system for batteries

- Role of batteries in the circular and net zero economy
- Challenges and risks
- Work to solve issues

Driven by our commitment to collaborating with you to get the best environmental outcomes.





# Environmental Stewardship

- We are focused on outcomes that lead to a healthy, sustainable and thriving society.
- Our work is guided by listening and empathy to bring outside ideas in.
- We are committed to collaboration in our approach to overcoming environmental challenges.





# Where we are currently

## Battery use and disposal

- Increase in battery-powered devices
- New battery applications & chemistries
- Period of growth for the battery market

Facing growing risks to human health and the environment, due to battery-related fires





## Kiama garbage truck fire forces dumping of burnt debris

20 January 2025 | Keeli Royle

Join the conversation



NSW Fire and Rescue crews extinguish the blaze that broke out on Monday morning. Photos: Kiama Municipal Council.

## Tonnes of organic waste to be diverted to landfill after fire at Cairns dump

### FOUR E-SCOOTER AND E-BIKE FIRES IN 12 HOURS ACROSS SYDNEY - SYDNEY

Published: 06 Feb 2025 02:49pm

## Fatal Lake Macquarie fire believed to be NSW's first recorded lithium-ion battery deaths

Fire and Rescue NSW believe battery went into 'thermal runaway', killing two of Teralba townhouse's occupants



# NSW Fair Trading

## Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 1997

- E-bikes, e-scooter, e-skateboards, hoverboards & lithium-ion batteries used to power them 'declared electrical articles'
- New safety standards commenced 1 February, and information standards from 19 February
- Regulation will help reduce the risks of electronic battery-related homes in NSW



# What we are doing

Creating policy across the whole battery supply chain

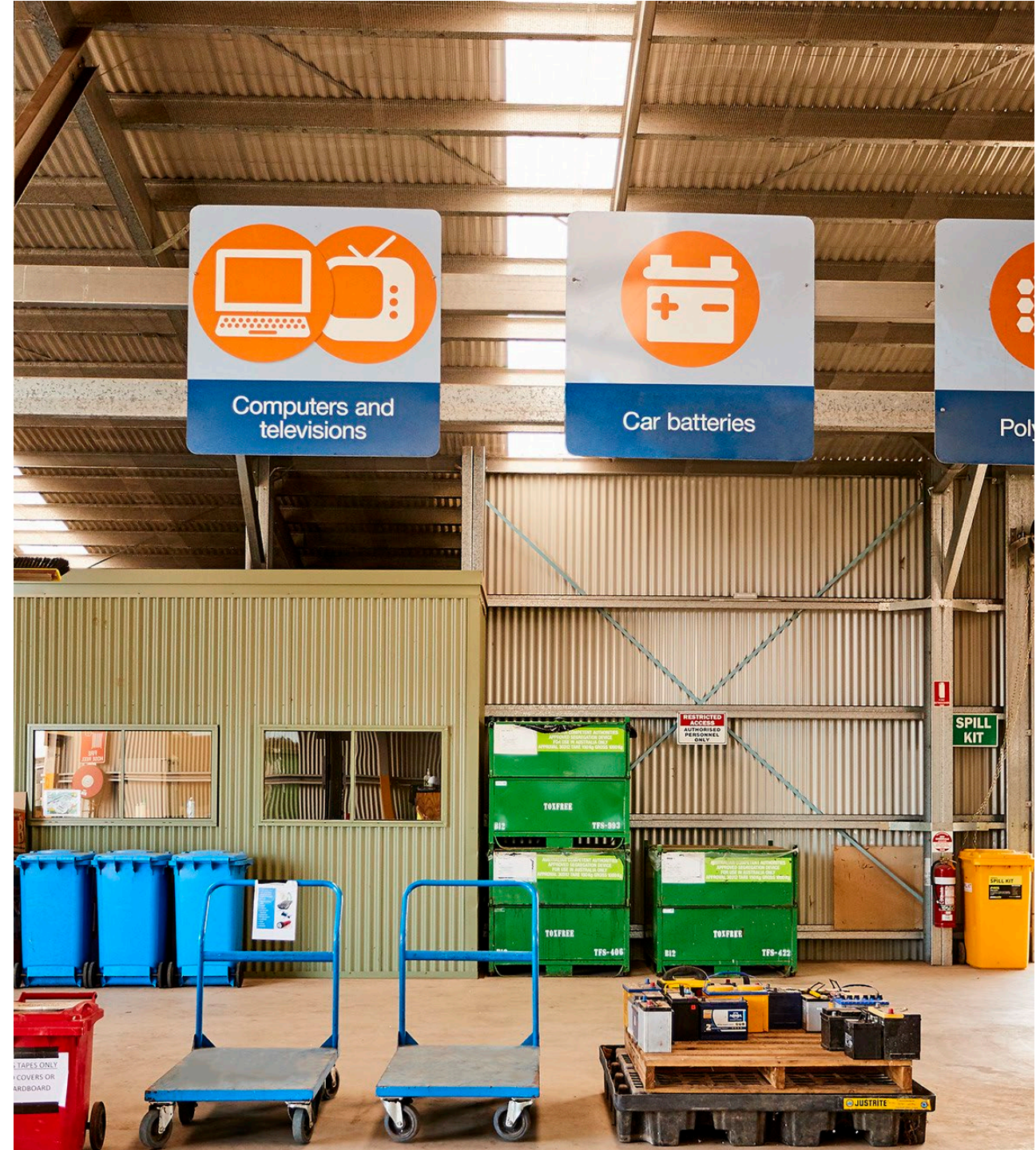
- Collecting & recycling batteries through Household Chemical CleanOut events and later at Community Recycling Centres
- Grant programs to support new investment in battery recycling infrastructure
- Safe Battery disposal public campaigns
- Compliance campaigns





# Community Recycling Centre Trial

- NSW has established a trial, in partnership with local councils, to accept products with embedded batteries for recycling at 21 Community Recycling Centres.
- The trial will collect information on:
  - the types and quantities of embedded battery products being thrown out
  - the collection and processing options for these products
  - the best ways to remind people of correct recycling habits.
- The trial will help to test and develop processing capacity for these products.





# Product Stewardship

Making producers responsible for their products when they reach end-of-life

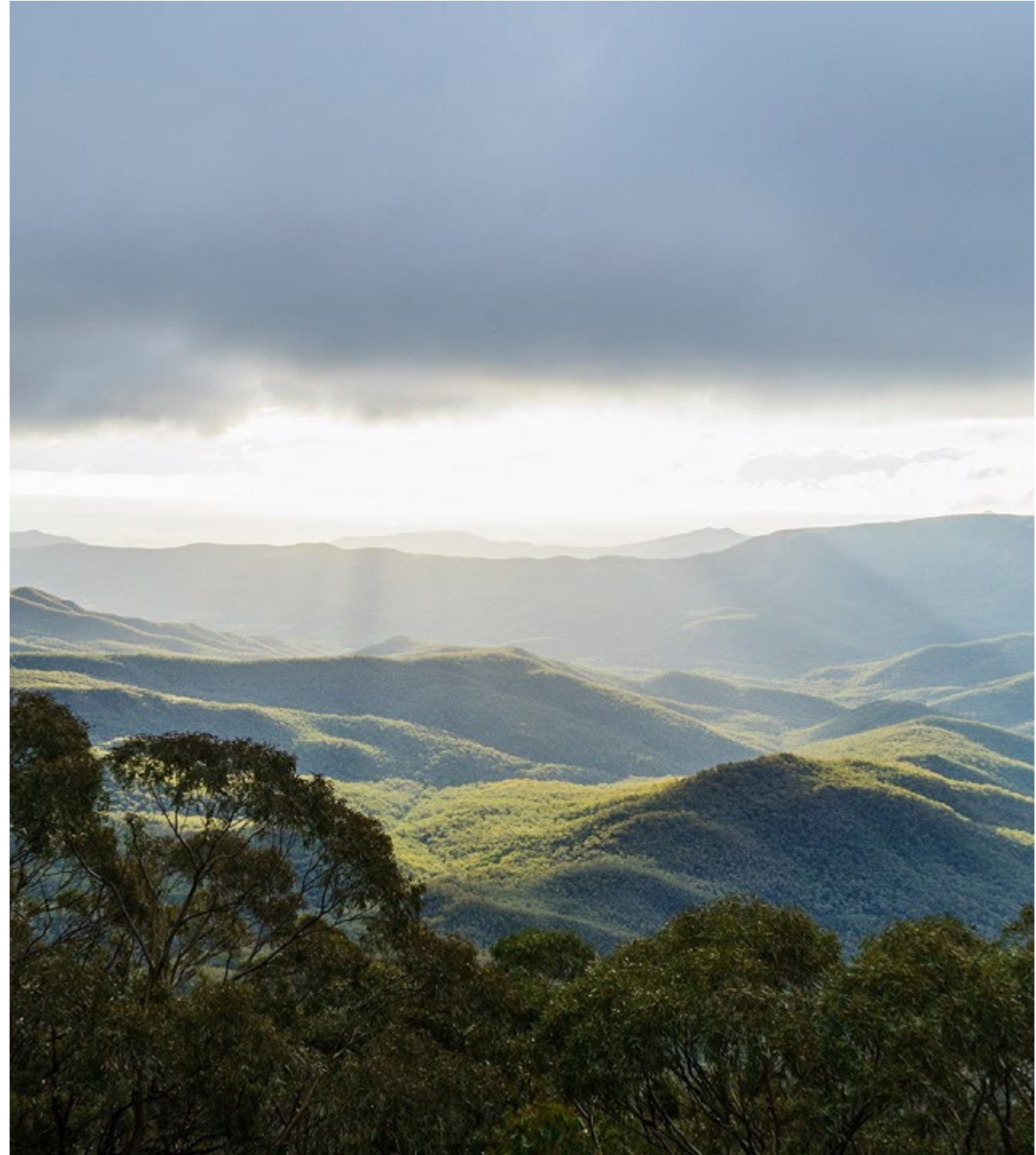
- June 2024: Environment Ministers Meeting
  - Urgency to act and do more now
  - Agreed NSW should lead work to accelerate product stewardship reform for all batteries
- Draft Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) prepared with Victorian Government
  - Considered by Ministers in their December meeting
- Battery Stewardship Council consulting on B-cycle scheme review.





# Commitment to legislating mandatory product stewardship

- In December, the Minister announced that the NSW Government will introduce legislation for mandatory battery product stewardship in 2025.
- Options are currently being worked through, and we look forward to engaging with you as the work progresses.





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Thank you



# Q&A



**Phoebe Ashe**

A/Director Circular Economy Policy

NSW Environment Protection Authority



# Panel Discussion



**Janet Leslie**

Independent Director

Australia and New Zealand Recycling Platform



# Feedback Form



<https://survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/djBJoK>





# What's Next

- Connections Newsletter – 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2025
- FY26 membership proposals - April 2025
- Member Forum - 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2025.



THANK YOU

