



Environment,  
Climate Change  
& Water

# NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2010

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## Introduction

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies aim to minimise waste generation and toxicity and maximise recycling.

EPR policies engage producers and others involved in the supply chain of a product to take responsibility for the environmental, health and safety footprint of those products. This includes the design and manufacture of a product, as well as how the product is managed at the end of its life (including resource recovery and proper disposal).

International experience shows that EPR schemes have been successful in preventing waste generation at source, promoting environmental design, and facilitating better material recovery, reuse and recycling.

The National Waste Policy (2009) commits the Australian Government, with the support of state and territory governments to establish a national waste framework underpinned by legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of a product being responsibly managed during and at end of life.

In late 2009, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) agreed to a landmark product stewardship framework and announced that televisions and computers would be the first products to be covered by this legislative framework.

At the November 2010 meeting of EPHC, the Ministers agreed to give high priority to the completion of national product stewardship legislation. Environment Ministers also agreed that the first national recycling scheme under this legislation will be for televisions and computers. At this meeting, the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment proposed additional action, in addition to the priority television and computer schemes to tackle other priority wastes including paints and batteries.

## Legislative Context

EPR policy was introduced in NSW in 2001 through the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* (WARR Act). New South Wales was the first state or territory to establish extended producer responsibility policy.

Section 15 of the WARR Act defines an EPR scheme as one in which “producers’ responsibilities for their products (physical or financial) are extended to the post-consumer stage of the products’ life cycle”. ‘EPR schemes’ also refer to schemes that may be labelled as ‘product stewardship’ schemes.

Section 18 of the WARR Act requires the Director-General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) to publish an annual priority statement on EPR schemes that the Director-General proposes to recommend for implementation under the Act in the following 12 months.

This Priority Statement goes beyond the legislative requirement of flagging certain products for implementation, by listing ‘wastes of concern’ that puts those industries on notice to take greater responsibility for management of their products at end of life.

## Previous EPR Priority Statements

The first Priority Statement was published in March 2004.

It identified 16 ‘wastes of concern’ and put industries on notice that action was required to reduce waste created by their sector, although it did not recommend state-based regulation at that time.

In 2004 an Expert Reference Group (ERG) was also established to advise the then Minister for the Environment and the Director General on current and proposed EPR schemes and other industry action. The ERG provided its report to the Minister and Director General in September 2005. The report contained analyses and recommendations on each waste of concern listed in the 2004 Priority Statement. The Minister subsequently wrote to each industry sector seeking specific actions and reporting over the next 12 months.

The 2005-06 EPR Priority Statement gave notice of an intention to recommend four sectors for possible regulatory action: computers, televisions, packaging and tyres. All of these sectors had also been identified as national priority wastes by EPHC and were being considered for nationally consistent regulatory action. The EPHC has made a decision on progressing national legislation on e-wastes (computers and televisions). On tyres a decision to take national action was taken but the changing international tyre market has affected the proposed approach. EPHC has also progressed with a revised Australian Packaging Covenant, as a co-regulatory approach underpinned by the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure.

The 2007 NSW EPR Priority Statement retained the "wastes of concern" nominated in the previous statements and built on the fundamental values of previous Priority Statements, that is, with the aim to ensure that producers take physical or financial responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life cycle. The 2007 EPR Priority Statement listed 17 wastes for specific industry action. These were:

- Agricultural/veterinary (Agvet) chemicals
- Agvet chemical containers
- Batteries
- Cigarette butts
- Computers
- End of life vehicle residuals
- Mobile Phones
- Office paper
- Other electrical products
- Packaging
- Paint
- Plastic bags
- Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
- Televisions
- Treated timber
- Tyres
- Used oils and lubricants

Priority statements progressing state-based regulation were not issued in 2008 and 2009 pending development of the National Waste Policy.

In November 2010, the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment wrote to the Ministers comprising EPHC recommending urgent action for e-waste, tyres, packaging and plastic bags and the need for accelerate action on paints, timber and mercury containing lamps. The NSW Minister also proposed a schedule of action on waste for priority action as outlined in Table 2. Environment Ministers agreed that the completion of product stewardship legislation should be given a high priority by the Australian Government. EPHC also agreed to consider a comprehensive work program at its first meeting in 2011, including timeframes for resolving existing product stewardship priority waste issues and other wastes beyond those already identified. This includes many of the wastes of concern in the NSW EPR Priority Statement.

## NSW action on extended producer responsibility

### EPR schemes at work in NSW

Table 1 provides the status on the NSW 'wastes of concern' previously nominated in the NSW EPR Priority Statement 2007.

Since the first Priority Statement was issued in 2004, the MobileMuster scheme for mobile phones has been relaunched, and packaging recovery continues to rise under the Australian Packaging Covenant. A national TV and e-waste collection is proposed to commence once legislation is passed by the Commonwealth in 2011.

These schemes have joined longer standing voluntary EPR schemes such as for PVC (administered through the Vinyl Council), for packaging (through the National Packaging Covenant), for used oil (through Commonwealth legislation).

Schemes for agvet chemicals and their containers (ChemClear and drumMUSTER) have established a strong presence and 94% brand awareness with farmers. Progress on these 'wastes of concern' is no accident, and is due to concerted NSW and national action and effort – in working with industries and continuing to press for transparent schemes that deliver real and improving results. It is also due to the leadership and willingness of the industries involved to engage with the community and to take action to reduce their environmental impact.

Table 1 also lists other existing voluntary EPR schemes, namely newspaper and magazines (the Publishers National Environment Bureau) and more recently, and mercury containing commercial lamps (Fluorocycle, administered by the Lighting Council of Australia).

Effort is now also being focussed on packaging, tyres, paint, batteries and timber, with NSW working with industry and the Commonwealth to advance nationally consistent measures.

## Progress in NSW

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has funded the collection, recycling and appropriate disposal of potentially hazardous household materials since 2003, working with its local government partners.

The Household Chemical CleanOut program establishes temporary collection sites for the community to safely dispose of their chemical waste. In 2009/10, there were 41 collections organised, with more than 25,000 community members helping to safely dispose of almost 900,000 kilograms of potentially hazardous materials, mainly paints, oils, batteries and gas cylinders. These figures represent a 9% increase from the previous year.

Since the inception of the program in 2003, nearly 140,000 householders have safely disposed of almost 5 million kilograms of potentially hazardous and problematic waste.

In regional areas, voluntary regional waste groups are supported by DECCW to facilitate collections. In 2009/10, more than 107,000 kilograms of household chemicals were collected from rural regional households for safe disposal.

NSW already has a significant network of transfer stations and collection points for various waste materials. Consideration is now being given to strengthening this network with permanent collection points that can handle high volume wastes that make up the bulk of material collected through the household CleanOut program. These include materials included as 'wastes of concern' such as paint, and batteries. The timing is also a good opportunity to work together with the impending e-waste collection scheme.

As more EPR schemes continue to develop nationally, there will be opportunities to mesh those schemes with expanding collection frameworks in NSW and appropriately attribute costs.

## NSW EPR Priority Statement 2010

In accordance with Section 18 of the WARR Act, the Director General must give notice of any EPR schemes it proposes to recommend for implementation under the WARR Act within the next 12 months.

Given national advances on product stewardship and other programs in place, the Director General does not propose to recommend any wastes for EPR regulatory action in NSW this year, noting new Product Stewardship legislation is due for consultation at the national level in the first quarter of 2011.

## Public submissions

Public submissions are invited on matters relevant to the Priority Statement.

Submissions may be sent by post to:

Divisional Director,  
Sustainability Programs Division  
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water  
PO Box 644, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Submissions can be also emailed to:

[product.stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:product.stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au)

or faxed to 02 8837 6099.

The closing date for submissions is **1 April 2011**.

A report on all submissions received will be published by **30 June 2011**.

**Important privacy information:** Unless otherwise indicated, submissions may be made public. Please indicate clearly in your submission if you do not wish your identity and/or contents of your submission to be made public.

**Lisa Corbyn**  
Director General

Table 1

## NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Statement Status – ‘Wastes of concern’ and other existing voluntary industry EPR schemes

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
Packaging	<p>Waste packaging is subject to a national co-regulatory extended producer responsibility scheme. The Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) commenced on 1 July 2010 and is underpinned by the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2010 and regulation in each State and Territory. It follows National Packaging Covenants spanning 2000–2010.</p> <p>The focus of the new APC is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• packaging design. The Covenant specifically works with packaging producers and users to improve the design of packaging to use less materials and to make them more re-useable and recyclable once they are finished with. Signatories need to comply with new Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for all new packaging with a phase in for existing packaging</li> <li>• away from home, public place, and workplace recycling.</li> <li>• litter reduction – through better design and changing behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>The recycling rate for packaging increased from 39% in 2003 to 58% in 2009.<sup>3</sup> The midterm review of the Covenant in 2008 found that Australia was on track to meet the target recycling rate for packaging of 65% by 2010 (Lewis, 2008).<sup>4</sup> With the global economic downturn, however, the recycling rate only increased marginally in 2009 and is unlikely to increase significantly in 2010. The Australian Packaging Covenant Strategic Plan has set a continuous improvement target of 70% in 5 years time (ie to 2015). NSW is a signatory to the Covenant and works closely with stakeholders to support the process.</p> <p>Nationally, a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is being developed on options to increase packaging recovery and reduce packaging litter, including a national container deposit option. The RIS is scheduled to be released for public consultation at the end of 2011. NSW and Qld are co-leading this work.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Australian Packaging Covenant 2010 is a co-regulatory extended producer responsibility scheme. It applies to any ‘brand owner’ of a product, including the first importer of the product.</p> <p>Non-signatories in NSW are subject to Part 5B of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2010, NSW had 326 signatories to the Covenant, of a total of 788 nationally (41%).</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au">www.packagingcovenant.org.au</a></p>

<sup>3</sup> National Packaging Covenant 2009 Annual Report – <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/documents/File/NPC%20AR%202009%20-%20Final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/page.php?name=midtermreview>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Mobile Phones</b>	<p>The mobile phone industry (Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association) runs the MobileMuster scheme to recover unused mobile phones and accessories. In 2008, a 5 year commitment from this sector was secured as part of national action to increase the recovery of handsets.</p> <p>In its Annual Report published Dec 2009, MobileMuster reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 122 tonnes of mobile phone components were collected for recycling, up from 97 tonnes in 07/08</li> <li>• this includes 806,000 handsets and batteries</li> <li>• 38% annual collection rate of discarded mobiles</li> <li>• 8% annual collection rate of net imports for 2008/09</li> <li>• around 75% of material in mobile phones is recycled.</li> </ul> <p>These figures continue to rise and good progress is being made. MobileMuster is exploring a variety of ways of attracting old phones out of storage, which continues to be a significant factor in recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• between 14 to 16 million handsets are estimated to be stashed away in drawers and cupboards</li> <li>• 31% of mobile phone users have 2 or more old mobiles at home</li> <li>• 70% have 1 old mobile at home.</li> <li>• 79% of people chose to keep or give away their old mobile phone.</li> </ul> <p>At February 2009 awareness of mobile phone recycling was 79% up from 46% in March 2005.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>MobileMuster is a voluntary extended producer responsibility scheme funded by telecommunications carriers and handset brand owners – through a 42c levy on each handset sold.</p> <p>Consumers can drop old phones off at over 3500 retail stores and drop off points around Australia, as well as post handsets and accessories back for free through Australia Post.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.mobilemuster.com.au">www.mobilemuster.com.au</a></p>
<b>Agvet Chemicals</b>	<p>The agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemical industry established the ChemClear voluntary extended producer responsibility program in 2003, following on from the previous ChemcCollect scheme. ChemClear has collected 234 tonnes of chemicals nationally, including 83 tonnes in NSW to 2009. ChemClear, together with DrumMuster (see below) is funded by a 4c/litre or kilogram levy which is paid by agvet chemical producers and passed on to consumers.</p> <p>Since 2006, the NSW government has provided funding that subsidises the farmers' cost of disposal of unregistered or unidentifiable chemicals (group 2 chemicals) for NSW farmers. NSW continues to support the ChemClear scheme remove these wastes from the environment and treat for appropriate disposal or recycling. In 2009/10 NSW provided assistance of \$60,000.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>ChemClear provides free collection and disposal of agvet chemicals nationally. It also subsidises the collection and transport of unregistered or unidentifiable agvet chemicals (group 2 chemicals), with the user paying for disposal – with assistance from government.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.chemclear.com.au">www.chemclear.com.au</a></p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Agvet chemical containers</b>	<p>In 1999, the Agvet chemical industry established an agreement with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to provide a national program for the collection and recycling of Agvet chemical containers for crop production and on-farm animal health products. The drumMUSTER program is run by the agvet chemical industry in parallel to ChemClear and the programs together include some 72 manufacturers of Agvet chemicals.</p> <p>drumMUSTER provides chemical users with a defined route for the safe disposal of used, clean chemical containers at over 700 reception sites across Australia. The drumMUSTER program covers all of NSW and service agreements are in place with the majority of NSW Councils. Since the inception of the program in May 1999 there have been 15,821,958 containers collected across Australia to October 2010. This represents 20,642 tonnes of recyclable materials. drumMUSTER has 743 active collection sites across Australia provided by 494 collection agencies. 430 Local councils are participating in the program with 64 other agencies providing collection services.</p> <p>As with ChemClear, NSW continues to support drumMUSTER in removing hazardous materials from the waste stream and the environment.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>drumMUSTER provides free collection and recycling of agvet chemical containers.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.drummuster.com.au">www.drummuster.com.au</a></p>
<b>PVC</b>	<p>In 2002, the Vinyl Council of Australia, the peak industry body representing the PVC industry, released the PVC Product Stewardship Program, which committed the industry to reducing the impact of PVC including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertakings in production and storage</li> <li>• the safe use of additives</li> <li>• waste management</li> <li>• research and public reporting.</li> </ul> <p>In 2008, the PVC industry reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the phase-out of lead stabilisers in pipes and fittings by PIPA members</li> <li>• vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) emissions from resin manufacturing below the Commitment standard</li> <li>• medical waste recycling trial launched.</li> </ul> <p>Specific targets for 2009/10 were also established, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• residual VCM in finished resin powder not greater than 1 ppm</li> <li>• VCM emissions no greater than 30g/tonne PVC</li> <li>• maintain commitment to avoid the use of cadmium stabilisers</li> <li>• to complete phase out of lead in all applications by 2010.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The PVC Product Stewardship Program is a voluntary, industry led scheme with ongoing commitments to addressing the environmental impacts of PVC, a material used in many hundreds of applications.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.vinylcouncil.org.au/ProductStewardship">www.vinylcouncil.org.au/ProductStewardship</a></p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Used oils and lubricants</b>	<p>The Australian Government runs the Product Stewardship for Oil (PSO) program under the <i>Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000</i>, which collects a statutory levy on petroleum-based oils and their synthetic equivalents and pays benefits to oil recyclers subject to the type of processing undertaken. Approximately 270 million litres of used oils and lubricants were recycled in the scheme in the financial year 2008–2009 (an increase from 195MI in 2001–2).</p> <p>An independent review of the <i>Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000</i> was tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament on 14 May 2009. The independent review made 9 key recommendations to improve the scheme including: making improvements to data, scheme promotion for certain oil grades, changes in governance and internal processes to avoid issues such as double claiming, and simplification of categories and definitions used to structure the scheme. The Commonwealth government has not yet responded to the recommended changes.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The Product Stewardship for Oil program is a fully regulated product stewardship scheme run by the Australian Government.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/oilrecycling/program/index.html">www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/oilrecycling/program/index.html</a></p>
<b>Computers and Televisions</b>	<p>In November 2009, Australian Environment Ministers considered a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement for TVs and computers and agreed that the Commonwealth will implement an Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation under new National Product Stewardship Framework legislation.</p> <p>The Regulation will support the implementation of industry-funded and run schemes that are committed to nationally collect and recycle 80% of end of life televisions and computers within 10 years. The Commonwealth has committed to implement the legislative framework in 2011. NSW has been a lead jurisdiction together with the Commonwealth in facilitating the development of the industry product stewardship schemes.</p>	✓	<p><b>Impending</b></p> <p>Industry-run scheme/s for TVs and computer collection and recycling were approved by Australian Environment Ministers in Nov 2009.</p> <p>Schemes will commence in 2011, following Commonwealth legislation to support the schemes.</p> <p>For more information see: <a href="http://www.productstewardship.asn.au">www.productstewardship.asn.au</a></p>
<b>Tyres</b>	<p>Australian Environment Ministers considered a proposal for a tyres EPR scheme in 2009. Regulatory impact analysis found that the market for waste tyres has shifted significantly and the proposed scheme was out of step with current Australian market conditions. A revised approach was required. Ministers resolved to work with the tyre industry to develop a voluntary scheme for potential endorsement under the new National Product Stewardship Framework.</p> <p>An Industry/government Implementation Working Group was established in May 2010 to complete this work. NSW is a member of the working group.</p>	✓	<p><b>Under development</b></p> <p>For more information see: <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/tyres/index.html">www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/tyres/index.html</a></p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Plastic Bags</b>	<p>Light-weight plastic shopping bags are a national and state priority waste due to littering. According to a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) prepared in 2008 for Australian Environment Ministers, 1-2% of plastic bags become litter. Light weight plastic bags litter in NSW make up significantly less than 1% of the total by volume and items littered in the 2010 Litter Index by Keep Australia Beautiful, but they are highly visible in the littering stream.</p> <p>In 2008 Ministers considered the RIS, but did not reach consensus on an agreed approach and instead agreed to develop Australian Standards for degradable plastics to complement the existing standards on compostable plastics. This work is continuing.</p> <p>The impact of plastic bags is also being considered as part of a national regulatory impact statement being prepared on the impacts of packaging waste. This includes valuation of the community's preparedness to pay to reduce litter from packaging, including plastic bags. This work is due for release and public consultation in 2011.</p>	✓	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Plastic bag waste will be part of a national regulatory impact statement on the impacts of packaging waste, due for public consultation in 2011.</p> <p>Australian Environment Ministers are also developing standards for compostable plastic bags.</p>
<b>Batteries</b>	<p>Some battery types contain hazardous materials, notably heavy metals (e.g. lead, cadmium and mercury). Recovery rates for batteries vary. Recovery of lead acid batteries is relatively high. Recovery of consumer portable batteries (single use and rechargeable) is very low.</p> <p>In 2008–09, batteries (overwhelmingly lead acid) accounted for over 75 tonnes of material collected through the NSW government's Household Chemical Cleanout program.</p> <p>The NSW government has been working with the battery industry, recyclers and other stakeholders to develop a product stewardship response for all batteries. The industry established the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) to help progress this work.</p> <p>In November 2010 the NSW Minister proposed to Australian Environment Ministers that batteries become a national priority waste and work on an EPR scheme by industry be accelerated.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>NSW has proposed the inclusion of batteries in a workplan for expanded national product stewardship priorities. Australian Environment Ministers will consider the workplan in 2011.</p>
<b>Paint</b>	<p>Paint is the largest proportion of materials collected in the NSW Household Chemical Cleanout program (59.32% in 2009–10), representing a significant cost to the State government and the community (\$544,418 in 2009–10). The paint industry has undertaken a number of small-scale collection trials in Victoria and NSW over several years, but so far has not moved to establish a product stewardship scheme despite promises by the industry to do so. The Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation (APMF), the peak industry body representing domestic manufacturers, has just commenced a two-year trial in Victoria for commercial paint and has indicated it will roll out a national scheme in 2013.</p> <p>In November 2010 the NSW Minister proposed to Australian Environment Ministers that paint become a national priority waste and work on an EPR scheme by industry be accelerated.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>NSW has proposed the inclusion of paint in a workplan for expanded national product stewardship priorities. Australian Environment Ministers will consider the workplan in 2011.</p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Cigarette butts</b>	<p>According to the Keep Australia Beautiful Litter Index, cigarette butts are the largest portion of the litter stream in NSW, representing almost half of all littered items. The cigarette industry is made up of three major players in Australia, British American Tobacco Australia (BATA), Imperial Tobacco and Philip Morris. There is no peak industry body. Litter reduction initiatives are undertaken on an individual company basis.</p> <p>In 2003, BATA established the Butt Littering Trust (BLT) to focus on changing butt littering behaviour. BLT reports that it has delivered over 70 national projects to reduce butt littering and cites reductions in butt littering in project areas of approximately 25%. The program has received some \$4.4m in funding from BATA over 6 years and has received in principle commitments from BATA to finance future activities against a business plan that seeks to involve other tobacco industry participants under a new name, 'Butt Free Australia'.</p> <p>Imperial Tobacco reports that they "provide funding to KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful), an organisation that runs a number of campaigns aimed at improving the Australian environment. KESAB's "Please Butt It, Then Bin It" campaign involves councils, businesses and local communities in a co-ordinated approach to minimising butt litter by encouraging behavioural. Support is typically in the form of funding and publicity materials including butt bins, posters, stickers and personal ashtrays.</p> <p>Philip Morris has not reported any recent anti-littering initiatives, although it contributed to KESAB in the past.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Some individual company litter reduction initiatives are in place but these need to be more effective.</p>
<b>Treated Timber</b>	<p>The peak industry group, the Timber Development Association (TDA), has established the National Timber Product Stewardship Group, an industry/government steering group set up to identify and facilitate product stewardship initiatives in the industry. In 2007, TDA released a product stewardship strategy, "Timber-More Life", which set a national target to double the recovery rate of wood waste by 2017. In 2007, the recovery rate was estimated to be 32%.</p> <p>Currently, the industry has been working with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) to develop protocols for recycling utility poles and bridge timbers in NSW and has worked with recovery facilities to improve the identification of treated timber. The industry and DECCW is also undertaking projects to improve the recovery of timber pallets, which make up almost half of the wood waste in the commercial and industrial stream. A major inhibitor of timber waste recycling is the presence of treated timber containing arsenic and other contaminants.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>While industry initiatives are underway, any EPR action would be best handled nationally.</p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<p><b>Other electrical equipment</b></p>	<p>This category covers a wide range of products, including white goods (e.g. washing machines, refrigerators, air-conditioning, microwaves, dishwashers), consumer electronics (e.g. DVD players, stereos, portable music players), small appliances (e.g. kettles, vacuum cleaners, power tools, toys) and lighting products (e.g. fluorescent tubes, emergency lighting).</p> <p>The major industry association for this category of products is the Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (AEEMA). Another association, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) reports on a variety of sustainability programmes that have been progressed either directly or as a result of the work of member companies.</p> <p>Unsurprisingly due to the wide variety of types of waste generated, a number of different initiatives are underway or in development. For example, NSW households can take advantage of the Fridge Buyback scheme run by DECCW. This has been supported by a three-year grant of \$2.8 million from the NSW Climate Change Fund.</p> <p>FluoroCycle is a new EPR scheme available for the recycling of mercury containing lighting from the commercial and public lighting sector (see below). Other waste electrical or electronic goods may in the longer term be collected by extension of the producer responsibility work currently underway for TVs and computer products.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>There is potential to develop EPR action following the rollout of the TVs and computers EPR scheme.</p>
<p><b>End of life vehicle (ELV) residuals</b></p>	<p>APRAA (the Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia) estimates that in 2010 over 750,000 ELVs could enter the waste stream. End of life vehicle recycling is well established in Australia – recycling from vehicles achieves rates in excess of 80%. Shredder residue (known as 'floc') is a high volume mix of materials generated as a mixed waste in the vehicle recycling process, and is the major component of vehicle material to landfill. About half of floc comprises plastics that could be recycled given separation of appropriate quantities and qualities.</p> <p>In response to previous priority statements opinions were divided about whether ELV residuals should constitute a waste of interest: recycling from vehicles already achieves rates in excess of 80%, yet over 150,000 tonnes of floc material is still disposed of to landfill each year, and whilst separation of floc into recoverable material streams is complex, international advances in technology for shredder residue make separation more feasible.</p> <p>Australia's vehicle manufacturers, importers and those involved in the recycling chain are represented by a variety of bodies including the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI), the Federation of Automotive Product Manufacturers (FAPM) and the Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia (APRAA). Increased support from vehicle manufacturers and importers for authorised vehicle treatment stations to conduct fluid removal and dismantling processes prior to metal shredding could have an impact on reducing shredder floc.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Greater focus is needed on more recovery of non-metal waste from end of life vehicles both before and after shredding.</p>

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Office paper</b>	<p>Product stewardship has been coordinated by Paper Round, the peak body for office paper recycling since 2006. Paper manufacturers, importing sectors, major printers and one of the key paper recyclers are represented in Paper Round.</p> <p>A number of product stewardship initiatives from Paper Round members have been instigated. These include improved collection information, take back schemes and the release of more recycled and carbon neutral papers.</p> <p>Paper Round and DECCW worked together in the project to develop a material flow chart for printing and communications papers (inc office papers) across NSW. This process resulted in a more accurate estimation of likely flows in; and probable usage and disposal quantities. Whilst office paper recovery in NSW figures have been difficult to establish exactly, Paper Round estimates that annual consumption of office paper in NSW is approximately 530,000 tonnes, with up to approximately 300,000 tonnes collected for recovery.</p> <p>Exports of recovered fibre continue to increase and Australia-wide exports have risen from 340,000 tonnes in 2004 to over 1,200,000 last year. NSW typically accounts for 33% of the Australian paper market.</p> <p>Paper Round report that three specific challenges for improved paper recovery remain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improving the economics of collections at small and medium business sites and strip office locations, and developing appropriate programs (e.g. security shredding at collection);</li> <li>2) Finding alternative uses for contaminated paper that can no longer be utilised in the paper making process;</li> <li>3) Avoidance of contamination in office paper waste.</li> </ol>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Opportunities exist for better resource recovery action by paper waste generators and waste recyclers through initiatives including potential precinct-based commercial waste recovery.</p>

## Other Existing Voluntary Industry Schemes

Waste	Status	National Priority Waste?	Is the waste dealt with by an existing EPR scheme?
<b>Newspapers</b>	<p>2010 marks twenty years of voluntary agreements between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and the Publishers National Environment Bureau (PNEB), representing Australia's leading newspaper and magazine publishers. Over that period, Australia has increased the recycling of newsprint from 28% prior to 1990 to approx 82% today. The fourth successive five year agreement was welcomed by Australian Environment Ministers in July 2010. The PNEB's latest Industry Plan 2011–2015 includes commitments for broader sustainability initiatives including cleaner production and reducing production impacts.</p>		<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The Publishers National Environment Bureau has run an EPR scheme since 1990.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.pneb.com.au">www.pneb.com.au</a></p>
<b>Mercury containing lamps</b>	<p>The FluoroCycle program is a government and industry initiative to increase recycling of mercury-containing lamps from the commercial and public lighting sector. Approx 90% of waste mercury containing lamps are currently generated in the commercial sector and lamps make up the largest source of consumer generated mercury waste to landfill in Australia. Fluorocycle provides recognition for organisations that commit to recycle their lamps. The program is funded by the Commonwealth, which has engaged Lighting Council Australia to manage the program for a three year period. The scheme was launched in July 2010.</p> <p>The phase out of incandescent globes by the Commonwealth government has raised consumer awareness and concern about mercury containing lamps in households, primarily Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). While the Commonwealth has developed the FluoroCycle program to enhance recycling of commercial mercury containing lamps, there is no national approach to household lighting waste. The DECCW Household Chemical CleanOut program collects fluorescent globes and tubes.</p>	✓	<p><b>Yes</b> for commercial and public lighting.</p> <p><b>No</b> for household lighting. There is potential for Fluorocycle to expand to domestic lamps in future.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.fluorocycle.org.au">www.fluorocycle.org.au</a></p>

Table 2

## NSW list of proposed national action for priority wastes under the forthcoming national Product Stewardship Framework legislation

Existing EPHC Waste Priorities	Legislation Date	Implementation Date
'E' Waste, Computers and TV's	2011	July 2011
Tyres	2011	November 2011
Packaging	2011	March 2012
Plastic bags	2011	March 2012

New Waste Priorities for the National Agenda	Adoption On Priority List by	Implementation date
Paint	March 2011	Jan 2012
Timber recovery (contamination by treated timber products)	March 2011	Jan 2013
Mercury containing lamps (Domestic and commercial)	March 2011	Jan 2012
PVC products	March 2011	Jan 2013

Voluntary Industry Schemes to be endorsed under the legislation	Expected legislation date	Finalised by
Mobile phones	2011	March 2012
Agvet chemicals	2011	March 2012
Agvet chemical containers	2011	March 2012
Newspapers	2011	March 2012
Batteries	2011	March 2012





