



## WHAT BATTERIES ARE IN SCOPE?

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### About the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC)

The BSC is a not-for-profit company established in 2018 to bring together players from across the battery supply chain to ensure that a robust and well-designed battery stewardship scheme is established. Our mission is to facilitate accessible battery recycling services for consumers in metropolitan and regional areas of Australia.

**Become part of the solution!** Battery Stewardship Council

Contact the Battery Stewardship Team to discuss the opportunity in more detail

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### Quick recap of the Scheme

The core elements of the Scheme are shown in the figure below. The accreditation process for each element is essential to provide assurances to the consumer that the recycling process is safe and effective. For full details please visit the BSC website to review the Scheme Design Document.



### Purpose of this Fact Sheet

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to explain what batteries are included in the scope of the Battery Stewardship Scheme. It is recommended that this Fact Sheet be read in conjunction with other Fact Sheets to obtain a complete picture of the Scheme.

### Governments have agreed on the scope



In April 2018 at the Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEMs), the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments decided that **all batteries are required to be in scope of a scheme** and to accelerate the development of the Battery Stewardship Scheme (Scheme) being developed by industry under the BSC.

The decision was made in the context of emerging safety problems with used batteries and in light of the current rate of battery recycling in Australia is less than 10% - one of the lowest on the developed world.

The concept design of the BSS has been completed and it has been endorsed by all Governments and authorised by the ACCC. The final Operational Design involving detailed procedures and strategies is underway.

### Batteries in scope for the BSC Scheme



The Scheme is designed to cover all:

- loose and handheld batteries, including button batteries, and is the default scheme to cover all battery chemistries.
- batteries that are not sealed inside a product i.e., they are designed to be readily removed and replaced in the product by the consumer, are included in the Scheme and subject to the levy payment.

### Batteries exempt from the BSC Scheme

There are three categories of batteries that are currently excluded from the Scheme including those that:

- A. Batteries with an effective operating market for end-of-life recovery & recycling
- B. Batteries covered by an existing Stewardship Scheme
- C. Batteries and products that require further consultation.

The following information is provided to explain each of these categories.



## WHAT BATTERIES ARE IN SCOPE?

### A Batteries with an effective operating market for end-of-life recovery & recycling

This includes automotive Used Lead Acid Batteries (which have an operating market with a strong recycling rate).

**NOTE: Small sealed small lead acid batteries (e.g., UPS batteries) are not exempt.**

### B Batteries covered by an existing Stewardship Scheme

Batteries covered by existing Stewardship Schemes that can demonstrate effective recovery of their batteries, for example:

- Mobile phone batteries - covered under MobileMuster
- Computer and televisions - covered under the National TV & Computer Recycling Scheme (NTRCS)
- Exit lighting batteries – covered by proposed ExitCycle

The BSC will work with existing schemes to create procedures to verify batteries are effectively recovered and for ensuring importers don't pay a levy more than once for any one battery.

### C Batteries and products that require further consultation

This includes batteries and products with batteries where the ACCC has noted the BSC position that further consultation is necessary before a final decision is made on an effective stewardship arrangement.

This is important as some batteries cannot be easily removed by the consumer and require the product to be dismantled or de-installed by qualified personnel to recover the battery for recycling. In other cases, the nature of batteries sealed in a product cannot be readily determined.

#### Battery types requiring further consultation



In these cases, further consultation with industry is required to determine the best way forward for the recovery and recycling of these battery. As consensus with industry is reached the following battery types may be phased into the BSC Scheme.

### 1 Embedded batteries

There are many products where batteries are sealed within the product, i.e., embedded, and not designed to be replaced by the consumer, for example many toys and games.

Further investigation is needed on the range of products, and battery sizes and chemistries for embedded batteries to determine the most effective regime for ensuring safe recycling. Consultations with industry will commence and are expected to better understand the issues and design an appropriate solution for these batteries.

### 2 Electric Vehicle batteries

Major electric vehicles manufacturers or importers have, or are developing, strategies for their life cycle management of their batteries. However, Governments, consumers and industry need a verifiable regime to ensure all batteries, including those independently removed from the vehicle e.g. by car wreckers, are properly recycled. Initial consultation has commenced to determine the best approach.

### 3 Energy Storage Batteries

Utility scale and household renewable energy storage systems that require a qualified electrician to install and dismantle are likely to require a modified arrangement under the BSS. Initial consultations have commenced with the Green Energy Council and industry and are expected to be finalised during 2021. **Note: This category does not apply to individual lithium batteries used by consumers for small scale energy storage, for example in caravans, cars, e-bikes or motorcycles.**

#### Related documents

Related documents can be downloaded from the BSC Website 'Resources' menu including the Scheme Design Document and Fact Sheets to be released on topics such as:

- BSC Fact Sheet: What Batteries are in Scope
- BSC Fact Sheet: The Levy
- BSC Fact Sheet: The Rebate

#### Still have questions or need assistance?

If you still have questions or would like further information, contact us via email at:  
[contact@bsc.org.au](mailto:contact@bsc.org.au)