

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**Questions on Notice Paper No 1**  
**Friday, 6 December 2024**  
**Question No. 85**

**MS CLAY: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —**

1. What is the current status of product stewardship programs in the categories of (a) supermarket and other packaging, (b) household batteries, (c) electric vehicle batteries and large batteries, (d) solar panels, (e) textiles, (f) plastics including soft plastics and single-use plastics, (g) products used to replace single-use plastics, such as bioplastic containers, bamboo cutlery and cardboard packaging and (h) any other materials for which there are product stewardship arrangements in place or in the pipeline.
2. For product stewardship programs in each of the categories, referred to in part (1), can the Minister identify (a) if they are mandatory, (b) if they are voluntary, (c) if they are under review and (d) what objectives of any work are currently being undertaken on these programs.
3. For each of the product categories, referred to in part (1), which of these (a) can currently be dropped off for recycling here in the ACT, and under what arrangements does that take place and (b) will be able to be dropped off for recycling here in the ACT before 2028 under current Government plans, and under what arrangements will that take place.

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – The answer to the Member’s questions are as follows:**



Product	1. What is the current status of product stewardship programs in the categories	2. For product stewardship programs in each of the categories, referred to in part (1), can the Minister identify (a) if they are mandatory, (b) if they are voluntary, (c) if they are under review and (d) what objectives of any work are currently being undertaken on these programs.	3. For each of the product categories, referred to in part (1), which of these (a) can currently be dropped off for recycling here in the ACT, and under what arrangements does that take place and (b) will be able to be dropped off for recycling here in the ACT before 2028 under current Government plans, and under what arrangements will that take place.
<b>(a) supermarket and other packaging</b>	<p><i>Packaging</i></p> <p>The Australian Packaging Covenant is a product stewardship scheme that applies to all packaging used in Australia. It is administered by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO).</p>	<p><i>Packaging</i></p> <p>a) No.</p> <p>b) Yes.</p> <p>c) In April 2023, APCO released its <a href="#">Review of the 2025 National Packaging Targets</a>. In October 2024, the Australian Government consulted on potential options for a reformed system for regulating packaging in Australia.</p> <p>d) On 19 August 2024, <a href="#">APCO's 2030 Strategic Plan</a> was released. This outlines how APCO and its members will eliminate and reduce packaging, adopt reuse models, and transition to materials and formats that are easier to recycle.</p>	<p><i>Packaging</i></p> <p>a) Glass jars, plastic containers, steel and aluminium tins, paper and cardboard can be recycled through kerbside recycling bins.</p> <p>b) The procurement process for the new Material Recovery Facility is currently in progress; the list of recyclable materials that will be accepted through the facility will be finalised as part of this process.</p>

	<p><i>Beverage containers</i></p> <p>The ACT Container Deposit Scheme (ACT CDS) is a product stewardship scheme for eligible beverage containers.</p>	<p><i>Beverage containers</i></p> <p>a) Yes.</p> <p>b) No.</p> <p>c) In June 2024, the ACT Government undertook a <a href="#">review of the ACT CDS</a>. The review found that the ACT CDS has largely met its legislated objectives of establishing a cost-effective scheme and enhancing resource recovery.</p> <p>d) The ACT Government is currently considering a proposed expansion to the ACT CDS and is closely monitoring progress of other jurisdictions, with the intention to harmonise where possible.</p>	<p><i>Beverage containers</i></p> <p>c) Most glass, plastic, aluminium, steel and carton-based containers that are between 150 millilitres and 3 litres can be dropped off at a variety of ACT CDS collection points.</p> <p>d) Information on the proposed expansion to the ACT CDS is available on the ACT CDS <a href="#">YourSay website</a>. Proposed items for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water (inflatable sachets and other packaging types) – one to three litres</li> <li>• fruit and vegetable juice (at least 90% juice and all container types) – one to three litres</li> <li>• flavoured milk (all container types) – one to three litres</li> <li>• concentrated fruit and vegetable juice intended to be diluted before consumption (all container types) – 150 millilitres to three litres</li> <li>• cordial (undiluted and all material types) – 150 millilitres to three litres</li> <li>• wine – 150 millilitres to three litres</li> <li>• spirits – 150 millilitres to three litres</li> <li>• flavoured alcoholic beverages with a wine base – one to three litres.</li> </ul>
<b>(b) household batteries</b>	<p>B-cycle is a national product stewardship scheme for some battery types in Australia. B-cycle accepts household batteries, including regular AA and other sized batteries, button batteries, rechargeable batteries, and easily removable batteries.</p>	<p>a) No.</p> <p>b) Yes.</p> <p>c) The B-cycle scheme is currently under review. Details can be found in the <a href="#">Proposed B-cycle 2.0 Final Scheme Design</a> paper.</p> <p>d) The Battery Stewardship Council (BSC) heard through consultation that B-cycle needed to address free riders and product quality through regulation, address fire and child safety risks, create a clear path for broad scope expansion, and establish a scalable and sustainable model, amongst other things. The proposed Scheme Design resulting from the review will form the</p>	<p>a) Household batteries can be dropped off for recycling at a wide range of <a href="#">B-cycle collection points across the ACT</a>. These are then taken for recycling outside of the ACT.</p> <p>b) The ACT Government will consider the outcomes of the <a href="#">Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM) on 10 December 2024</a>. Ministers discussed the progression of aligned state-led reforms for mandatory battery product stewardship, with NSW intending to introduce legislation in 2025. The ACT Government may consider options for regulatory reform, noting that a national approach to product stewardship is preferred.</p>

		basis for the BSC's Australian Competition and Consumer Commission re-authorisation which will be active from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030.	
<b>(c) electric vehicle batteries and large batteries</b>	There is currently no established product stewardship scheme for electric vehicle batteries and large batteries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) N/A.</li> <li>b) N/A.</li> <li>c) N/A.</li> <li>d) The Battery Stewardship Council is undertaking work to understand the feasibility of including electric vehicle batteries and large batteries in the existing B-cycle scheme. Information can be found in the <a href="#">Proposed B-cycle 2.0 Final Scheme Design</a> paper, the March 2023 <a href="#">Electric Vehicle Battery Stewardship discussion paper</a>, and the 2024 <a href="#">Electric Vehicle Battery Stewardship Consultation Paper</a> arising from industry submissions in 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Electric vehicle lithium-ion batteries should be recycled and transported by specialist recyclers. Consumers should contact their auto electrician or dealership to discuss safe disposal options if their electric vehicle battery requires disposal. Consumers seeking to dispose of other large batteries including household solar energy storage batteries should also contact their supplier regarding the best disposal option for these products.</li> <li>b) The ACT Government will consider the outcomes of the December 2024 Environment Ministers Meeting and the potential progression of state-led reforms for battery stewardship.</li> </ul>
<b>(d) solar panels</b>	There is currently no established product stewardship scheme for solar panels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) N/A.</li> <li>b) N/A.</li> <li>c) N/A.</li> <li>d) The Australian Government has committed to develop a mandatory product stewardship scheme to reduce waste from small electrical products and photovoltaic systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Solar panels can be dropped off at ACT Resource Management Centres (RMCs). Residents can contact installers, manufacturers or recyclers directly to engage with recycling programs that they may support.</li> <li>b) Solar panels will continue to be accepted at ACT RMCs.</li> </ul>
<b>(e) textiles</b>	<a href="#">Seamless</a> is a product stewardship scheme for clothing textiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No.</li> <li>b) Yes.</li> <li>c) Seamless was first established in July 2024 and as such it is not under review.</li> <li>d) Seamless aims to create a circular clothing industry by 2030. It is understood that the intention is for the scheme to become a nationally regulated scheme in the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Textiles can be dropped off for recycling at a number of ACT locations.</li> <li>b) The ACT Government is delivering action 4.9 under the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030, which is to scope the establishment of a textiles hub in the ACT. This may inform future ACT recycling options of textiles.</li> </ul>
<b>(f) plastics including soft plastics and single-use plastics</b>	There is currently no established product stewardship scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) N/A.</li> <li>b) N/A.</li> <li>c) N/A.</li> <li>d) There are a number of soft plastic recycling trials underway:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Aside from the landfill bin, there are no soft plastic or single-use plastic drop off locations in the ACT.</li> <li>b) Before potential soft plastic collections can resume, funding for infrastructure development and support for market development would be required.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Curby Soft Plastics Program is currently running in 4-6 councils.</li> <li>• The National Plastics Recycling Scheme is an industry-led soft plastics recycling scheme, largely revolving around kerbside collection, using a special-purpose bag for household soft plastic, supplemented by other channels which could include return to store and other collection methods for regional areas.</li> <li>• The Soft Plastics Taskforce (comprised of the major supermarkets) restarted a small-scale collection of soft plastics at limited supermarkets in Victoria in 2024. Collections will expand once more there is more capacity available to recycle materials.</li> <li>• Following the December 2024 EMM, the <a href="#">National Kerbside Collections Roadmap</a> was released. Australian governments are working together to develop a pathway to collect and recycle soft plastics at scale.</li> </ul>	
<b>(g) products used to replace single-use plastics, such as bioplastic containers, bamboo cutlery and cardboard packaging</b>	There is currently no established product stewardship scheme.	a) N/A. b) N/A. c) N/A. d) N/A.	a) Aside from the landfill bin, there are no drop off locations for bioplastic containers or bamboo cutlery in the ACT. Cardboard packaging from households can be recycled through the kerbside recycling bin. b) Aside from the landfill bin, there are currently no plans to offer drop off locations for bioplastic containers or bamboo cutlery in the ACT.
<b>(h) any other materials for which there are product stewardship arrangements in place or in the pipeline</b>	<p>Information on other materials for which there are product stewardship arrangements in place, or in the pipeline, can be accessed through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water's (DCCEEW) <a href="#">Minister's Product Stewardship Priority List</a>. Industry is expected to take action for the products on the list. The Australian Minister for the Environment and Water reviews the list annually to see if the recommended actions have been taken. If action is not taken, the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water may consider regulating the products.</p> <p>The Australian Minister for the Environment and Water listed five products in 2023-2024: clothing textiles, tyres, plastics in healthcare products in hospitals, mattresses, and child car seats. The priority list for 2023-24 will remain unchanged while a review of the <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</i> (Clth) is undertaken.</p> <p>Historical products and their context/resulting arrangements can be accessed through previous lists from 2013 to 2023.</p>		

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

  
Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 11/1/25

This response required 10 hrs and 30 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$910.02