

OIL CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM



OVERVIEW

The disposal of lubricant oil containers presents significant environmental and safety concerns. Critically, lubricant oil containers cannot be disposed of in kerbside services due to residual oil contamination.

In 2019, an estimated 20.7 million oil containers were used in Australia, with the vast majority being disposed of in landfill. This poses a significant challenge.

To tackle this issue, the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO), under the Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands Plastics Pact (ANZPAC), has received funding to develop a national product stewardship scheme for the recovery and reprocessing of used oil containers.

The development of the scheme has been made possible by the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment's **National Product Stewardship Investment Fund**, and will align with domestic and global sustainability initiatives including the:

- ANZPAC 2025 Regional Plastics Target
- APCO 2025 National Packaging Targets
- Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, Ministers Priority list 2021-22
- National Waste Policy Action Plan
- National Plastics Plan 2021
- UN Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 13

THE PROJECT

The project is being delivered by the ANZPAC Plastics Pact, 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.

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

- The collection and recycling of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) motor 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.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Each year, approximately 3,050 tonnes of contaminated small volume oil containers are sent to landfill.

With no nationally accessible solution for the disposal and recycling of HDPE oil containers, disposal via kerbside waste collections or 'illegal dumping' results in contamination risk to existing recycling streams, and a significant hazard to human and environmental health.

Many households and small - medium businesses currently dispose of oil containers through local waste facilities, retail programs or commercial waste management services to extract residual oil prior to container disposal.

An oil container product stewardship scheme has operated in Australia in the past, however ceased operations in 2016 due to significant 'free-rider' issues. This project aims to deliver a model that is industry endorsed and financially viable.

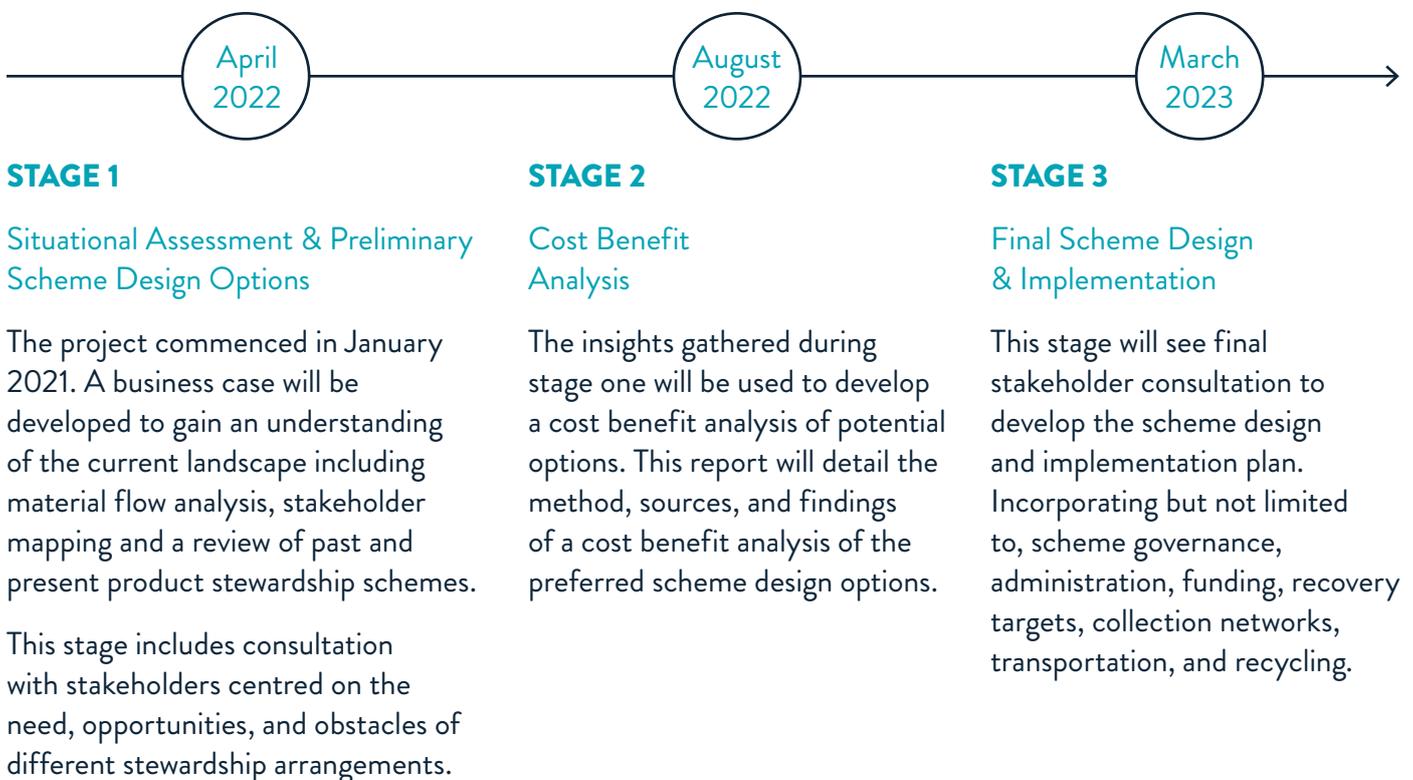
Preventing this problematic material being disposed to landfill will contribute to Australia's transition to a circular plastics economy.

BENEFITS:

Under this project, a whole of supply chain approach will be adopted to ensure industry engagement in the design of an efficient and effective scheme which aims to:

- Increase the recovery of oil containers up to 20 litres.
- Reduce the impact of oil bottles on the environment and human health.
- Investigate innovative advanced recycling technology and alternative reuse models for oil bottles.
- Establish recovery targets in line with the ANZPAC Plastics Pact.

TIMELINE 2021-2023



CONTACT

ANZPAC Plastics Pact
anzpac@apco.org.au

