

Unifying efforts: Setting standards and best practice for ending plastic waste

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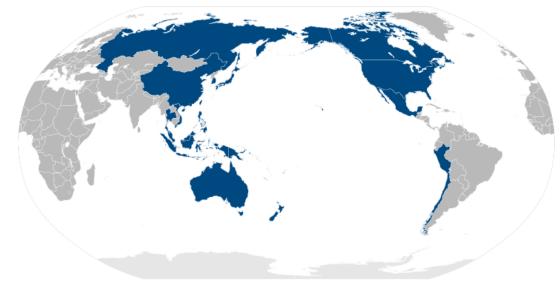


I would like to begin by acknowledging the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land that we're meeting on today, and pay my respect to their Elders past and present.



International cooperation is key to the circular economy transition

- Australia: deeply interconnected in the global value chain
 - In 2019, Australia exported 1,459 MT or 45% of total material inflow
 - Imports most of its consumer goods
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region accounted for 78% of Australia's two-way trade in 2021
- Standards are key to international cooperation and driving system changes







The APEC circular economy standards project

The problem

Variable progress in the adoption of circular economy standards

The project

- Increase the uptake of circular economy standards and participation in the circular economy in the APEC region
- DFAT funded
- Collaboration between Standards Australia and CSIRO
- Ending Plastic Waste Mission and Circular Economy for Missions Initiative



Access the report:

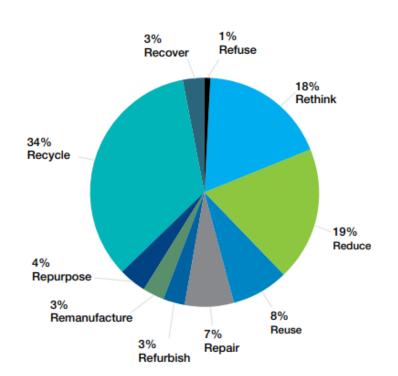


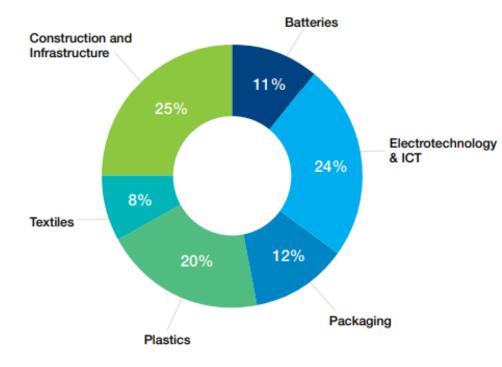


Key findings from the report

Figure 2. Circular economy related standards categorised by the 9R strategy

Figure 3. Circular economy related standards by product or sector





Source: Prepared by analysing dataset from DIN, DKE, VDI (2023).

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How can standards **enable** the CE transition?

Design

- Set foundational definitions and principles
- Embed CE principles in product design

Operations

- Ensure product minimum quality and safety
- Enhance enabling technologies

Markets

- Create/strengthen markets
- Provide market access for producers
- Build and maintain consumer trust





Barriers for CE standards uptake

- Lengthy process
- Limited access
- Gaps or conflicting standards
- Latest information

Standards

Markets, supply chains, labour

- Resources –economy and business sizes
- Traceability & transparency
- CE workforce skills

- Limited coordination for CE transition
- Standards awareness
- Economy priorities
- Mistrust, risk aversion

Socio-cultural and knowledge

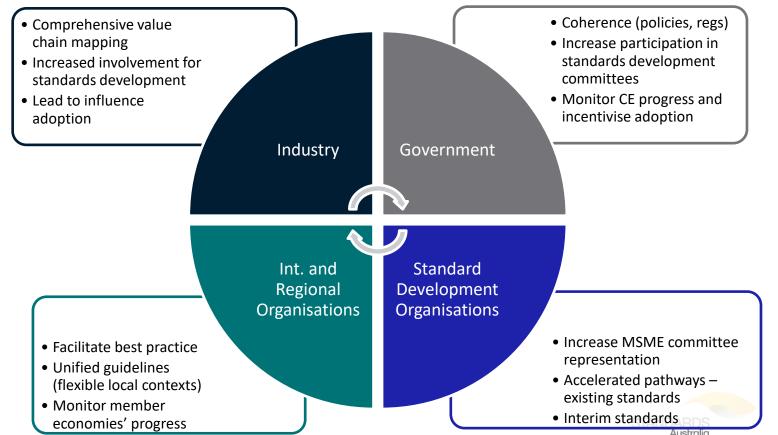
Policy & regulation

- Missing policies/regs
- Differences in data sharing, privacy, traceability
- Regulatory burden for secondary materials





Recommendations for increasing CE standards uptake









Thank you from the project team!















