



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the ACT** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 1 March 2023: Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question:

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 1 March 2023, Pages 101-102.

In relation to: Product Stewardship Scheme for battery recycling

**THE CHAIR:** We heard from Hyundai that they are recycling all their batteries and they are getting a 99 per cent recovery rate, and the last update they got in estimates was that in June 2023 we were expecting a national product stewardship scheme for batteries. Can you tell me—are we likely to get a national scheme or a local scheme for recycling batteries like Hyundai is doing already?

**Mr Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The below update on the industry-led *B-cycle* product stewardship scheme is based on the Positive Charge report outlining the first six months of its operation in 2022. In January 2022, *B-cycle* was launched. The Scheme is run by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC), is authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and is accredited as a Federal Government Product Stewardship Scheme.

The scheme currently facilitates stewardship for household batteries, and easily removable proprietary batteries including those used in power tools. Additional battery types are being phased into the scheme, including e-bike batteries, and portable energy storage batteries.

In the first six months of operation, more than 900,000 kg of batteries were collected for recycling, with over 3,200 drop off points across Australia. At least 90% of the loose battery and power tool battery market participate in the scheme. The BSC is currently undertaking industry consultation on electric vehicle batteries, and residential and grid-scale battery energy storage systems. They have the goal to identify stewardship arrangements for these items to be included in the scheme.

In June and September 2022, I wrote to Minister Plibersek to encourage the Commonwealth Government to consider regulatory product stewardship schemes as a priority for solar photovoltaic systems, general electrical appliances, and larger energy storage batteries – including batteries used in electric vehicles and household batteries.

The ACT Government seeks consideration of regulatory schemes because they can augment the existing work of governments and industry, encourage extended producer responsibility, reduce free

riders, achieve economies of scale, and facilitate opportunities for harmonising approaches to e-waste management across jurisdictions.

The ACT continues to engage with Commonwealth, State and Territory counterparts on matters relating to product stewardship through the Resource Recovery Reference Group (RRRG) subgroup on e-stewardship and RRRG meetings, as well as through the Senior Officer Group and Environment Ministers' Meeting.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

9/3/23

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA