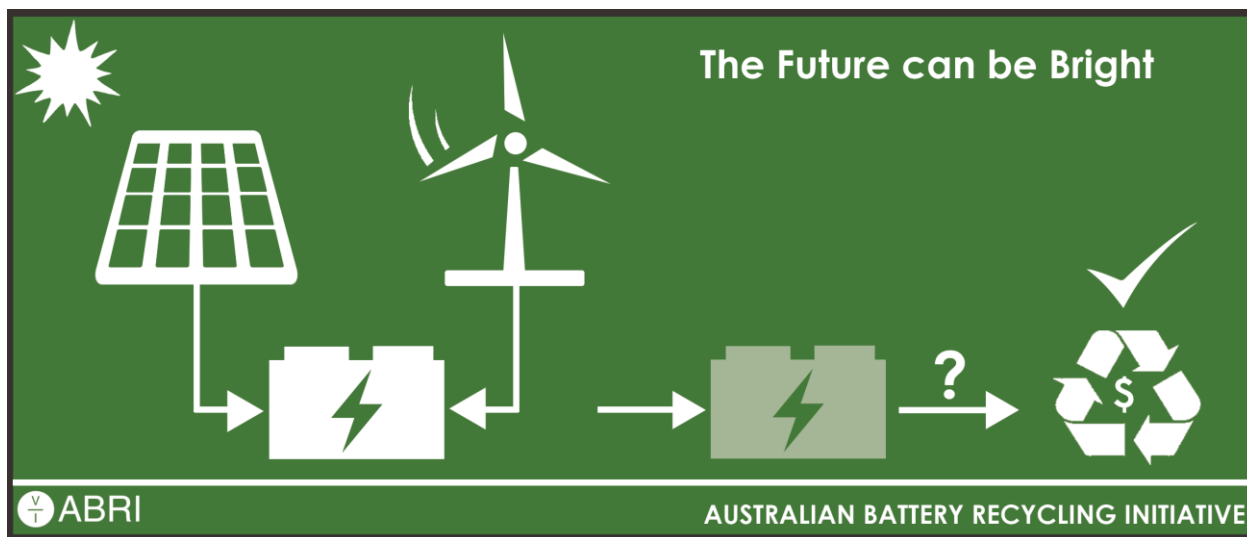


ABRI calls on the South Australian Government to take the long view in its plan for the 21st Century

With the recent release of the energy plan for the 21st Century, the South Australian government has shown leadership and foresight with significant investment in renewable energy and large scale battery systems.

ABRI believes this to be a very important step forward, but is also calling for the government to take a long-term view and plan now for decommissioning of these facilities, large and small. Not surprisingly, all the research points to exponential increase in battery usage across Australia. Most batteries have a life span of less than 10 years. Renewable energy is the only responsible long term solution to Australia's energy crisis and it is critical we plan now to reduce the long term environmental impacts of these initiatives.

"It is essential that local, state and federal governments plan now for battery recycling infrastructure, before this massive influx of used batteries becomes a huge burden on the community", said Libby Chaplin, CEO of the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative.



Now is the time to be planning recycling infrastructure. Now is the time to be raising awareness of system designers and installers so that decommissioning and recycling occurs in an effective, safe and resource efficient manner. Just as we need to take a long-term view of energy security, so too do we need to take a long-term view of the entire system, not just the front end. Only by being prepared can we avoid a future crisis and ensure that the potentially very negative environmental impacts of inappropriate decommissioning and disposal can instead become an economic advantage for the community.

Ms Chaplin predicts that along with a more secure energy network, renewable energy systems will also lead to significant investment in innovative recycling solutions and an exponential increase in green jobs. "It is critically important that we are planning now for the end-of-life of these systems. It is time to prepare for the future, as it is coming fast" she said.

Contact	About the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI)
Libby Chaplin AUSTRALIAN BATTERY RECYCLING INITIATIVE PH: 0467 515 260 secretariat@batteryrecycling.org.au	ABRI has been formed by a group of battery manufacturers, distributors, collectors, recyclers, government bodies and environment groups to promote the collection, recycling and safe disposal of all batteries. ABRI supports the principle of product stewardship: that responsibility for environmental management of products, including their recovery at end of life, is shared by organisations at every stage of the product life cycle.