



Oil Container Product Stewardship

Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the oil container product stewardship program?

The [Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation \(APCO\)](#), under the [Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands Plastics Pact \(ANZPAC\)](#), has commenced development of a national product stewardship model for used lubricant oil containers.

The high-level scope of this project includes investigation of:

- The collection and recycling of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) oil containers sold in Australia up to 20 litres in capacity
- Labelling and public education
- The potential for packaging re-use models
- End-markets and use of recycled content

2. Who is leading the project?

The project is being delivered by ANZPAC, the cross-regional program launched by APCO as part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Plastics Pact Network; a globally aligned response to plastics united behind the shared vision of a circular economy for plastic, where it never becomes waste or pollution.

3. Why do we need a recycling program for oil containers?

Oil containers are considered problematic waste as they cannot be disposed of in kerbside services due residual oil contamination. This contamination presents significant environmental and safety concerns when disposed of into landfill.

In 2019, an estimated 20.7 million oil containers were used in Australia, with the vast majority being disposed of into landfill.

Establishment of the scheme aligns with the [2025 National Packaging Targets](#), ANZPAC 2025 Regional Plastics Targets, the [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's Priority List 2021-22](#), the [National Waste Policy Action Plan](#), and the [UN Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 13](#).

4. How will the project deliver a scheme design?

The project aims to deliver a model that is industry endorsed and financially viable. It will be delivered in three stages: including, establishing a business case for the scheme, cost benefit analysis, program design, and an implementation plan.

5. Who is funding the project?

Development of the project has been made possible by the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment's National Product Stewardship Investment Fund.

6. What is the duration of the project?

Grant funding was received in January 2021, with a final scheme design and implementation plan to be delivered by March 2023.

7. Who do I contact for more information, or to be involved?

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