



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ministers List Release Underlines Stewardship as the Solution

The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence today welcomed the release of the Minister's 2022-2023 product stewardship priority list.

Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek has listed three additional products (tyres, mattresses and plastics in healthcare) that will now become the focus of efforts by industry, Government agencies and institutions such as the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence to implement product stewardship solutions.

"The Minister's List process places product stewardship as the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce a product's impact on the environment and human health," Centre of Excellence director Rose Read said.

"Tyres and mattresses have voluntary stewardship schemes in place that need more support from industry, or, face Government regulation," Ms Read said.

"While there are some excellent single brand initiatives in healthcare plastics, much work is needed to create an industry-wide solution," Ms Read said.

Solar panels, electrical products, child car seats, oil containers, clothing textiles and problematic/single use plastics remain on the Ministers List from previous years.

The Australian Government flagged its intention at the recent Environment Ministers Meeting to develop a regulatory product stewardship scheme for solar panels and household electronics which have been on the list since 2016-17.

"This year's list is the first to reflect the views of both the business community and the public following the Government publicly seeking nominations for the list late last year, as well as input from federal, state, territory and local government agencies and the Centre of Excellence," Ms Read said.

In line with the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (RaWR Act 2020) the Australian Government consulted with the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence in preparing the list.

"The Centre will be proactively working with the product industries listed in helping them develop and implement solutions to minimise the environmental and human impacts of their products across the entire lifecycle. From designing out waste and pollution to keeping these products and materials in use as we transition to a decarbonised circular economy.

"Being on the Minister's List brings heightened scrutiny, focus and resources from the Government and support from institutions such as the Centre of Excellence," Ms Read said.

“The way off the Ministers List is either by establishing industry-led initiatives that reduce the whole of life environmental and human health impacts of their products or being regulated by government,” Ms Read said.

“The Centre advises and mentors businesses, industries and product stewardship initiatives seeking to establish or improve their approaches to prevent future environmental and human harm of their products, as well as supporting voluntary product stewardship initiatives applying for Australian Government Accreditation under the RaWR Act,” Ms Read said.

Media Enquires: Tim Powell 0411 725 595 or tim.powell@dentsu.com

About the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence

The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence was established in December 2020 by a consortium of UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures, the Australian Industry Group and Dentsu Creative in partnership with the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

The Centre holds the required knowledge and expertise in product stewardship scheme design and implementation, education, training, research, policy, community engagement, supply chains, logistics, government liaison and business engagement.

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