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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Tyre Recyclers Association questions WA options paper for used tyres

The Australian Tyre Recyclers Association (ATRA) acknowledges the release (19th August 2025) of an options paper for used tyre regulations produced by the WA Department of Environment and Water Regulation (DWER)¹.

ATRA's concerns with this paper relate to:

1. The inaccurate suggestion of a 'consensus' around a possible mandatory scheme;
2. Insufficient credit given to the existing free market, which already captures 97% of used passenger and commercial tyres and which is advancing higher order used tyre outcomes;
3. The absence of any meaningful analysis of how to improve Off The Road (OTR) tyres recovery which stands at a lowly 13%.

ATRA notes the starting point for any discussion about further regulating the sector is based on key findings in the paper including:

There are many positive outcomes and trends associated with the recovery of EOLTs in Australia. Recovery rates for car and truck tyres are relatively high, and government and industry investment in recovery infrastructure is growing.

And as noted in the paper, the position of the tyre recycling industry is that any proposal must, '*... not unduly interfere in price setting or commercial arrangements between retailers, tyre fitters, collectors and processors*'.

"The options paper then, unfortunately, suggests there might be some 'consensus' around a Product Stewardship scheme, where no such consensus exists, and we have asked for the removal of this reference in the paper, said Robert Kelman, Executive Officer, ATRA

"The paper also fails to substantially assess much simpler and effective government interventions, such as landfill bans, which would achieve significant, faster outcomes bridging the gap between collection and recovery," Mr Kelman said.

"The continued licencing – especially in WA and QLD – of on-site disposal of Off The Road (OTR) tyres significantly undermines resource recovery efforts and yet this received just a single page of analysis in the options paper and no recommendations at all as to how to deal with this environmentally damaging practice.

"Australia already boasts world-leading collection rates for used passenger, 4WD and truck tyres at a whopping 97%.

"Unfortunately, some industry observers, advocates and policy-makers have reverted to referencing highly interventionist Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes that would undo much of the good work of the existing recycling sector and threaten the commercial viability of tyre recyclers," Mr Kelman said.

¹ <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/end-of-life-tyres-options-project-report-august-2025.pdf>

“The tyre recycling industry remains open to working with government to improve used tyre outcomes in the context of an existing highly functional industry with significant levels of local investment which is already highly regulated by federal, state and territory laws.”

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