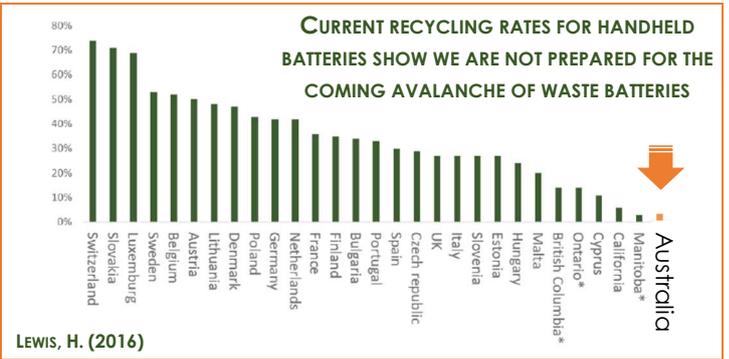
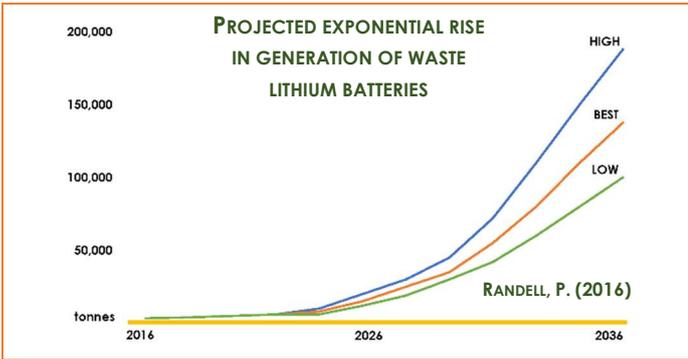


NOW IS THE TIME FOR A NATIONAL BATTERY STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Australians are becoming increasingly reliant on batteries in small handheld devices, and for electric vehicles and renewable energy systems. By 2036 it is projected we will generate 137,000 - 186,000 tonnes of waste lithium batteries each year – the weight of the opera house!

In comparison to other OECD countries, our management practices for this waste stream are very poor, with current recycling rate hovering around 3% for handheld batteries. We are poised to have a serious waste issue unless we take a coordinated approach to national stewardship.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Perhaps the biggest risk is community safety. Both improper storage in the home and disposal to landfill can create a very real fire risk. The loss of a home is extremely serious, but the impact of a landfill fire effects many more lives with the release of dioxins and other toxins into the atmosphere.

LOSS OF RESOURCES

Batteries are mostly comprised of metals & plastic. Disposal to landfill means these resources are locked up from further use. In a circular economy, we would see valuable resources used again, capturing metals & reducing the need for extraction of raw materials.

EXPORT LIABILITY

Shipping lines are starting to restrict shipping of batteries due to fire risk. In recent years port fires caused by batteries have raised alarm bells. The trend is to disallow export, reducing access to overseas solutions. Local certainty and investment is needed to secure onshore solutions.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

PROVEN APPROACH

Product Stewardship in Australia is delivering results for products such as computers and televisions, and mobile phones. Similar schemes have been operating Europe since 1991 and more recently in the US. We can build on the experience of these schemes to create an effective and efficient scheme for batteries.

WE HAVE CAPABILITY

Australia recycles more than 90% of lead acid batteries. This has created expertise & infrastructure we can draw on for other types of batteries. We can also learn from the experience of some retailers, state governments, and councils who provide drop off facilities for batteries.

LOCAL INVESTMENT

Shipping lines are beginning to restrict shipping of batteries due to the fire risk. If this continues as expected, exporting the problem will not be an option. A battery stewardship scheme would see investment in local solutions and green jobs.

WHY A NATIONAL SCHEME IS IMPORTANT

DELIVERING SAFETY

Experience in other jurisdictions shows a centralised national scheme is more successful in creating consistent processes necessary for a safe and effective recovery process. It also means recovery is focused not only batteries with a high resource recovery value (lead acid), but also problematic batteries such as lithium.

EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT

For battery brand owners, a national approach will create a level playing field and will be easier to navigate, report and show success. A well designed national scheme can also foster industry development in the recycling sector, rather than creating a race to the bottom as has occurred in other jurisdictions.

COORDINATED SUCCESS

A national network with scheme awareness is central to success. A strong single brand and awareness program will create a culture of battery recovery in our day to day habits. Australian's have shown they want to recycle batteries, but they need to know where to take them. A national scheme can deliver.

It is time for a solution!

For more information, contact the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative: www.batteryrecycling.org.au

ABRI'S VISION

ABRI's vision is to achieve battery stewardship in Australia by:

- Advocating for a national battery recycling scheme,
- Developing and promoting best practices for battery collection and recycling, and
- Creating opportunities for information exchange, collaboration, and policy development.

AT THE FORFRONT

ABRI is at the forefront of industry research and development in Australia and internationally. In addition to having a strong membership base in Australia, ABRI is connected to key players in Europe and the US, enabling us to stay current with the latest policy and best practices.

Our membership is pursuing innovative solutions to battery stewardship, including scheme design, packaging options, best practice guidelines, and analysis of emerging sectors such as fire safety and energy storage.

ABRI MEMBERS

ABRI members represent the spectrum of players in the battery life-cycle, including manufacturers, importers, energy storage providers, retailers, recyclers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

It is this diverse membership that is our strength in that it provides us with a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing battery stewardship in Australia.

INDUSTRY VOICE

ABRI is regularly in conversation with industry stakeholders, as well as local, state and federal government, to increase awareness of the industry's concerns and to pursue proactive realistic solutions for improved recovery. We provide input both at the strategic level for creating a national scheme for recycling batteries and at the tactical level in designing best practices for battery collection and recycling.

Together, we influence policy, participate in research, and facilitate trials to ensure that battery handling and recovery options are safe, efficient and business friendly.

ABRI MEMBERS



Join us today!

For more information about how to become a member, go to: www.batteryrecycling.org.au