



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

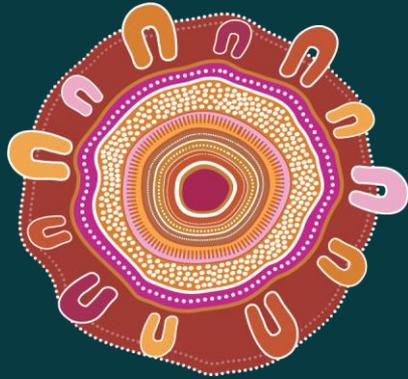
National Reform of Packaging Regulation

Webinar | 26 September 2024

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.





Overview

1. More work to do to make packaging circular
2. Packaging regulation in Australia is not delivering sufficient change
3. Potential options to reform packaging regulation
4. Potential obligations for packaging
5. Now is the time to **HAVE YOUR SAY**

Progress made but more to do

Packaging is growing

- 7 million tonnes of packaging placed on market (2022)
 - 56% recovered
 - 3 million tonnes landfilled
 - Estimated lost value - \$900 million
- Estimated 12 million tonnes per annum by 2040

Insufficient progress towards national targets



Work is underway

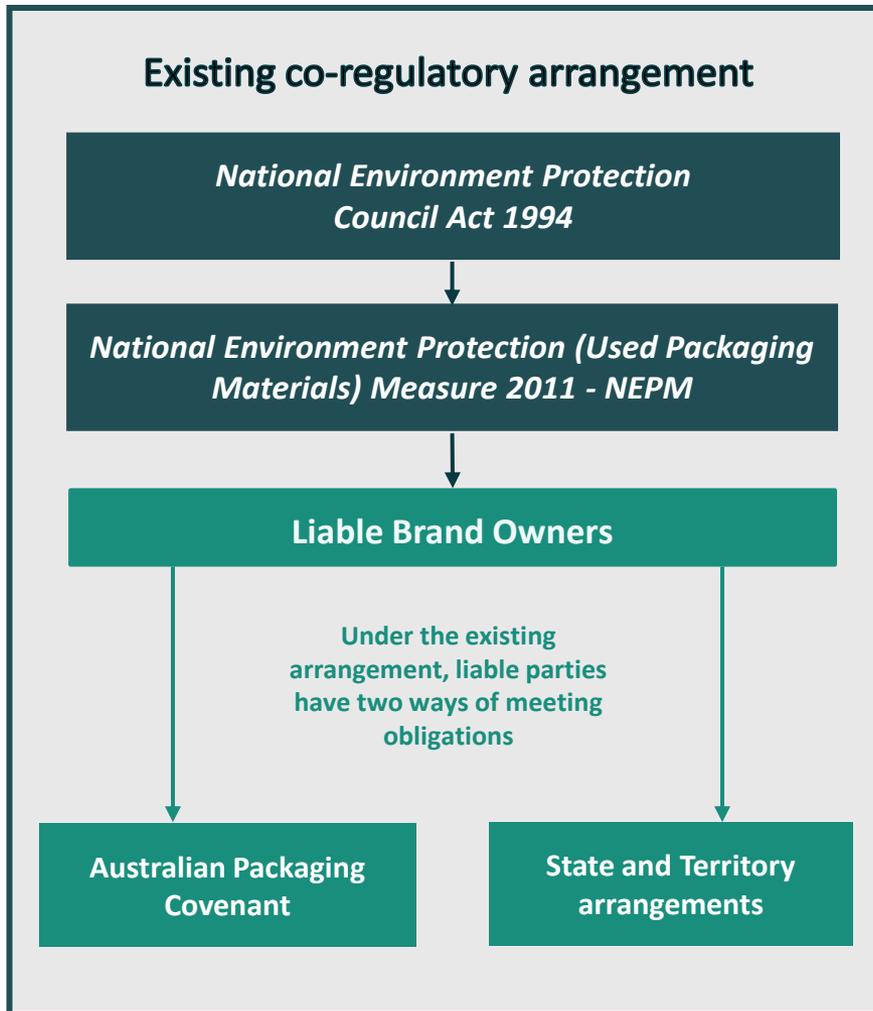
Industry

- APCO Strategic Plan
- Australasian Recycling Label
- Soft Plastics Taskforce

Government

- Circular Economy Framework
- Strengthening the National Waste Policy Action Plan
- Recycling Modernisation Fund
- ReMade in Australia
- National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability
- Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Harmonise kerbside bin collections and single use product phase-outs

Co-regulatory arrangement is not working



Existing co-regulatory arrangement is not effective

- Voluntary actions are insufficient
- Inconsistent definitions
- Lack of clear goals and KPIs
- Implemented inconsistently
- Lack of state and territory government monitoring and enforcement
- Enables free riders, undermining industry-led efforts

Change is needed to...

- Build a circular economy for packaging
- Support efforts to address plastic pollution
- Align with international best practice

Industry and government are on the reform journey



Reform objective, outcomes and principles



Objective is focused on...

- Reducing the environmental impact of packaging
- Supporting the transition to a circular economy for packaging
- Regulation that is clear, national and mandatory



Key outcomes are

- Waste from packaging is reduced
- Packaging materials are kept in use and circulated at their highest value



Reform principles are focused on a regulatory system that is...

- Nationally consistent, clear and enforceable
- Makes industry responsible
- Flexible to support innovation
- Aligns with global standards and best practice

Possible Options – key elements

Option 1 – Strengthening administration of the co-regulatory arrangements

- Current co-regulatory arrangement remains unchanged
- APCO implements its 2030 Strategic Plan to support Industry to meet the Covenant goals
- Stronger compliance and enforcement of the NEPM to reduce free riders
- Increased education to support behaviour change and participation by industry and the community

Option 2 – National mandatory requirements for packaging...

- ...through Commonwealth legislation, mandated on individual regulated entities:
 - bans on problematic materials and chemicals of concern
 - progressive bans of packaging to mandate minimum recyclability performance
 - minimum recycled content thresholds
- Current co-regulatory arrangement ceases

Option 3 – A national extended producer responsibility scheme...

- supported by an administrator with industry-level outcomes
- Mandated requirements on regulated entities like Option 2, but eco-modulated fees for recyclable design replace progressive bans
- EPR fees based on packaging placed on the market, could support administrator and industry to deliver outcomes

Packaging obligations



Improve packaging design for recyclability

To make packaging safer, reduce waste and improve recyclability



Improve recycling labelling

So consumers understand what can and cannot be recycled and businesses are accountable for their packaging choices



Recycled content thresholds

To support increased take up of recycled content and create markets for recovered materials

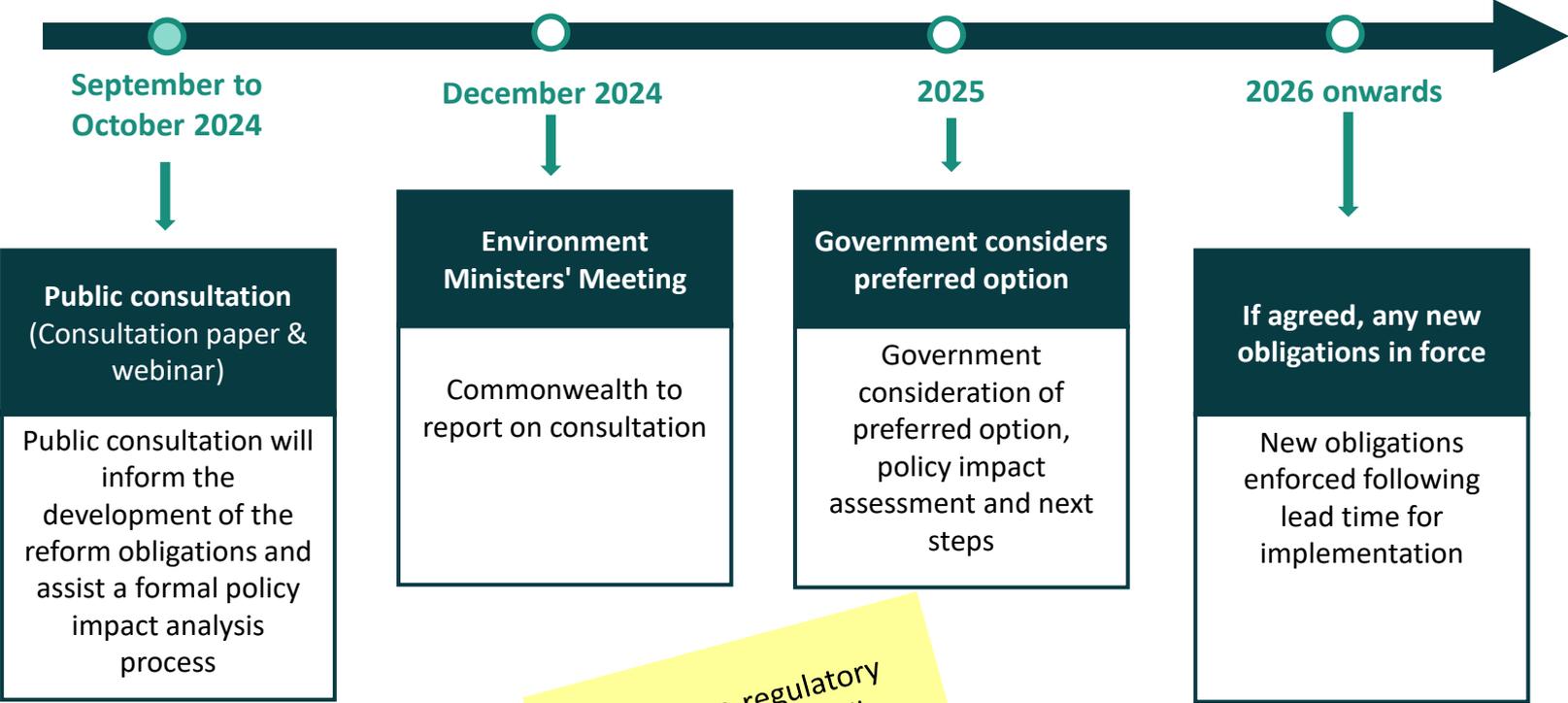


Other obligations

To support achieving the packaging reform objectives by considering other obligations (e.g. collection and recycling, reuse)



Timeline for packaging reform



Current co-regulatory arrangements will continue as we transition to reform.
APCO will continue to drive action on packaging with its members.

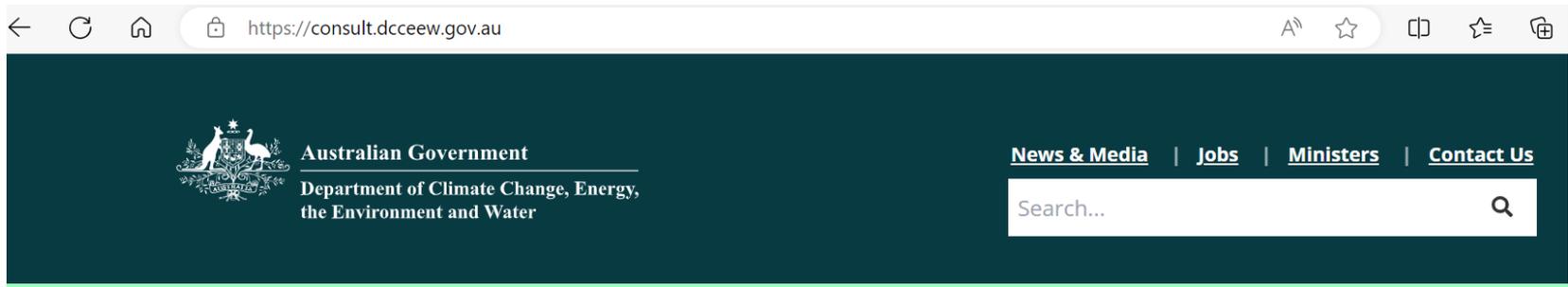
Have your say on packaging reforms



We now need to hear from you!

We need your views and evidence to identify the best way forward on packaging reform

Tell us your views using the DCCEEW HYS webpage



Have your say

Our department is committed to engaging with you and gaining your insights.

Share your feedback as we plan, develop and consult on policies and projects.

Q&As

Contact us for further enquiries

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