

The Battery Stewardship Council was launched in April 2018 with the goal of establishing a Stewardship Scheme. Council support and membership has been growing with 40 members now signed up. The first task of Council Chair, Gerry Morvell and ABRI CEO Libby Chaplin has been to talk with key players to properly evaluate the options and refine the approach. This briefing note summarises work to date and the anticipated pathway to a vibrant Australian battery stewardship scheme.

Contents

Battery Stewardship Council: Support and Membership Growing	1
Stage 1 Consultation.....	1
Government indicates strong support.....	1
Proposed scope	1
Focus on ACCC model.....	2
Broader industry consultation phase	2
Timeline.....	2
For more information	2

Battery Stewardship Council: Support and Membership Growing

The initial launch of the Council was very well received, and membership continues to grow. Current members include:

1. ALDI	2. Infoactiv
3. Australian Battery Recycling Initiative	4. Makita
5. Australian Industry Group	6. MRI
7. Australian Information Industry Ass.	8. MRI E-Cycle Solutions
9. Australian Mobile Telecommunications Ass.	10. National Retailers Association
11. Australian NZ Recycling Program (ANZRP)	12. NSW EPA
13. Australian Toy Association	14. Ocean Batteries
15. BatteryWorld	16. Officeworks
17. Bosch	18. Panasonic
19. Bunnings	20. Positec (Rockwell, Worx)
21. Call2Recycle	22. QLD Dept of Environment & Science
23. Canon	24. RF Industries
25. CESA	26. SA EPA
27. CISCO	28. Sims E-Recycling
29. CO2 View	30. Stanley Black & Decker (Dewalt)
31. Department of Energy & Environment	32. Super Retail Group (BCF, Supercheap ...)
33. Dodd & Dodd Group	34. Sustainability Victoria
35. Energizer	36. Sydney Harbours Federation Trust
37. Enirgi	38. Techronic Industries (Ryobi, Milwaukee ...)
39. Envirostream	40. Tes-amm
41. Equilibrium	42. TradeTools
43. eWaste Watch Institute	44. Woolworths
45. Global Renewables	

We are continuing to seek new members from additional importers, retailers, and other key stakeholders. There is no doubt that this is a team effort and we would appreciate your support to help grow the Council. Please contact us if you can provide connections with important missing players or if you yourself would like to become a member. Simply send in your nomination form (final page of this note).

Stage 1 Consultation

Over the past two months, meetings have been held with governments and a representative sampling of industry across the supply chain to firm up the design features of a new scheme. This has been an invaluable process, confirming essential elements of the scheme, but also identifying new ideas and increasing understanding of scheme infrastructure requirements, opportunities and costs.

Government indicates strong support for Battery Stewardship Scheme

On April 2018, the Meeting of Environment Ministers once again discussed battery stewardship and highlighted strong support for a stewardship scheme.

The Media Release from the Office of Hon Josh Frydenberg, stated that "Ministers also agreed to fast-track the development of new product stewardship schemes for photovoltaic solar panels and batteries". A clear indication that government considers batteries to be an ongoing priority.



In addition, state and local governments have been consulted in recent months and there is a clear direction to establish a scheme that addresses all batteries.

Proposed scope

The Battery Stewardship Council is proposing to establish a scheme for all batteries for a number of reasons:

- All handheld batteries are listed as a priority product under the Product Stewardship Act;
- Local, State and Federal Governments have all indicated a strong predilection for all batteries to be included, particularly from local government associations and councils which perceive that separation is not practical;
- Consumers do not distinguish and are not knowledgeable of how to separate batteries;
- Collection of mixed batteries has been found to reduce fire risk in Europe;
- The need for straightforward and simple messaging to empower the community to embrace the scheme and achieve rapid increase in recovery rates;
- It allows for a phased approach to targeting collections of different battery types such as energy storage based on;
 - Market realities such as commodity price fluctuations;
 - Changes to the risk profile due to new or evolving technologies (risks such as fire, life cycle impacts, resource security, or rapidly increasing quantities).

Focus on ACCC model

The BSC is now focused on refining key elements of a template for an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) authorised scheme in preparation for in depth consultation with industry. Chair, Gerry Morvell and ABRI CEO, Libby Chaplin have been conducting targeted consultations to clarify market realities and implications for scheme scope and design. The deployment plan involves:

- Preparation of a Battery Stewardship Scheme Discussion Paper for review by BSC members;
- Forums in each state for broader consultation;
- Refinement of the approach in Scheme Guidelines;
- Formalisation of the scheme with BSC members;
- Endorsement by Meeting of Environment Ministers;
- Application to ACCC; and
- Launch of scheme.

Proposed scheme elements being explored

The scheme elements to be discussed in refined includes the following elements:

Role	Key Elements under discussion
 Battery Stewardship Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Single Arrangement? Not for profit? ▪ Management ▪ Collection containers? ▪ Marketing ▪ EH&S plus Quality ▪ Reporting
 Cost Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Levy on importers ▪ State government infrastructure funding ▪ Reimbursement of collections
 Member obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specific to role in the supply chain – related to their agreed obligation, for example the levy, to environmental, health and safety and/or quality, and reporting ▪ Accreditation & audits depending on supply chain role ▪ Agree to deal only with accredited participants in the scheme supply chain ▪ Promotion of the scheme

These elements will be described in the upcoming discussion paper which will essentially provide the template for the scheme and an ability to refine and adapt to achieve the goals of the scheme and give consideration to BSC member needs and realities.

Leadership Team

A small leadership team has been established to test scheme elements and identify priorities for broader discussion. The team is chaired by Gerry Morvell and members include Brett Buckingham: Panasonic, Jeremy Stewart: TradeTools, Kylie Hughes: QLD Department of Environment and Science, David Stout: National Retailers Association and Libby Chaplin: Australian Battery Recycling Initiative.

Broader industry consultation phase

Further discussion and review will be conducted to ensure each design element within the scheme is appropriate and workable.

Discussion paper

The Draft Discussion paper will be provided to BSC members for discussion and feedback. This paper will describe all aspects of the scheme and pose important questions for arriving at the preferred option. It is envisaged the paper will be distributed in July for written comments and feedback.

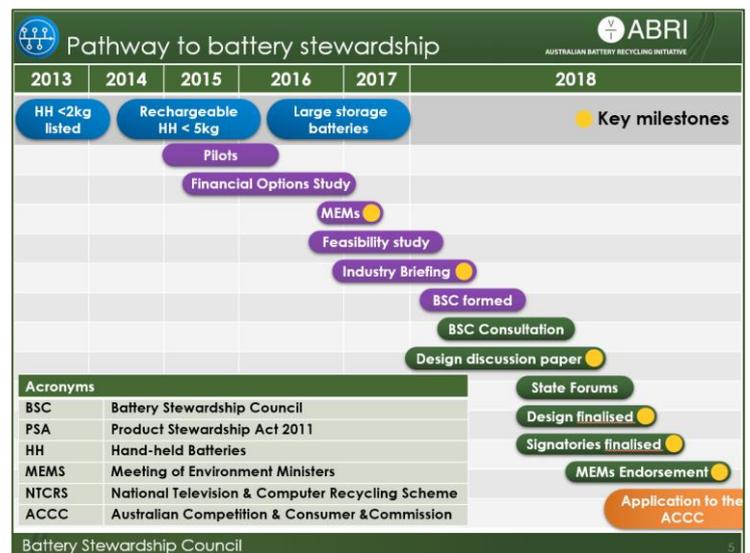
State Forums

Once the Discussion paper has been reviewed by BSC membership, it will be refined and distributed for wider industry consultation. This will include industry forums in key locations to further refine scheme features with subsequent wider public consultation to garner the widest possible support for battery stewardship from government, industry and consumers.

Timeline

The schedule for design and deployment is shown in the figure below. The goal is to formalise the design and obtain endorsement of an industry led scheme by the end of this year with implementation commencing in 2019. The timelines are illustrated in the Figure below. Alternatively, if a voluntary scheme is not achieved, government schemes are likely to follow. Indications are that at the national level, the most likely outcomes would see loose handheld batteries added to the scope of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.

Schedule for Scheme introduction



For more information

stewardship@batteryrecycling.org.au

BATTERY STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate for membership of the Battery Stewardship Council as a representative of:

Organisation: _____

Name _____

Organization _____

Department _____

Postal Address _____

Phone _____

Mobile _____

Email Address _____

Website _____

Please indicate your role in battery stewardship:

Manufacturer, please indicate brands:

 Importer, please indicate brands:

 Retailer, please indicate store brands:

 Consumer – please indicate type of consumer e.g. government, corporate, school, etc.

 Collection point – please indicate type of collection point e.g. retail, library, transfer station, council offices, aggregation point at depot, etc.

 Logistics (battery collection and transport)

Sorting

Processing

Export

Other, please indicate: _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Email to: stewardship@batteryrecycling.org.au