

MEDIA RELEASE
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Australia's official battery recycling scheme ramping up a network with new look: B-cycle

The Battery Stewardship Council (BSC), Australia's official battery product stewardship scheme, has this week unveiled its plans for a radical increase in participation, alongside a new look public program called [B-cycle](#) (Scheme).

In the lead-up to the January 2022 launch of the national public Scheme, B-cycle will be actively pursuing new industry participants such as household battery importers, manufacturers, recyclers, and retailers to join the Scheme.

The Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction Trevor Evans said that the Battery Stewardship Council has led the way by being among the first organisations to develop a voluntary product stewardship scheme under the Government's \$26 million Product Stewardship Investment Fund.

"As waste batteries, especially those used in small handheld devices, are one of the fastest growing waste streams, this industry-led scheme will play an essential role in significantly increasing Australia's battery collections and recycling, and help our circular economy grow.

"But it will only work if industry plays its part. We must all work together toward Australian consumers soon being able to safely and responsibly manage all types of used batteries at their end-of-life", said Assistant Minister Evans.

Libby Chaplin, CEO of B-cycle said, "We're at a pivotal moment, setting in motion a nationwide reset on batteries, preventing harm and creating opportunities along a product's whole value chain.

"A whopping 90% of Australia's handheld batteries brought into the country end up in landfill. Any used batteries not recycled properly and safely can leach toxic chemicals into our environment, or even cause fires in the home when stored. Additionally, despite being a source of valuable and finite resources, battery recycling has remained small-scale in Australia - until now!"

The B-cycle Scheme will lead Australia's efforts to responsibly manage the recycling of batteries and B-cycle is set to be fully operational with a network of drop-off locations in retail spaces by January 2022.

For the program to scale it needs to see a range of sectors getting involved as Ms. Chaplin explains, "It's crucial Australia's battery importers, collectors and recyclers sign up now and become accredited participants to take full advantage of the launch."

The scale of the industries involved is significant including: battery importers, electronic brands utilising batteries - such as power tools, personal care, watches, and photography/drones - battery retailers including supermarkets, and battery collectors/recyclers.

"Being the official Scheme, B-cycle provides robust traceability, assurance collected batteries are recycled in a safe and environmentally sound way, and collected materials placed back into closed-loop systems," said Ms. Chaplin.

Participating in this Scheme aligns with the Federal Government's Product Stewardship legislation and goals towards recycling and waste reduction obligations, "We know the Federal Government is closely watching the participation of the Scheme and has expectations of high levels of industry membership at launch next year," said Ms. Chaplin.

"We look forward to working with, and welcoming, many new participants regardless of size or scale as it's going to take many players all around the country to work collectively with us to create less waste and more opportunities for used batteries in Australia," concluded Ms. Chaplin.

There are already a number of prominent battery and electronic brands, retailers, and battery collectors who have committed to the B-cycle Scheme:

Bunnings, Canon, Coles, Duracell, EcoBatt, Energizer, Envirostream, Hilti, Honda, Panasonic, Milwaukee, and Woolworths.

Learn more at bcycle.com.au

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Available for Interview: Libby Chaplin, B-cycle, CEO

Media assets and images: [Download here](#)

About Battery Stewardship Council

The Battery Stewardship Council was established with the primary goal of establishing a Battery Stewardship Scheme in Australia that would see a significant increase in battery collections and recycling, with funding secured from industry, all states and territories and the Federal Government.

About B-Cycle

B-cycle was founded in 2020 by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC), supported by the Commonwealth and all State and Territory Governments, and authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). B-cycle is Australia's first nationwide, government-backed battery recycling Scheme. It's the safe and simple way to help build a world where no battery goes to waste

Notes to Editors:

- What batteries does the Scheme cover?
 - **Household batteries:** everyday AA, AAA, and other sizes, including rechargeables
 - **Easily removable batteries:** from products such as cameras and power tools
 - **Button batteries:** the ones you find in watches, remotes, and car keys
 - The Scheme doesn't cover batteries that already have a viable recycling market or those included in other schemes (e.g., lead-acid, laptop, and phone batteries)

How to join B-cycle? To find out more, email: contact@bsc.org.au