

21 November 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

via: PortfolioCommittee6@parliament.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility devices:

Responses to questions on notice

On behalf of the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), we thank the committee for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on the 31 October 2024, to discuss the requirements for e-mobility devices at end of use, which include the priority of safe collection for either reuse, recycling or safe disposal.

- **Question:** In other countries—European countries, for example—is that a standard into the future? Have they mandated that particular lithium batteries aren't available or shouldn't be sold in their countries? Are there jurisdictions that are doing this better that we can have a look at?
- **Answer:** The European Parliament has enacted a best-practice extended producer responsibility scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, which came into force in 2012, is an extended producer responsibility scheme that incorporates all electrical and electronic equipment; in short, any product connected to a plug or that contains batteries.

The Directive requires;

- separate collection and proper treatment of WEEE with targets for collection, recovery and recycling
- crackdowns on the illegal export of WEEE
- public awareness and educational programs, funded by the scheme
- all participants across the e-waste value chain to be accredited.

The EU has also recently enacted regulation regarding battery recycling, which sets an ambitious best practice standard that Australia should emulate. This regulation mandates minimum recycled content thresholds in batteries; 6 per cent for lithium and nickel and 16 per cent for cobalt by 2031, rising to 12 per cent for lithium, 15 per cent for nickel and 26 per cent for cobalt by 2036.

Yours sincerely

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