



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Be battery-safe this holiday season

The Battery Stewardship Council (BSC), together with the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), reminds Australians to be battery-safe this holiday season. Binned incorrectly, batteries can catch fire, contaminate waste and recycling infrastructure, and leach toxic chemicals into the environment.

Australia's official battery recycling Scheme, B-cycle, encourages Australians to correctly recycle any used batteries from Christmas gifts, such as power tools and toys.

- Tape the terminals of batteries to prevent risk of fire
- Put them in a glass container and keep out of reach of children
- B-cycle them at the nearest Drop off point

Batteries should never be placed in kerbside bins, said B-cycle CEO, Libby Chaplin. "Putting used batteries in regular rubbish or recycling bin can cause sparks and landfill fires. All batteries eventually corrode, and their hazardous contents end up in soils and waterways, causing damage to wildlife and people," Ms Chaplin said.

"Australians buy enough batteries to circle planet Earth 2.3 times and until now 90 per cent of these used batteries have been going to landfill. B-cycle creates a more responsible battery lifecycle. As a national, Government-backed Scheme, it brings together everyone from importers, to retailers, to everyday Australians, to give dead batteries new life."

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia CEO, Gayle Sloan, said the numbers of batteries placed in household yellow recycling bins was staggering. "The confusion may come from the fact that batteries are often said to be reusable or rechargeable, however under no circumstances do they belong in the household recycling and collection system," Ms Sloan said.

"Yellow bins are only for packaging waste - paper and cardboard, and containers made of glass, plastic, steel and aluminum from your kitchen, bathroom and laundry - nothing else. We need to stop 'wish cycling' and hope by some miracle at Christmas time that this can and will occur."

Find a [B-cycle drop off point](https://bcycle.com.au/drop-off/) near you: <https://bcycle.com.au/drop-off/>

## Media enquiries

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## For the editors

### About the [Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia](#)

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body for all stakeholders in the waste and resource recovery industry. We have more than 2,000 members across the nation, representing a broad range of business organisations, the three (3) tiers of government, universities, and NGOs.

Our members are involved in a range of important waste management and resource recovery activities within the Australian economy, including community engagement and education, infrastructure investment and operations, collection, manufacturing of valuable products from resource recovered materials, energy recovery, and responsible management of residual materials.

The waste and resource recovery industry is an essential industry for the community and continues to be a significant contributor to Australia's economy and environment, contributing to Australia through:

- a turnover of over \$15 billion per annum;
- employing 50,000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) persons;
- reducing the pressure to utilise depleted virgin resources;
- extending the life cycle of manufactured products; and
- improving industrial ecology.

WMRR's priority advocacy areas:

- Facilitate **investment** in resource recovery and remanufacturing capacity.
- **Reform** state regulatory frameworks to provide long-term certainty for investment in the sector.
- Streamline and improve **consistency** and **clarity** in state regulatory frameworks.
- Foster a **common approach to landfill levies** between states, including the reinvestment of at least **50%** of funds raised from levies in the sector.
- Improve **responsiveness** of regulatory frameworks to manage market adjustments.
- Improve **coordination between state government portfolios** within and across state borders with the responsibility for the sector (at first instance, Planning and Environment).
- Promote the adoption of **sustainable procurement** principles and practices to all levels of governments.
- Support **extended producer responsibility, product stewardship, and polluters-pay principles**, and the role of the waste and resource recovery sector within it.
- Support the establishment of **secondary and end markets** for resource recovered materials.
- Improve national **waste and resource recovery data** to enable the identification, recovery, classification, treatment, disposal and monitoring of waste.
- Support all actions aimed at fair competition and the creation of a **level playing field** for all stakeholders.
- Foster the recognition of the role of the solid waste industry in **carbon abatement** recovery sector. '.
- Champion the **success of individual professionals and organisations** working in the waste and resource recovery sector.
- **Community engagement and education** on waste minimisation and reduction.

### About the [Battery Stewardship Council \(BSC\)](#) and [B-cycle](#)

B-cycle is an industry-led product stewardship scheme, providing benefits to both society and the environment. The Scheme is operated by the BSC, authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and accredited as a Federal Government Product Stewardship Scheme.

The BSC is a not-for-profit company established by the battery industry to create a circular economy for batteries. Key drivers for our mission are to:

- **prevent batteries ending up in landfills** where the materials they contain can contaminate the environment and our waterways.
- ensure batteries are removed from the general waste and recycling streams to **keep our kerbside collection trucks safe** from the risk of fire.
- enable batteries to be **recycled**, with materials from recycling being used as feedstock for new batteries and other products.
- ensure finite battery metals can be recovered for future **energy security**.

We can no longer afford to have conversations about **climate change or renewables** without talking about end of life and battery stewardship.

B-cycle was launched in February of this year with two key objectives to get batteries out of the general waste and recycling streams and to build a domestic battery recycling industry to safely collect, transport and process these batteries into something new.

Significantly the Scheme is unlike other Stewardship Schemes, which uses a levy and rebate model to encourage a diverse range of businesses to participate in collection (transport), sorting and processing of batteries by leveraging the power of businesses and community organisations.

B-cycle means robust accreditation, traceability and verification, meaning we can be confident that any batteries collected are actually recycled. It brings together battery importers, retailers, recyclers (and of course, everyday Australians) to create a circular economy for battery materials.

[What types of batteries are covered by B-cycle?](#) Currently all handheld batteries such as AA, AAA, C, D and button batteries, as well as batteries that are easily removed from a product such as power tool batteries and camera batteries.

#### Early successes for B-cycle – Jan – July

In September BSC published B-cycle's first performance report "[Positive Charge](#)" which illustrates our early success.

48	Accredited importers
91%	Loose battery market participation
90%	Power tool battery market participation
28	Accredited retailers
3,200+	Drop off points across 8 States & Territories
900,000+ kg	Batteries collected for recycling
16%+	Available in-scope batteries collected (double pre-scheme collections)
8	Accredited collectors and recyclers