

September 2021

## Message to Australian Farmers – A call out from Tyre Stewardship Australia

**Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) is calling out to all farmers and farming communities to be vigilant as we get closer to the waste export ban on all whole used tyres, including baled tyres which comes into effect 1 December 2021.**

TSA was established in 2014 to implement the national [Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme](#) (Scheme) which aims to promote the development of viable markets for end-of-life tyres (EOLT). The Scheme has multiple benefits including transforming a waste product into a useful commodity, creating new industries and employment opportunities while also reducing the environmental harm caused by the illegal dumping, stockpiling and mismanagement of EOLT.

TSA wish to advise all Australian farmers of the impending waste export ban and its potential impacts. On 8 November 2019, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to an export ban<sup>1</sup>, covering waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres. The waste export ban for tyres comes into effect 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, where whole used tyres (including baled tyres) will no longer be permissible exports.

TSA is concerned that as the ban nears, heightened activity of collecting waste tyres may occur. Organisations who fail to meet regulatory requirements and [TSA Scheme guidelines](#) may enter the market in the lead up to the ban for a quick injection of revenue. There is a possibility that unused or segregated farmland may be used to illegally dump or stockpile waste tyres by tyre collectors who cannot secure viable markets or fall short of meeting the necessary requirements to obtain an export licence.

Unmanaged stockpiles may become the responsibility of the farmer or landowner where illegal dumping and stockpiling has occurred. TSA has seen such occurrence first-hand and continues to monitor known stockpiles and share information with regulators.

Australia generates 450,000 tonnes of EOLT each year, of which 75 per cent comprise passenger, truck and bus tyres. Whilst we are pleased that 72 per cent of EOLT is recovered for productive outcomes, the remainder is mostly disposed (in licenced landfills or buried on-site where permitted), dumped or stockpiled.

More than 110,000 tonnes of EOLT is generated through sectors that use off-the-road tyres (OTR), including mining, agriculture, construction and aviation. Less than 20 percent of those tyres reaching

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/exports>

end-of-life are recovered each year. In recognition of the environmental, health and social impacts of these tyres being mostly buried on site or in landfill, TSA is working on a government grant funded project focused on improving the resource recovery rates of OTR tyres for more sustainable outcomes.

### **What can you do to help?**

We ask that Farmers and farming communities keep a watchful eye for illegal dumping of waste tyres. Left unsupervised the mismanagement of EOLT can lead to stockpiles that may lead to fire or other environmental and human health concerns. Not to mention the cost burden to clean up these sites is distressing for all involved, including farmers and landowners who can bear the cost of clean-up and possible fines from the regulator.

Indeed vigilance will need to remain post the 1 December 2021 deadline. Concerns associated with collectors who fail to secure long term arrangements for their material (local and/or international) or those who have not taken heed of the COAG waste export ban, such as invested to transition to further processing, may find themselves with no end markets.

TSA is doing its bit to prepare the industry, including support via its [Baler Transition Program](#), conducting webinars, forums and continually sharing information in the lead up the waste export ban. TSA continues to communicate with its 1700 and growing participants which includes retailers, ensuring they use accredited services for EOLT.

### **Working together now is most important. This is how we can work together:**

- If you see or hear of illegal dumping and stockpiling of waste tyres on your farm or in your local area, please advise TSA.
- For the disposal of waste tyres, visit [mytyresmychoice.com.au](http://mytyresmychoice.com.au) to find TSA accredited collectors and recyclers in your area.
- Ensure you are aware of your regulatory obligations. Your State based regulator will be best placed to guide you on how you can store and reuse waste tyres (such as for silage weights) on your property.
- Attached is a sample media release that you can utilise in local publications to help communicate the problem.

### **Additional Information**

If you have any queries regarding this message, please contact TSA:

Email: [GetOnBoard@tyrestewardship.org.au](mailto:GetOnBoard@tyrestewardship.org.au) Phone: +61 3 9977 7820

For further information on Tyre Stewardship Australia, please visit:

<https://www.tyrestewardship.org.au/>