

25 February 2025

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Inquiry into Waste Reduction and Recycling
Responses to Question on Notice**

Fibre Recovery and Recycling

BY EMAIL: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair of the Committee, Senator Whish-Wilson

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to comments made in testimony in the 'Inquiry into waste reduction and recycling policies' (Inquiry). Those comments discussed the process of obtaining the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) for certain fibre-based packaging through the Australian Packaging Organisation (APCO).

Broadly speaking, developing guidelines on the recyclability of fibre-based packaging is challenging due to significant variations in its forms; from different percentages of fibre make up versus secondary materials (like poly-based liners), inks/dyes, glues and foils. For this reason, Visy works proactively with advisory bodies, industry groups, governmental bodies, and our customers to drive the best possible recyclability outcomes.

Visy's work includes being an active participant in APCO, the organisation responsible for determining recyclability in the Australian market, and the steward of the ARL. A representative of Visy sits on APCO's Collective Action Group, APCO's advisory body which works across the packaging value chain.

Due to the breadth of packaging substrates Visy recycles and manufactures, Visy also has representatives in many of APCO's Material Stewardship Committees (MSCs), including the Committee specifically dealing with Fibre recyclability. Other organisations represented in this group include: Huhtamaki, Opal, Detmold Group, TMSW, Innovation Club, Zip Form Packaging, Re-group, Sonoco, Nestle, Biopak, Unilever, Label Makers, Tetrapak, Stratex Group, the Australian Institute of Packaging and DCCEEW.

As part of APCO's MSCs, as well as through broader industry consultation, Visy has provided input into the APCO pulpability standard method, as well as the Fibre Quickstart Guide for recyclability. The Fibre Quickstart Guide provides an overview of the different design considerations when developing fibre-based packaging for recyclability. In November 2024, APCO released an updated Fibre Quickstart Guide, and the industry is working to understand the detail of those updates.

We continue to work constructively with brands, other recyclers and industry bodies to build a better recycling industry where packaging is made to be recycled, processing capability is upgraded in Australia to maximise resource recovery, and there are strong domestic end markets for remade materials.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this response and assist the Inquiry with the important work of strengthening Australia's recycling industry.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Fourniotis

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Visy