

# Recycling and Waste Management

October 03-04, 2019 | Melbourne, Australia

## Towards 2025 National Packaging Targets

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In response to China's National Sword, Australia's Commonwealth, state and territory environment ministers, and the President of the Australian Local Government Association, agreed to establish a sustainable path for Australia's recyclable waste. With regards to packaging, Ministers agreed to reduce the amount of waste generated and make it easier to recycle products. As a first step, Ministers announced a historic target to make 100% of packaging in Australia reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 or earlier. In 2018, Ministers committed governments to work with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) to deliver this target.

The Implementation Plan for the 2025 National Packaging Targets has been developed in the context of increased attention on waste policy in Australia and internationally. This heightened focus is a result of increasing concern about the environmental impacts of packaging waste, such

as the harmful effects of marine debris.

Recently the Federal Government committed \$3m to support four new recycling education and resource recovery projects in Australia, which are being delivered by APCO and Planet Ark Environmental Foundation. The funding is part of the Federal Government's \$203m package to increase recycling and reduce waste, protect Australia's unique threatened species and restore our waterways and coasts, and will provide essential resources and support to drive the delivery of the 2025 National Packaging Targets.

APCO's presentation will detail how our priority projects and collective action model are driving a circular economy for packaging which will result in reduced packaging waste and pollution, and improved product lifecycle management.

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