

Motion for Submission to ALGA National Congress July 2024

Material product standards

1. This national General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the development of material product standards across the supply chain so products last longer, are repairable, reusable and recyclable.

National Objective

Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?
(Maximum 100 words)

We are in the midst of a climate emergency. Federal leadership is critical. Standardising material products across the supply chain will reduce waste, emissions and improve recycling, thereby building Australia's circular economy and improving climate outcomes.

While state governments are driving the transition to local circular economies, the variety of materials introduces a myriad of challenges to keeping these materials in circulation and out of landfill.

Australia's economy relies on the movement of vast amounts of material products between states. State-based approaches are not sufficient. Federal action is required.

Summary of Key Arguments

Background information and supporting arguments
(Maximum 300 words)

Currently only 3.7% of Australia's economy is 'circular' (according to the CSIRO).

Material products must be standardised to do better. The diversity of materials used to create products makes it challenging for community to reuse and repair products and for material processors to separate and recover these materials. These materials end up in landfill causing harm to the environment.

Standardisation can:

- enable individuals to choose products with greater potential to repair and reuse.
- provide clarity to residents re materials placed in each waste and recycling stream.
- provide material processors greater understanding and consistency of materials they receive.

Potential financial savings:

- Councils (reduced waste volume),
- Residents (longer-lasting products),
- manufacturers (reduced variety/amount of materials required).

CSIRO estimates "new circular products from waste resources could provide potential market opportunities worth \$210 billion by 2050."