

NATIONAL PAINT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Waste Paint was listed in June 2013 as one of the Priority Products for development of stewardship arrangements on the 2013-14 Priority Product List as required by the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (the Act). The decision was informed by a consortium of input; the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW) recommendation to place waste paint on the Priority Product List was supported by the paint industry including the trade painters, the Product Stewards Advisory Group and all States and Territories. Stewardship arrangements are now required for waste paint and work is now being done to outline development of a product stewardship approach. The Victorian Government, in partnership with the paint industry, is taking the lead on the development of a national waste paint stewardship scheme.

Following from the listing of paint as a priority product and with input from an industry workshop held in early September 2013, an Implementation Working Group (Working Group) has been established to support the development of an industry-led paint product stewardship scheme to increase the recovery and minimise the environmental, health and safety footprint of waste paint in Australia.

The Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation (APMF), whose members represent 85% of the paint manufacturing industry in Australia, is the lead industry association in the development of a national scheme. To prepare for a future voluntary scheme, the APMF, in conjunction with Sustainability Victoria (SV), undertook a trial trade waste paint program in Victoria in 2013. That program collected 128 tonnes of trade waste paint. The trial also indicated the need for suitable avenues to address waste from this source. For more details, go visit <http://www.paintcareaustralia.com.au/>.

The proposed scheme will, for the first time, allow trade painters a safe and reliable mechanism to deal with their waste. The scheme will further build on APMF/SV pre-existing research into improved methods of paint recycling and other beneficial disposal methods.

From now until early 2015 the Working Group will develop a national paint stewardship draft model scheme. The scheme envisaged will seek to deliver a national consistent program, utilising, where possible, existing infrastructures. The scheme will be funded by a small levy (likely to be in the range of 10-15 cents per litre on the sale of new retail and trade paints), as authorised by the Australian Consumer and Competition Authority. The scope of waste paint to be included in the levy will be all architectural and decorative paints, excluding aerosols and renders.

The scheme will be open to both the public and trade painters providing free, safe drop-off points across Australia.

It is proposed that the scheme be launched in 2015. Any comments and suggestions you may have regarding the development of the scheme should be forwarded to richard.phillips@apmf.asn.au.

Yours sincerely



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