

AUSTRALIA'S RECYCLING CRISIS IS A PRODUCT REGULATION FAILURE



Landmark report warns families, councils and businesses are paying the price for a fragmented national system.

THE BOTTOM LINE



STAFF RATIO PER MILLION

AUSTRALIA
0.07 – 0.5

VS

OTHER COUNTRIES
(CANADA TO BELGIUM)

0.5 – 5.8

ANNUAL PRO BUDGET DIFFERENCES: CLEAR DIVERGENCE IN INVESTMENT SCALE

MATTRESSES

AUSTRALIA	CALIFORNIA/MAINE (US)
29% MBS	100% MBS
\$0.9M BUDGET	\$85M BUDGET
28M POPULATION	43.7M POPULATION

VS

94x
BUDGET DIFFERENCE

TYRES

AUSTRALIA	BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA)
Population 28 million	~6 million
PRO budget \$7.4M	\$32M
Local mechanical reprocessing 17%	86%
Investment per resident \$0.26	\$5.30

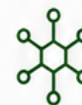
VS

4.3x
BUDGET DIFFERENCE

MORE INVESTMENT. STRONGER OUTCOMES. BETTER SYSTEMS.



Higher investment leads to higher recovery rates and stronger domestic recycling markets.



Larger budgets fund national collection networks, recycling infrastructure and long-term contracts.



Stable, well-funded schemes deliver public benefit and long-term certainty.

MOST NATIONS ARE CONSISTENT, BUT AUSTRALIA IS AN OUTLIER

	AUSTRALIA	OTHER NATIONS
SCHEMES	Mostly voluntary	Regulated
REGULATED NATIONAL SCHEMES	2	2 – 20
REGULATORS	10x state & national	1x National
FOR PROFIT / NFP	Mix	Not-for-profit

THE IMPACT OF SMALLER TEAMS



Less capacity to coordinate supply chains, manage compliance and deliver national services.



Slower infrastructure rollout and system expansion.



Less service, smaller coverage and recovery rates.

WHAT REFORM WOULD MEAN FOR AUSTRALIANS



FOR HOUSEHOLDS

- Products designed to last longer and be repaired
- Easier recycling and more drop-off points
- Less waste to landfill
- No confusion between state systems
- Better value through one national system



FOR INDUSTRY

- Fair contracts and stronger supply chains
- Consistent targets, regulations and reporting
- More investment in recycling and local manufacturing
- Stable, skilled workforce



FOR GOVERNMENT

- Lower costs and less duplication
- One national regulator for clarity and compliance
- Better data, oversight and accountability
- Stronger economic, social and environmental outcomes



THE RESULT

**A FAIRER SYSTEM.
LESS WASTE.
STRONGER ECONOMY.**

World-class sustainable products for generations to come.



EIGHT REFORMS AUSTRALIA NEEDS NOW

Regulate nationally. End fragmentation. Empower a single regulator. Stop free-riders. Invest for the future.

Time to act in 2026:

Priority voluntary schemes regulated by 2028.

www.helenmillicer.com

