

25 March 2026

Via webform: [Inquiry into solar panel reuse and recycling in Australia – Parliament of Australia](#)

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
PO Box 6021
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into solar panel reuse and recycling in Australia

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Australian Parliament's *Inquiry into solar panel reuse and recycling in Australia*.

WALGA supports the Inquiry, as the end of life management of solar panels is an emerging and significant waste challenge, driven by the increasing uptake of rooftop systems and transition towards large scale renewable energy infrastructure.

This feedback has been developed in line with WALGA's [Advocacy Position on Product Stewardship](#) and previous [Submissions](#) on Photovoltaic Product Stewardship.

Local Governments are responsible for the collection and management of the majority of household waste, including electronic waste and, importantly, are the first point of contact for residents with waste management queries.

The Clean Energy Council estimates the cumulative volume of end of life solar panels is expected to reach 1 million tonnes by 2035. While 95% of solar panels are recyclable, only 17% of household solar panels are currently being recycled.

WALGA's 2022 [Issues Paper](#) on Photovoltaic (PV) Product Stewardship identified barriers to managing solar PV waste include:

- costs associated with collecting and transporting removed panels
- lack of policy direction by the Government for PV panel collection or disposal
- lack of information on PV panel recycling
- lack of PV panel tracking
- small volumes of waste in remote regions
- lack of repair and reuse options
- limited recycling options for the product.

These barriers have been captured in the draft Terms of Reference, however many of the points can be addressed through the implementation of a **national, mandatory product stewardship scheme**.

WALGA's [Advocacy Position on Product Stewardship](#) states industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship.

In the case of solar PV management, an effective product stewardship scheme funded by producers and importers is essential to address the key barriers to recycling panels by covering the full cost of collecting, transporting and processing the materials. This will provide greater opportunities for collection, recovery and recycling of end of life solar panels by removing the financial impost on businesses and service providers, including Local Government and the wider community, as well as supporting research and end market development opportunities.



The Advocacy Position outlines key principles for an effective product stewardship scheme, including leveraging existing schemes and collection locations, ease of access for the community, equitable national coverage and ensuring there is no charge to the consumer to dispose of the product post consumption.

Equitable national coverage is of high priority given the dispersed nature of WA's population and the high cost of collection of transport from regional and remote areas, which are prime locations