

Media Release

27th September 2021

TYRE RETAIL ORGANISATIONS AND TYRE STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA DRIVE AWARENESS OF TYRE EXPORT BAN

Tyre Retail Organisations will be watching for unscrupulous operators offering last-minute cheap collections to tyre retailers ahead of the Commonwealth's waste export ban on all used tyres coming into effect December 1.

It comes as Tyre Stewardship Australia urged tyre retailers to conduct due diligence on service providers engaged to collect waste tyres – including checking that they are using TSA accredited collectors and recyclers.

Australia generates 450,000 tonnes of end-of-life tyres each year, of which 75 per cent is from passenger cars, buses and trucks. While more than 70 percent are reused, recycled or upcycled, the remainder are sent to landfill, buried or stockpiled.

TSA Chief Executive Officer Lina Goodman warned with cheap disposal options eliminated by the waste export ban, tyre retailers need to be prepared for rising costs of collections.

“We are hearing concerns from our network of accredited participants about approaches from operators offering cheap collection costs to remove waste tyres with the intention of stockpiling material, potentially causing environmental and social harm,” Ms Goodman explained.

“We encourage tyre retailers to do their part and adjust their practices to ensure they meet regulatory requirements and TSA Scheme guidelines.

“This is particularly pertinent in states where regulation is changing and more accountability now rests with tyre retailers to send waste material to a lawful place.”

Tyre Stewardship Australia encourages all tyre retailers to check they are using an accredited service for the collection and recycling of end-of-life tyres.

The Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 bans the export of waste whole or baled tyres from December 1. Export will only be legal for:

- Bus, truck and aviation tyres for re-treading to a verified re-treading facility;
- Tyres that have been processed into crumbs, buffings, granules or shreds; and
- Tyres that have been processed into tyre-derived fuel.

Ms Goodman congratulated tyre retailers who have demonstrated their commitment to the TSA Scheme.

“Despite the challenges presented by this change, TSA is encouraged by significant industry investment and a growth in the demand for tyre-derived material,” she said.

“These successes are not possible without the efforts of those retailers demonstrating their commitment to the Scheme – the role you play in more sustainable outcomes for EOLT does not go unnoticed.”

TSA will continue to audit accredited tyre retailers, collectors and recyclers to ensure they meet TSA Scheme guidelines. Ms Goodman encouraged retailers to visit mytyresmychoice.com.au to ensure they are using an accredited service for collection of their end-of-life tyres.

“We will also continue to notify retailers of changes to accreditation status of collectors and recyclers (including new accreditations) and identify opportunities for service provision to remote and regional locations,” Ms Goodman said.

TSA is made up of representatives from across the tyre value chain, including retailers, manufacturers, recyclers and collectors.

Ms Goodman encourages anyone who sees a tyre stockpile or illegal dumping of end-of-life tyres to contact TSA at getonboard@tyrestewardship.org.au.

Background

TSA is a voluntary national Product Stewardship Scheme formed to effectively reduce the environmental, health and safety impacts of end-of-life tyres and promote the development of viable end markets for tyre-derived products.

Since its inception, TSA has invested almost \$7 million in market development initiatives to find real world outcomes for tyre derived products.

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