

# Handheld Battery Product Stewardship Project

Project communique – Update 1

January 2014

## Timeline to Date

**April 2013**—Ministers at the Standing Council on Environment and Water agreed to place the development of a product stewardship arrangement for handheld batteries on the 2013/14 work plan. Queensland nominated as lead jurisdiction.

**June 2013**—handheld batteries are listed on the 2013/14 Product List under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* for consideration of product stewardship approaches.

**August 2013**—Mr Russ Martin is engaged as the Independent Chair of the Battery Implementation Working group; Battery stakeholder workshop held in Brisbane to start defining the issues and scope for a scheme; Battery Implementation Working Group membership and representatives confirmed.

**September 2013**—1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Battery Implementation Working Group

**November 2013**—2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Battery Implementation Working Group

**December 2013**—Request for Quote issued for study into market share and stocks and flows of handheld batteries in Australia

## Development of a national product stewardship scheme

### *The Battery Implementation Working Group*

The Battery Implementation Working Group (BIWG) has been formed to support the development of a proposed model for a national handheld battery product stewardship scheme for consideration by environment ministers in 2015. The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) leads the development of the scheme and provides Secretariat support for the BIWG. The BIWG comprises representation from:

- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Queensland)
- Australian Battery Recycling Initiative
- Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Information Industry Association
- Australian Mobile Telecommunication Association
- Department of the Environment (Commonwealth)
- Sustainability Victoria
- Australian Local Government Association

Retailers, brand owners and battery manufacturers have been invited to participate on the BIWG during the development of the scheme.

### *Discussion paper*

The major task of the BIWG at present is to develop a discussion paper on key issues for the design of the product stewardship scheme, including objectives, principles, scope, management, funding, targets and performance indicators. This paper will form the basis for broader stakeholder

consultation over the coming months. The first draft of this paper will be presented to government representatives and the Battery Reference Group at meetings proposed for 19 February 2014 in Canberra.

### ***Battery Reference Group***

A broader Battery Reference Group (BRG) has been established to assist the Working Group with the development of the scheme. The BRG is made up of associations and individual companies in the battery supply and recovery chain, or with an interest in battery recycling. It includes manufacturers, transporters, recyclers, retailers, environment groups and all levels of government. The BRG provides all interested stakeholders with an opportunity to provide input into the design of the scheme. The BRG is an advisory group, not a decision-making group, convened to provide advice to the BIWG on, and input into, the design of a handheld battery product stewardship scheme.

### ***Bilateral meetings***

In order to gain a better understanding of some of the issues, opportunities and challenges surrounding battery product stewardship, including collection, transport, reprocessing and recycling, the BIWG is interested in holding bilateral meetings with key stakeholders. Several of these meetings have already been held, eliciting good discussion around the key issues. Where possible, these meetings would be attended by the Working Group Independent Chair and the project Secretariat. Other BIWG members may also participate where relevant. To organise a bilateral meeting, please contact the Secretariat or your BIWG representative if you are a member of one of the organisations represented.

### ***Data and information***

An important part of the development of the scheme is gaining an understanding the stocks and flows of handheld batteries in Australia.

A battery study is being commissioned to gather information on the quantity of handheld batteries imported into Australia and what happens to them at end-of-life. The purpose of the study is to provide robust and accurate data and analysis to help understand the flow and market share dynamics of handheld batteries in Australia. The information will be gathered on two major categories – batteries sold separately and batteries that are sold with products.

### ***Upcoming meetings***

**Wednesday 19 February 2014:** Battery Reference Group – Canberra (venue to be confirmed) from 2pm to 4pm. This meeting will provide an update on the project to-date and also include a presentation on the draft product stewardship scheme discussion paper. Feedback on this paper will be sought following the meeting. Please register your interest in attending this meeting with the Secretariat by **Friday 31 January 2014**.

**Thursday 20 February 2014:** Battery Implementation Working Group – John Gorton Building Canberra

### ***Secretariat contact details***

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