

Environment and Communications References
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Inquiry into waste reduction and recycling policies
Question No: IQ25-000002
Hearing Date: 14 February 2025
Division/Agency: Circular Economy Division
Topic: RMF - State and territory breakdown
Hansard Page: 16, 21
Question Date: 14 February 2025
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Cadell asked:

Senator CADELL: I'm just getting into low-level stuff. I want to talk about the RMF and how we've gone on allocating that. Do we have the latest co-funding amounts that we've put in and how much has been matched as part of the RMF?

Ms Geiger: We certainly do. I'll just find those stats in my paperwork here. The latest stat I have in terms of what we've put in and the matching amounts is \$230 million currently committed to projects, at an overarching level. The bulk of this is through the states and territories. In terms of the funding that they have put in, I might have to take that on notice. My table is not cut quite in that way.

Senator CADELL: If you're going to take it on notice, can we get a breakdown by states and territories as well?

Ms Geiger: Certainly.

Senator CADELL: Does that have the number of projects by states and territories? Do you have that, or would that be on notice as well?

Ms Geiger: I do have the number of projects per state—

Senator CADELL: My understanding is that Western Australia started some but couldn't deliver.

Ms Geiger: A lot of states have had some projects come in and then come out due to various factors, such supply chain disruption. Actually, I just found the amounts of the contributions. Of the committed money, we've got \$200 million from the Australian government, \$175 million from the states and territories and then \$638 million from third-party investments.

Senator CADELL: Can I still get a breakdown by state on notice? I don't need it now.

Ms Geiger: Sure.

Senator CADELL: The number by states and territories, as well, would be good.

Ms Geiger: Certainly.

...

Senator CADELL: One last thing: I had a flashback while other people were talking. The one thing that was criticism of some witnesses earlier under the RMF is that there was a lot of MRF funding in the original fund—lots of sorting and storing but not a lot of production. Do you keep a breakdown of what categories are in production, or processing or MRFs?

Ms Geiger: We'd have some breakdown. I don't have that information—

Senator CADELL: Can you take that on notice?

Ms Geiger: I do actually have those earlier figures about the states. Of the 142 projects that were announced nationally, we have 41 in New South Wales, 27 in Victoria, 24 in Queensland, 15 in South Australia, 15 in WA, six in Tasmania, 12 in the Northern Territory, one in the ACT and then one in external territories. Of all of those, we have 68 in rural and remote areas.

Senator CADELL: Thank you very much for that.

Answer:

Co-funding breakdown by state and territory

As at 4 December 2024, 142 RMF projects have been announced and are proceeding. These RMF projects, and their funding, are:

State/ Territory	Number of projects announced and proceeding	Commonwealth funding (\$)	State funding (\$)	Third party funding (\$)	Total funding (\$)
NSW	41	23,649,167	15,821,762	107,709,088	147,180,017
Vic	27	49,040,017	33,436,830	156,076,423	238,553,270
Qld	24	34,662,410	34,662,410	167,999,407	237,324,227
SA	15	38,223,953	18,223,953	99,062,917	155,510,823
WA	15	31,278,666	31,278,258	86,671,068	149,227,992
Tas.	6	5,952,512	5,952,548	13,274,125	25,179,185
NT	12	5,462,725	5,462,725	7,281,094	18,206,543
ACT	1	10,500,000	12,700,000	0	23,200,000
Other territories	1	1,580,000	0	0	1,580,000
National	142	200,349,450	157,538,486	638,074,122	995,962,057

Projects broken down by recycling type

Projects under the Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) are categorised as processing, remanufacturing or trial projects. Processing includes sorting as well as processes further along the recycling chain such as pelletising of plastics and crumbing of tyres.

Remanufacturing projects include those in which the main funded activity is remanufacturing processed waste into new products. Trial projects include projects that are looking at feasibility of scaling up a type of recycling activity and/or technology.

At 4 December 2024, of the 142 announced and proceeding RMF projects, 106 are categorised as processing facilities (including 19 Materials Recovery Facilities), 29 as remanufacturing facilities and 7 as trial projects.

The annual volumes expected to be processed by these projects are:

	Recycling Type (tonnes per annum)		
Material Type	Processing	Remanufacturing	Trial
Plastics	379,373	61,555	110
Paper & Cardboard	510,994	5,625	
Glass	385,117	10,195	100
Tyres	97,033	9,300	
Total	1,372,517	86,674	210

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Inquiry: Inquiry into waste reduction and recycling policies
Question No: IQ25-000003
Hearing Date: 14 February 2025
Division/Agency: Circular Economy Division
Topic: Landfill methane
Hansard Page: 17
Question Date: 14 February 2025
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Cadell asked:

Senator CADELL: I'm just finding out how much we know—and I probably could have read more and answered this myself. I'm sorry; I'm a bit lazy. Do we look at methane emissions from landfill, which is a reportable thing? Do you guys look at that as well? Is DCCEEW looking at that and monitoring that from all landfills or big landfills or no landfills? Do we account for that?

Ms Geiger: Methane is reported separately, and we'd have to take those specific questions on notice, unless others here can answer.

Senator CADELL: Could you take that on notice. What's the method for that, and how many sites do we get stats from? I imagine there are some small landfills that we probably don't look at, as opposed to the big ones. Basically, are all landfills reporting emissions?

Ms Geiger: We'll take that on notice.

Senator CADELL: Okay. When we talk about gathering resources, could you also look at how many of those landfills are trying to capture, or have projects to capture, their methane.

Ms Geiger: We'll take that on notice as well.

Answer:

1. Methane emissions are reported through the National Greenhouse Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS), a single national framework for reporting company information about greenhouse gas emissions; energy production; and energy consumption.
2. Questions regarding the NGERS should be directed to the Clean Energy Regulator who manages the scheme, noting NGERS data and methodology is publicly available.

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Inquiry: Inquiry into waste reduction and recycling policies
Question No: IQ25-000004
Hearing Date: 14 February 2025
Division/Agency: Circular Economy Division
Topic: Packaging stewardship scheme submissions
Hansard Page: 19
Question Date: 14 February 2025
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

CHAIR: Okay. In terms of the submissions to the packaging stewardship scheme, I know there were lots of submissions—and plenty from industry. Are you able to give us an idea, back-of-envelope or otherwise, as to how many were supportive of a mandated extended producer responsibility scheme?

Mr Hutchison: I don't have statistics here in front of me, but what I—

CHAIR: Could you take it on notice, if possible.

Mr Hutchison: Yes, absolutely. I think I mentioned earlier—and if I didn't, I'll say it now—that it is our intention to release information quite shortly about the outcomes of that consultation, which would go to the broad stakeholder views. I'm very happy to do it.

Answer:

1. A summary of the consultation outcomes can be found on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website at:
dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/packaging/reforming-packaging-regulation.