



MEDIA RELEASE

TICK FOR PAINT RECOVERY SCHEME

23rd June 2021

For immediate use

Australia's competition watchdog will allow a national paint recovery and recycling scheme to continue until 2031, potentially diverting more than 90 million kilograms of waste from landfill and waterways.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said it will continue to authorise a 15c-per-litre levy (plus GST) on wholesale sale of architectural and design (A&D) paints to fund the national paint product stewardship scheme, operated by Paintback.

"The ACCC considers that the Scheme ... is likely to result in environmental benefits through increased collection of waste A&D paint in Australia and less improper disposal than would be the case if state, territory and local government collection programs continued to operate without the Scheme," the ACCC said in its decision.

"The ACCC also considers that the Scheme is likely to result in efficiencies from economies of scale, reducing the per-unit cost of collecting and disposing of waste A&D paint."

Paintback chief executive Karen Gomez was "thrilled" with the determination which comes after the Scheme collected a record eight million kilograms of old paint and its packaging last financial year and is confident of breaking that record again this financial year.

"It upholds industry's belief that, striking a balance between good and ideal, it can efficiently deliver a net environmental benefit through a nationally harmonised scheme, compared to fragmented programs run through state, territory and local governments," Ms Gomez said.

Paintback estimates the Scheme will collect between 8.5 million and 9.5 million kilograms of waste and packaging every year until July 2026 – a trend that could see more than 90 million kilograms recovered in addition to the 28 million kilograms already collected since the Scheme began in May 2016.

Alongside collection, Paintback aims to have at least 90 per cent of unwanted paint used to fuel a budding circular economy.

Currently some unwanted paint is converted into an alternative fuel sources, replacing coal, or its water is extracted and used by other industries, reducing the need to use mains water and the steel cans are recycled.

"Paint already contributes to a circular economy by conserving and refurbishing a vast array of buildings and assets, but we are investigating new ways of putting unwanted paint into circulation again and creating new markets for Australia's unwanted paint," Ms Gomez said.

"If we can make Australia's unwanted paint a hero of our circular economy, we help protect the environment, reduce the amount of paint in landfill, and support local innovation."



MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT

Amanda Dutt Sharma

Marketing and Communications Manager

M: 0401 474 324

E: aduttsharma@paintback.com.au