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ABIA Position Statement regarding Battery Stewardship

The Australian Battery Industry Association (ABIA) represents the major importers and manufacturers of lead acid batteries in Australia.

The ABIA is closely affiliated with the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) and fully supports the submission made by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC).

Historically, ABIA and ABRI have set up a very successful battery stewardship process regarding Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB) which has been running for many years. This has resulted in 97% of all ULAB being recycled back to the smelter and reused in the battery and other industries requiring lead.

The outcome is a safe and eco-friendly ULAB stewardship process which has benefitted the Australian public and industries.

The Australian ULAB stewardship was originally set up between the automotive battery manufacturers/importers, metal recyclers and smelters, but it was quickly picked up for all ULAB, such as those used in electric forklifts, telephone exchanges, electricity sub and power stations, back-up power and other applications.

Although the main focus is still on lead acid products, in more recent years many ABIA members have extended their battery range to include other batteries, and all agree that there is a necessity for a stewardship process for non ULAB products, and we applaud ABRI and BSC for the work they have done to initiate this.

ABIA also sees further benefit to Australia if Battery Stewardship can extend to all batteries of all chemistries and applications, including the small batteries used in hand-held equipment and hence our whole-hearted support of the BSC.

The development of the BSC submission has included much input from stakeholders including ABIA and it has been agreed that because there is an effective operating market for all lead acid batteries they are excluded from this scheme.

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