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Submission for the inquiry into the current state of the Australian tyre industry, and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy (the Inquiry).

The Outback Communities Authority's (the Authority) submission to the Inquiry addresses the Terms of Reference, specifically:

2. Investigating current practices in tyre reuse, retreading, recycling, and resource recovery, including reviewing federal, state, and local regulations governing tyre production, disposal, and recycling.

The Authority is a State Government Statutory Authority established by the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009*. It serves as the management and governance authority for the unincorporated region of South Australia, known as Outback SA. Our region covers 63% of the South Australia and has around 4500 residents. The role of the Authority, in partnership with outback community organisations, is to facilitate and support the provision of local government type services that enhance liveability, such as community development, infrastructure management, waste management and recreational facilities. The Authority also provides public facilities including airstrips, public toilets, open spaces, and UHF repeater networks. Please see [Outback Communities Authority - Outback SA](#) for more information.

Waste tyres are a significant issue and a common sight across Outback SA. From illegal dumping, stockpiling and potential health and fire risks, waste tyres are increasingly creating an environment and visual hazard, damaging the reputation of the region.

The Outback Communities Authority began auditing waste tyres in several areas across Outback SA following the February 2023 tyre fire at 'The Tanks' located at Lincoln Gap near Pt Augusta and began considering future strategies to reduce stockpiling of waste tyres in the region.

An audit was undertaken in 2023/2024 to try to establish the number of waste tyres across the Northern Flinders Ranges region. In addition to identifying numbers of tyres, engagement identified challenges such as disposal to an accredited tyre recycler in Adelaide was considered too expensive due to transport costs over vast distances and disposal costs. Practices included tyre stockpiling, disposing of tyres in 'some sort of hole' or sent to a local dump.

The process for estimating the cost for the removal of the tyres is complex due to the variables in the weight and differing tyre sizes. Costs are also increased if they deliver a mixed load of clean and dirty tyres and are charged at the highest rate. The following information is needed to develop a cost estimate in Outback SA:

- Access to heavy equipment to assist with loading, or if the tyres need to be loaded manually
- The cost of hiring the heavy equipment where available
- How many of each type of tyre (car, truck and 4WD) are at each location
- If any tyres have rims
- Road train access or if only single trailer access
- Sourcing an accredited tyre recycler, including the cost to dispose of the tyre.

A clean up of tyre stockpiles was undertaken by the Authority between June 2024 and September 2025 from the Northern Flinders Ranges Region, Andamooka and Barrier Highway. Volumes of waste tyres collected were higher than anticipated, demonstrating the sheer scale of the issue. This high cost clean-up was borne by the Authority and is outlined in Table 1 below, noting that the costs represented in Table 1, and the numbers in Table 2 are the 'tip of the iceberg'. There are parts of the Outback SA region that have many more waste tyres than we have already collected.



Tyre stockpile clean up	Loader hire	Freight	Disposal	TOTAL
Run 1	\$3,400	\$43,000	\$47,000	\$93,400
Run 2	\$3,600	\$52,000	\$61,500	\$117,100
Run 3	\$9,000	\$72,600	\$158,000	\$239,600
TOTAL				\$450,100

Table 1: Cost of stockpile clean up and activities (exc GST)

The type and number of tyres collected are outlined in Table 2 below. There were approximately 365 tonnes of tyres collected, transported to Adelaide for recycling.

Tyre Type	Total number collected
Car / 4WD	9800
Grader	16
Truck	6120
TOTAL	15,936

Table 2: Type and number of tyres collected in Outback SA

The [Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA](#), our ten year plan released in November 2025, identified the need to improve waste management in the region and the high cost of collection and recycling/disposal of tyres, and included a commitment to work with relevant outback businesses to develop a cost-neutral model for the disposal of waste tyres.

It is recommended that the Parliamentary Committee considers that:

- any mandatory scheme introduced into Australia takes into consideration the complexity, challenges and needs of regional and remote communities, and
- any costs for transport and disposal are dispersed amongst all users of the scheme so that our residents and visitors to regional and remote areas in Australia are not disproportionately impacted by cost due to the vast distances to tyre recyclers.



Figure 1: Examples of tyre stockpiles in Outback SA