Media Release

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Know your VOCs from your SVOCs: New report highlights risks to be understood and managed for sustainable end-of-life tyre resource recovery and applications

TSA has released a new report to help Tyre Derived Product (TDP) processors, manufacturers and users increase their knowledge of the environmental and health risks around use of end-of-life (EOL) tyres.

The **TYRE PARTICLE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY REPORT 2022** pulls together findings from global research to provide a useful summary of what the world knows about the contribution of tyre and road wear particles (TRWP) to chemical and microplastic pollution.

The recycling of rubber from end-of-life tyres has great environmental benefits due to the repurposing of an otherwise waste product, as well as additional benefits due to the improved performance features of many TDPs.

TSA acknowledges that any utilisation of recycled tyre material must be done so in a manner that is safe to the community and environment. As such, TSA continues to remain vigilant in monitoring new information and research, to help drive better outcomes for the utilisation of end-of-life tyres in TDP.

TSA Science and Innovation Advisor, Dr Linda Mitchell, says: “We‘ve done the leg work in identifying relevant literature that will help local governments and businesses who are putting, or want to put, EOL tyres to more sustainable use than stockpiling and dumping.

“There are many environmental and commercial benefits of reprocessing EOL tyres, but it’s important we recognise there are still risks that need to be managed.

“TSA wants to help government and industry push the safety benchmarks as high as we can, to ensure that the benefits of a circular tyre economy are as sustainable as possible for everyone.”

The Report lists risks for tyre and road wear particles AND tyre derived products used in applications such as artificial turf, playgrounds, running tracks and crumb rubber modified asphalt.

It also includes a risk matrix, which rates the risks according to likelihood and consequence, and identifies any knowledge gaps.

“What interests us the most is the knowledge gaps that exist,” says Dr Mitchell.

“As Australia moves towards improved management and reuse of its own waste, these gaps are opportunities for science and innovation sectors to investigate more and help show us the path forward.

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"I look forward to talking with anyone who has questions about the report and wants to explore opportunities to collaborate on more research and development."

The **TYRE PARTICLE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY REPORT 2022** can be found in the TSA Knowledge Hub which also includes the recently updated fact sheet on Australia's tyre consumption and recovery.

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ABOUT TYRE STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA

Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) was established in 2014 to implement the national Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme (TSS) an ACCC-authorised industry framework to reduce the environmental, health and safety impacts of the 56 million Equivalent Passenger Units (EPUs) which reach the end of their life in Australia each year.

TSA's vision is of a circular economy for end-of-life (EOL) tyres which contributes to a sustainable society. It works to drive sustainable outcomes for EOL tyres in Australia, by:

- accrediting participants, including tyre retailers, manufacturers, recyclers and collectors committed to sustainable practices
- funding market development initiatives
- driving the transformation of a waste product into a useful commodity