

# COAG Export Waste Ban

On 13 March 2020, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a response strategy for the implementation of a waste export ban. In August 2019, a decision was made by COAG to establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres as part of a broader National Waste Policy Action Plan.

## Background:

The export ban on plastic, paper, glass and tyres seeks to reduce waste, decrease the amount of waste going to landfill and maximise the capability of Australia's waste management and recycling sector to collect, recycle, reuse, convert and recover waste.

The final definition and timeframes for the ban agreed to by COAG are as followed:

Banned material definition	Commencement date
<b>Plastic</b> Phase 1: mixed plastics that are not of a single resin/polymer type and/or further sorting, cleaning and processing is required before use in re-manufacturing Phase 2: single resin/polymer plastics that have not been re-processed	1 July 2021
<b>Paper</b> Mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard	1 July 2024
<b>Glass</b> Unprocessed glass, in a whole or broken state. Both formed packaging and flat sheet glass	1 July 2020
<b>Tyres</b> All whole used tyres including baled tyres, but not including bus, truck and aviation tyres exported for re-treading to a verified re-treading facility.	1 December 2021

## Further measures

The Federal Government will now consider further actions to complement the waste ban, including:

- Investing in industry efforts to absorb waste volumes no longer being exported and innovative solutions for hard-to-recycle waste
- Stimulating demand for recycled material through procurement in major infrastructure projects and development of new standards
- Improving waste data capture and tracking of materials, to support the implementation of the ban and to support strong compliance outcomes.

On 2 March 2020, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the Federal Government would co-invest in critical recycling infrastructure with state and territory governments; and industry on a 1:1:1 basis. The Federal Government also amended the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to ensure every procurement undertaken by a federal government agency considers environmental sustainability and use of recycled content as a factor in determining value for money.

The Federal Government's further commitments are expected to be announced in the first half of 2020.