

## Exports of Australian waste and recovered materials from July to September 2022

13 February 2023, Yong Lin, Piya Nyunt and Joe Pickin

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Blue Environment is commissioned by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to analyse monthly exports of waste and recovered materials and detail the results in monthly data workbooks and quarterly and annual reports. Monthly data is variable, and trends are best observed through the reports produced in this series. This report summarises monthly exports data from the first quarter (Q1) of the 2022-23 financial year. Comparisons are made with the previous quarter (Q4 of 2021-22) and quarterly averages from the previous financial year (2021-22)<sup>1</sup>.

The original exports data is provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and comprises monthly data and updates to previously reported data<sup>2</sup>. The ABS data is transformed to account for issues such as trade codes covering a mixture of wastes and non-wastes, and for consistency with national waste data methods. On a tonnage basis nearly all these exports are materials recovered from waste streams for recycling<sup>3</sup> or energy, but a small portion is hazardous waste sent for treatment.

### Summary

In the first quarter of financial year 2022-23, Australia exported about 0.94 million tonnes of waste and recovered materials with a reported value of \$1.10 billion<sup>4</sup>. This represents declines of 17% in tonnage and 15% in value compared to the previous quarter. The exports included 847,000 tonnes (90%) within the scope of national waste reporting ('core waste plus ash'). Monthly exports in this quarter ranged from 294,000 tonnes (August) to 327,000 tonnes (July).

### Comparison by destination

The top 10 recipients of Australian waste and recovered materials between July 2021 and September 2022, in descending order, were Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, India, Taiwan, China (including Hong Kong and Macau) and New Zealand. In Q1 of the 2022-23 financial year, 91% by weight of Australia's exported waste and recovered materials were sent to these destinations.

Table 1 (overleaf) compares exports of waste and recovered materials to the top 10 destinations in Q1 of 2022-23 compared to the previous quarter, and includes each recipient's 2021-22 quarterly average. Exports to New Zealand and Bangladesh grew significantly, and exports to China and Malaysia also increased. All other destinations exhibited moderate to large declines. New Zealand's increase is attributed to imports of non-core organic wastes. The largest fall in export quantities was to Vietnam, which received about 139,000 fewer tonnes in Q1 compared to the previous quarter, mostly due to a significant drop in metal exports.

Metals remained the highest tonnage waste exported from Australia, and they were the sole or main export from July to September 2022 to Bangladesh (100%), Taiwan (99%), Thailand (80%), India (79%) and South Korea (72%). The remainder of exports to Thailand were paper and cardboard (20%), remaining exports to India were mostly tyres (17%), and South Korea's remaining receipts were mostly paper and cardboard (13%). Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam received mainly received paper and cardboard (59%, 51% and 40% respectively) and metals (41%, 36% and 37% respectively). Exports to China comprised of metals (55%) and non-core organic wastes (42%). New Zealand also received mainly non-core organic wastes (95%).

<sup>1</sup> It cannot be guaranteed that exporters or agents reported the correct codes or values, so the data should be used with caution.

<sup>2</sup> Data may be revised for up to six months after initial publication as customs declarations are amended by individual traders, so there may be discrepancies between this report and its precedents. The data presented is gross weight, including packaging.

<sup>3</sup> Some of these recovered materials contain a proportion of contamination (or 'off-spec' content) that may need to be extracted before the material can be used.

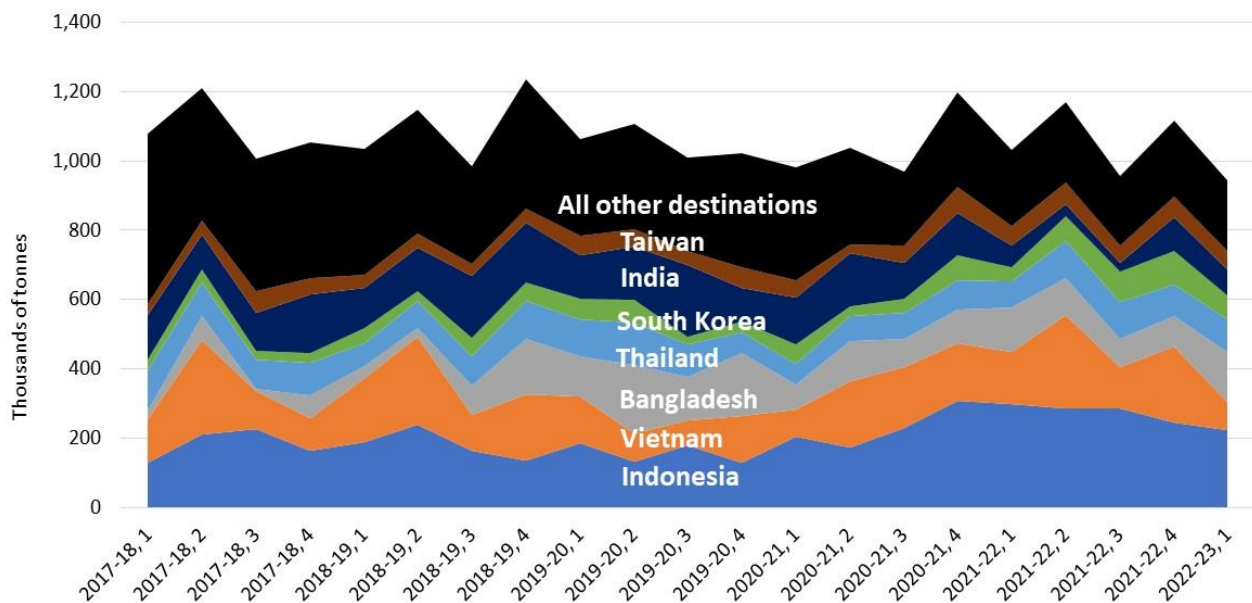
<sup>4</sup> Dollar values in this report are in Australian dollars. Historical values are inflated based on the annualised consumer price index.

Table 1 Comparison of quarter-to-quarter exports of waste and recovered materials by destination

Export destination (ranked by tonnes since July 2021)	Jul-Sep '22 (tonnes)	Apr-Jun '22 (tonnes)	Jul-Sep '22 to Apr-Jun '22 (% change)	2021-22 quarterly average (tonnes)	Jul-Sep '22 (\$ mil)	Apr-Jun '22 (\$ mil)	Jul-Sep '22 to Apr-Jun '22 (% change)	2021-22 quarterly average (\$ mil)
1. Indonesia	224,000	246,000	-9%	279,000	\$108	\$128	-16%	\$145
2. Vietnam	80,000	219,000	-63%	190,000	\$33	\$152	-78%	\$108
3. Bangladesh	145,000	87,000	67%	100,000	\$79	\$76	4%	\$74
4. Malaysia	94,000	91,000	2%	95,000	\$86	\$59	45%	\$74
5. Thailand	47,000	81,000	-41%	83,000	\$81	\$101	-20%	\$83
6. South Korea	70,000	99,000	-30%	75,000	\$130	\$191	-32%	\$158
7. India	76,000	97,000	-21%	56,000	\$98	\$75	32%	\$70
8. Taiwan	52,000	59,000	-12%	57,000	\$37	\$84	-56%	\$53
9. China	33,000	25,000	32%	21,000	\$118	\$133	-11%	\$116
10. NZ	32,000	13,000	148%	20,000	\$27	\$18	52%	\$20
Top 10 total	853,000	1,016,000	-16%	975,000	\$798	\$1,016	-22%	\$901
Total	939,000	1,137,000	-17%	1,094,000	\$1,098	\$1,299	-15%	\$1,152

Figure 1 presents the trend in tonnes of exports of waste and recovered materials from Australia by destination between July 2017 and September 2022. Monthly exports are volatile and no overall trend is evident over the 63-month timeframe. In recent months, the apparent trends in exports of waste and recovered materials to Bangladesh are rising, and to Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and all destinations outside the top 7 are falling.

Figure 1 Quarterly exports of waste and recovered materials from Australia by destination



The reported value of exports from July to September 2022 was \$1,098 million, down from \$1,299 million in the previous quarter and similar to the quarterly average for 2021-22. The value significantly exceeds the quarterly averages for the previous four financial years, which were all in the range \$785 to \$884 million. The proportional fall in value this quarter was similar to the proportional fall in tonnage. Monthly values ranged between \$324 million to \$430 million across July to September 2022.

## Comparison by material

Table 2 compares, by material type, waste and recovered material export tonnages and values for July to September 2022, April to June 2022, and quarterly averages for the 2021-22 financial year.

Table 2 Comparison of export tonnage and value by material

Material	Jul-Sep '22 (tonnes)	Apr-Jun '22 (tonnes)	Apr-Jun '22 to Jul-Sep '22 (% change)	2021-22 quarterly average (tonnes)	Jul-Sep '22 (\$ mil)	Apr-Jun '22 (\$ mil)	Apr-Jun '22 to Jul-Sep '22 (% change)	2021-22 quarterly average (\$ mil)
Glass	100	400	-84%	400	\$0.0	\$0.0	-29%	\$0.1
Hazardous (excl. tyres)	14,800	13,400	10%	10,600	\$142.2	\$103.8	37%	\$106.2
Metals	541,800	675,400	-20%	630,000	\$767.3	\$967.1	-21%	\$827.2
Paper and cardboard	232,700	258,900	-10%	265,000	\$70.0	\$89.6	-22%	\$84.7
Plastics	10,600	26,900	-61%	26,100	\$12.2	\$19.9	-39%	\$21.5
Textiles	26,100	27,200	-4%	26,600	\$21.9	\$24.6	-11%	\$23.4
Tyres	19,100	24,900	-23%	22,000	\$2.7	\$6.1	-56%	\$6.4
Other core waste	1,700	1,000	73%	2,000	\$2.9	\$3.0	-5%	\$2.0
Non-core waste	92,200	109,300	-16%	112,000	\$78.4	\$84.6	-7%	\$80.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>939,000</b>	<b>1,137,000</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>1,094,000</b>	<b>\$1,098</b>	<b>\$1,299</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>\$1,152</b>

### Comparison with the previous quarter –

- Unprocessed **glass** waste exports have been regulated since January 2021. Low quantities of processed glass are exported from Australia, including about 100 tonnes from July to September 2022.
- Exports of **hazardous waste** (excluding tyres) increased slightly from about 13,400 tonnes to 14,800 tonnes. These exports were mostly lead waste and scrap (80%) follow by slag, ash and residues containing mainly lead (16%).
- Quarterly exports of scrap **metals** fell from 675,400 tonnes to 541,800 tonnes. Still, metals remained Australia's major exported recovered material, and in the latest quarter contributed around 58% of export tonnes and 72% of export value. Scrap and non-scrap metal prices across 2021-22 have been very strong, gradually increasing, potentially impacted by China's plans to increase iron ore production<sup>5</sup> and the Ukraine war<sup>6</sup>. Scrap metal exports were widely distributed, including to Bangladesh (27%), Indonesia (17%), India (11%) and Taiwan (10%).
- Exports of scrap **paper and cardboard** decreased from 258,900 tonnes to 232,700 tonnes. Prices trended slightly upwards during 2019-20 and 2020-21 driven by high demand, particularly in South East Asia<sup>7</sup>, but prices have subsequently fallen. The main recipients were Indonesia (56%), Malaysia (21%) and Vietnam (14%).
- Exports of scrap **plastics** fell by 61%, from 26,900 tonnes to 10,600 tonnes. No mixed plastics have been exported since the waste export regulations commenced in July 2021. Scrap plastic exports from July to September 2022 were mostly sent to Malaysia (27%) and Belgium (16%). The average reported value has risen sharply (see below).

<sup>5</sup> Reuters (February 7 2022) [China plans to increase iron ore output, boost use of steel scrap.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Seeder B (March 16 2022) [Sims benefits from Russia/Ukraine war: scrap metal prices on a tear.](#)

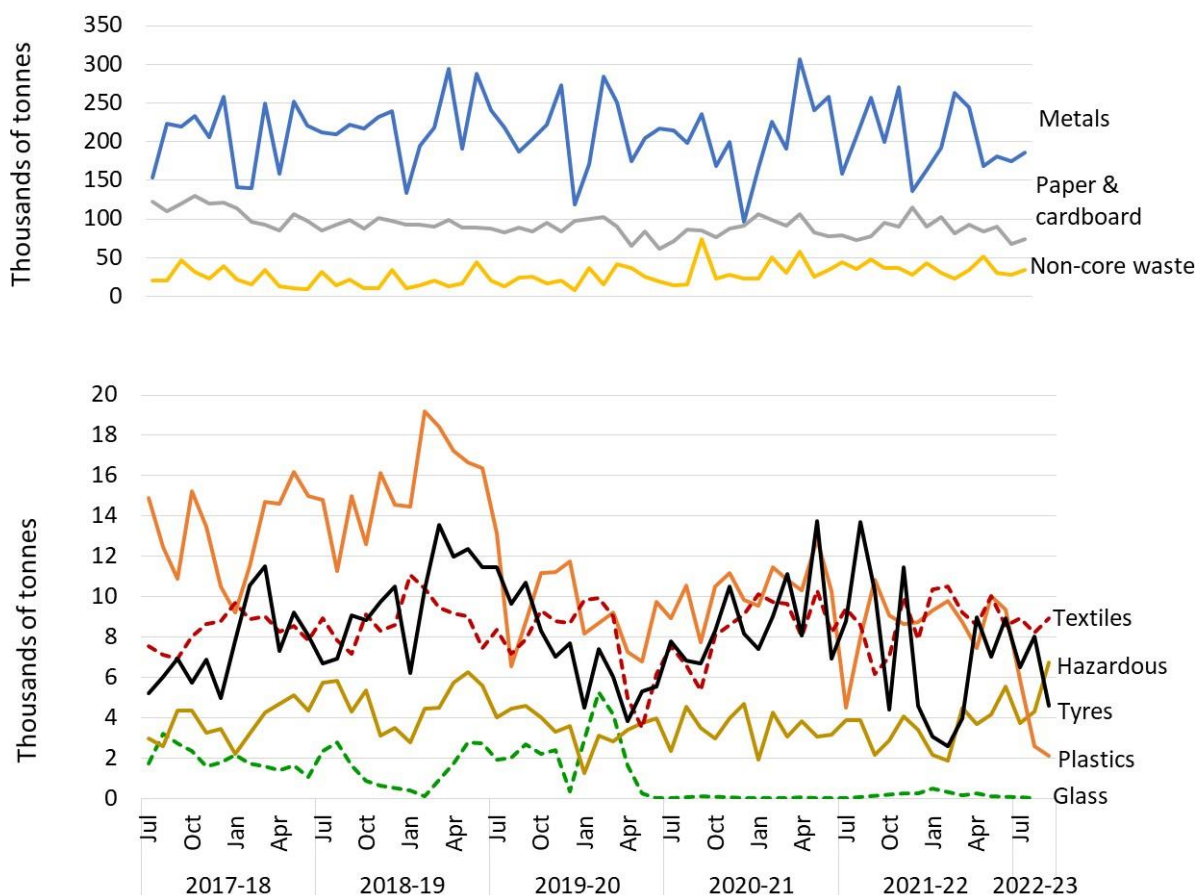
<sup>7</sup> IndustryEdge (2022) [Recovered paper export prices at record levels;](#)

- Exports of waste **textiles** decreased by 4%, from 27,200 tonnes to 26,100 tonnes. These were almost entirely exports of worn clothing and other worn textile articles. Waste textiles were mostly sent to the United Arab Emirates (63%), Pakistan (14%) and Malaysia (11%). Their value has remained stable since July 2017.
- Exports of waste **tyres** fell by 23%, from 24,900 tonnes to 19,100 tonnes<sup>8</sup>, a continuing decline since the regulation of scrap tyres exports commenced in December 2021. Exports of tyre scrap (intended for use as tyre-derived fuel or otherwise), continues to decline, falling by 5,800 tonnes in this quarter compared to last. Waste tyres were mainly exported to India (67%) and Malaysia (25%).
- Exports of **other core waste** rose from 1,000 tonnes to 1,700 tonnes. Exports under this category were mainly e-waste and leather and rubber.
- Exports of **non-core** waste decreased from 109,300 tonnes to 92,200 tonnes. Exports under this category were mainly comprised of various organic processing wastes.

**Comparison with the 2021-22 quarterly average** – Exports in the quarter covering July to September 2022 were 14% lower than last year’s quarterly average by tonnage and 5% lower by value. This reflects reduced export tonnages for key materials, notably metals and plastics.

**Monthly trends in tonnage and unit value** – Figure 2 presents the monthly trend in exports of waste from Australia in tonnes by material between July 2017 and September 2022. Scrap metal exports are volatile but consistently high. Exports of paper and cardboard remain stable. Exports of scrap plastics dropped at the start of 2019-20, then stabilised, but then fell further to a record low of 2,100 tonnes. Scrap tyre exports were quite volatile in 2021-22, and have fallen in the latest quarter.<sup>8</sup> Exports of glass have been very low since they were regulated at the start of 2020-21.

**Figure 2 Monthly exports of waste and recovered materials from Australia by material, July 2017 to September 2022**



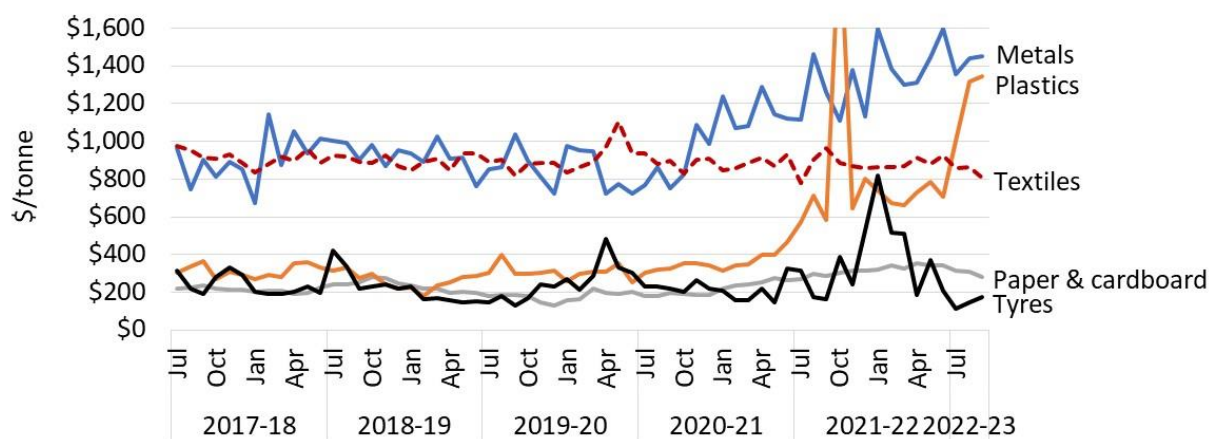
<sup>8</sup> Tyre exports in the ABS data have generally been lower than tonnages reported by industry sources. Significant miscoding is likely.



Figure 3 presents trends in the average reported value per tonne of key materials from July 2017 to September 2022.

- The reported value of exported scrap metals have trended upwards for about two years.
- The reported value of exported used textiles have remained relatively stable.
- The reported value of exported scrap plastics dropped in 2018 drop due to China’s import restrictions but have climbed since 2019. The average reported value of waste plastics in 2021-22 (\$821/t) was more than double the 2020-21 average, and this rose further to \$1,150/t in the first quarter of 2022-23. These major increases follow the imposition of regulations that stopped the bulk export of mixed plastics for recycling from July 2021 and restricted single polymer exports to well-sorted product from July 2022. An anomalous spike in October 2021 (to \$2,135/t) is believed to be caused by a misreported value.
- The reported value of exported end-of-life tyres soared in early 2022 but has fallen back to a more stable price since. The significant increase in value coincided with a reduction in export volume and supply, following the commencement of regulation of waste tyre exports from Australia from 1 December 2021<sup>9</sup>. It also coincides with increased prices for used tyres internationally<sup>10,11</sup>
- The reported value of exported scrap paper and cardboard fell from July 2017 to the end of 2019, then rose to mid-2022, but has subsequently fallen.

Figure 3 Comparison of unit values by material (in \$/tonne), July 2017 to September 2022



### Port of loading and state of origin

Between July 2021 and September 2022 about 77% of Australia’s waste and recovered materials were exported from four ports: Melbourne (25%); Sydney (18%); Brisbane (18%); and Fremantle (16%). Figure 4 compares the tonnes exported from July to September 2022 with the average quarterly tonnes exported in financial year 2021-22, by material group, from each of the top four ports and from all other ports combined. Only exports from Brisbane exceeded the average this quarter, whilst exports from Fremantle, Melbourne, Sydney and combined ‘All other ports’ were below the average. The significant decrease in Melbourne is attributable to low metal exports. The declines in Sydney and Fremantle were due to reduced metals and plastics exports. The fall at ‘All other ports’ was mostly due to minimal exports of non-core waste.

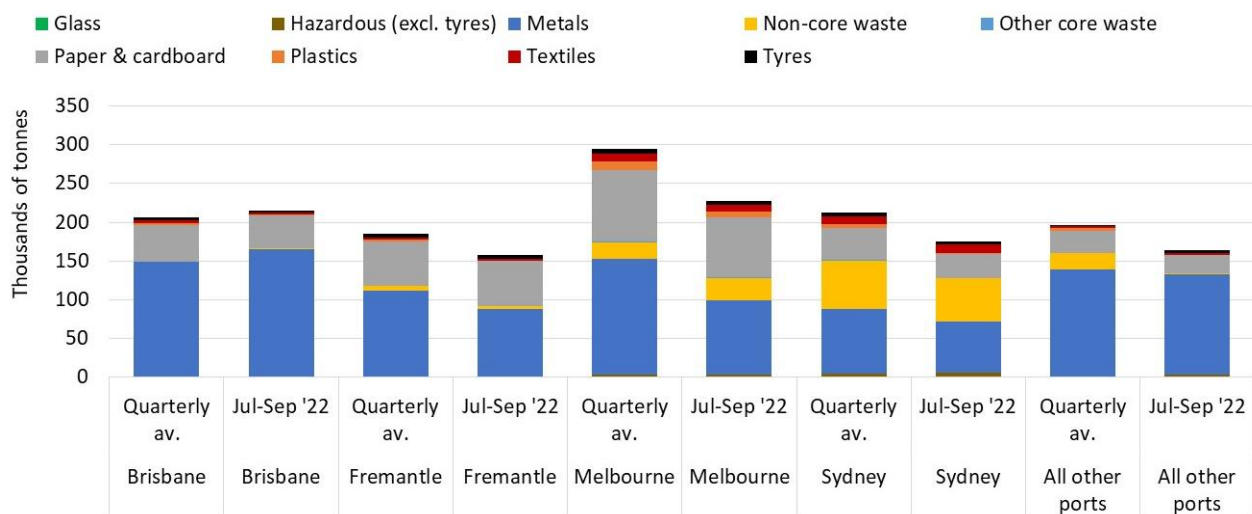
Most waste and recovered materials are exported from a port in the jurisdiction where they are generated, except for Tasmania, where generally about half of materials are sent to Melbourne. It is understood that exported materials generated in the Australian Capital Territory are typically exported from Sydney.

<sup>9</sup> ECA (2021) [Exporting tyres? You are going to need a licence.](#)

<sup>10</sup> PriceRunner (13 January 2022) [Expert says tyreing times ahead with prices driven uphill.](#)

<sup>11</sup> Liu B.(11 January 2022) [Soaring 48%! The price of scrap tires has risen three times a month!](#)

Figure 4 Quarterly exports by material from port of loading – latest quarter compared with 2020-21 quarterly average



### Australian waste export regulation

A March 2020 meeting of the then Council of Australian Governments agreed to a timetable for implementing a waste exports licensing scheme to regulate the export of waste glass, paper, plastics, and tyres not processed into a value-added material. These restrictions were legislated under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020. Regulations covering several materials have been implemented to date:

- Export of unprocessed **glass** waste has been regulated since January 2021. Australia has only exported low quantities of processed glass (e.g. furnace-ready glass cullet) since.
- Regulation of the export of scrap **mixed plastics** commenced in July 2021, and since then Australia has not exported mixed waste plastics for recycling. Further regulation on the export of **sorted plastics** came into effect on 1 July 2022. Broadly, export tonnages of plastics have since trended downwards while plastic values are increasing, reflecting a shift from mostly mixed plastic bales to much lower volumes of well-sorted single polymer streams.
- Export of whole baled **tyres** or tyres in pieces larger than 150 mm have been regulated since 1 December 2021. Exports of tyres have declined significantly since the regulations came into effect<sup>8</sup> and continued to decrease in July to September 2022.

Some hazardous wastes are also regulated for export under the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*.

Regulation of scrap paper and cardboard exports are due to come into force on 1 July 2024. The legislative rules (including specifications and AHECC codes to be captured) are still to be developed. Exports of scrap paper and cardboard by grade during July to September 2022 and the preceding quarter are set out in Table 3, and show an overall decline. Most of these exports were of recovered unbleached kraft or corrugated paper or paperboard (58%) and unsorted material (40%).

Table 3 Exports paper and cardboard by grade during the last two quarters (tonnes)

AHECC	AHECC description	Exports (tonnes)	
		Jul-Sep '22	Apr-Jun '22
47071000	Recovered (waste and scrap), unbleached, kraft paper or paperboard or corrugated paper or paperboard	136,000	149,000
47072000	Recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, made mainly of bleached chemical pulp, not coloured in the mass	580	420
47073000	Recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, made mainly of mechanical pulp (for example, newspapers, journals and similar printed matter)	2,500	3,800

		Exports (tonnes)	
47079000	Waste and scrap paper or paperboard (incl. unsorted waste & scrap) (excl. 470710, 470720 and 470730))	94,000	105,000
	<b>Total paper and cardboard</b>	<b>233,000</b>	<b>258,000</b>

### Restrictions on waste imports – developments since July 2022

Thailand has announced plans to enforce a total ban on plastic scrap imports by 2025<sup>12</sup>. The ban will be enacted in three phases, gradually tightening restrictions, the first phase will begin in 2023 and will see Thailand limiting the amount of imported plastic scrap based on actual production capacities.

India has had plastic waste import restrictions in place for several years, but in December 2021 reopened the import of polyethylene bottles for processing<sup>13</sup>, the partial lift on polyethylene bottles import was met with opposition by many stakeholders. After review and recommendation by a technical committee, India allowed 95,105 tonnes of polyethylene flakes, not waste polyethylene bottles, to be imported on 24 August 2022<sup>14</sup>. India has also banned 19 single use plastics items from July 1 2022<sup>15</sup>. The ban targets single use plastics with a ‘high littering potential’ and prohibits manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution and sale and use of the effected plastics.

New Zealand has similarly announced bans on sale and manufacture of more single-use plastics<sup>16</sup>.

### Restrictions on waste import – overview

The current status of import restrictions in Australia’s top 10 waste export destinations is summarised in Table 4, while Table 5 provides details of the import restriction policies, their dates and potential impacts, excluding those associated with hazardous wastes restricted through the terms of the Basel Convention.

Table 4 Summary of import restrictions by material and top 10 destinations

<b>Restricted</b>	Restrictions are in place
<b>Announced</b>	Restrictions announced but not yet implemented
<b>Considering</b>	Restrictions are under consideration

Destination	Plastics	Paper and cardboard	Metals	Tyres	Glass	Haz. waste (excl. tyres)	Textiles
Indonesia	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
Vietnam	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted				
Bangladesh	Restricted						
Malaysia	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted			Restricted <sup>17</sup>	
Thailand	Restricted						
South Korea	Restricted	Announced		Announced			
India	Restricted		Considering	Considering			
Taiwan	Restricted	Restricted				Restricted <sup>17</sup>	
China	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted				
New Zealand							

<sup>12</sup> Waldeck (19 September 2022) [Thailand announces total ban on plastic waste imports by 2025 to “protect country”](#).

<sup>13</sup> The Hindu (2022) [Three years after plastic waste ban, Environment Ministry allows imported PET bottles for processing](#).

<sup>14</sup> Mohan V. (September 6 2022) [Government allows import of 95,105 tonnes of PET flakes, concerns expressed over its flip side](#).

<sup>15</sup> Laird (04 July 2022) [India bans 19 single use plastic items from 1 July 2022](#).

<sup>16</sup> Environment Minister of New Zealand (September 30 2022) [More single-use plastics banned from tomorrow](#).

<sup>17</sup> Australian companies cannot export hazardous waste to this destination as it is not a signatory to the Basel Convention.

Table 5 Status of waste import restrictions (non-hazardous waste)

Destination	Scope of restrictions	Announced and/or implemented	Associated types	Associated tonnes (2021-22)	Associated tonnes (Jul-Sep '22)	Impact on imports from Australia
Indonesia	On 21 November 2021 the Indonesian Government published a decree on import restrictions for non-hazardous and toxic material waste <sup>18</sup> . Importation of scrap material is only allowed in certain ports and must be shipped directly <sup>19</sup> . This limits contamination of imported scrap plastics and paper to 2%. The head of the Centre for Green Industry, Standardization and Industrial Service Policy noted the importance of the recycling industry to Indonesia's economy and the necessity for imports to provide sufficient feedstocks <sup>20</sup> .	Imp.: Nov-19, with further restrictions on May-20	Plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, glass, hazardous waste, tyres, other	1,094,526 (273,631 per quarter)	222,736	Imports reduced from 181 to 157 kt per quarter from 2018-19 to 2019-20. They have since risen – the 2021-22 quarterly average for associated materials was 274 kt.
Vietnam	On 24 September 2020 Vietnam published <sup>21</sup> 'Promulgation of the list of waste permitted for import as production materials', overriding previous regulations. Unsorted scrap paper imports and granulated slag from iron and steel manufacture have been banned since the end of 2021. This builds on a range of 2018 restrictions that allow waste imports only if shipments meet environmental standards and processing capacity is demonstrated. The earlier restrictions covered scrap metals, plastic, paper, glass, and blast furnace slag dust <sup>22</sup> . Under new national standard QCVN 32: 2019/BTNMT, import of e-waste plastics (e.g. TVs and computers) would be forbidden <sup>23</sup> . Scrap metal waste needs to be 99% metal to be allowed in <sup>24</sup> .	Imp.: Dec-21 (building on existing restrictions from 2018)	Plastic, paper, metals	643,778 (160,945 per quarter)	62,683	Imports reduced from 183 to 157 kt per quarter from 2018-19 to 2019-20, after the initial restrictions. Imports rose to 134 kt per quarter in 2020-21 and then to 161 kt per quarter in 2021-22.

<sup>18</sup> Minister of Trade, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Minister of Trade Industry and Head of State Policy, Republic of Indonesia (May 2020) [Implementation of import of non-hazardous and toxic material waste as raw material industry](#). Unofficial translation.

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Trade, (26 November 2019), [https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ISRIID/attach/2019\\_11\\_26MinistryofTradeRegulationNumber84year2019ENSUMMARY.pdf](https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ISRIID/attach/2019_11_26MinistryofTradeRegulationNumber84year2019ENSUMMARY.pdf). Unofficial translation.

<sup>20</sup> AntaraNews (2021) [Recycling industry processing just one-third of nation's waste: govt.](#)

<sup>21</sup> Prime Minister of Vietnam (24 September 2020) [Promulgation of the list of waste permitted for import as production materials](#). Unofficial translation.

<sup>22</sup> Vietnam - National Technical Regulations on Wastes (18 November 2019) [https://www.cciclondon.com/portal/article/index/cat\\_id/35/id/286.html](https://www.cciclondon.com/portal/article/index/cat_id/35/id/286.html).

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2018) [Vietnam to ban imports of plastic from used electronics](#).

<sup>24</sup> S&P Global Platts (2019) [Vietnam's Jan scrap imports plunge amid stricter government rules](#).



Destination	Scope of restrictions	Announced and/or implemented	Associated types	Associated tonnes (2021-22)	Associated tonnes (Jul-Sep '22)	Impact on imports from Australia
Bangladesh	The Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce Import Policy Order 2015-2018 includes details of waste import regulations <sup>25</sup> . Plastics are restricted, metals and glass are allowed for bona fide industrial units, paper and cardboard is unrestricted, and textiles are allowed with some restrictions.	Imp: 2016	Plastics	0	0	None.
Malaysia	Malaysia has restricted waste plastic imports since July 2018. In January 2022, it implemented restrictions on scrap ferrous metals, copper and aluminium <sup>26</sup> and waste paper <sup>27</sup> . The metals restrictions require a primary metal concentration of at least 94.75%, a maximum threshold of 0.25% non-metal and no electronic content. Mixed paper and cardboard cannot be imported to Malaysia. All scrap metal and waste paper are subject to inspection and require a 'certificate of approval'.	Imp.: Plastics – Jul-18 Metals and paper and cardboard – Jan-22	Plastics, metals, paper and cardboard	342,281 (85,570 per quarter)	84,476	Imports remain similar in this quarter compared to the 2021-22 quarterly average.
Thailand	Thailand has restricted plastic waste imports since August 2018. It is implementing a total ban on plastic waste imports via a phased reduction by 20% per annum across 2022 to 2026 <sup>28</sup> .	Imp.: Aug-18 Ann.: Jan-20 (total ban)	Plastics	44 (11 per quarter)	0	Imports reduced from 2.8 to 1 kt per quarter from 2018-19 to 2020-21. In 2021-22 imports have decreases significantly, to 11 t per quarter.
South Korea	On 6 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced bans or restrictions on their top 10 waste import materials <sup>29</sup> . Total imports are to reduce by 35% by 2022 and 65% by 2025. Bans on plastics, mixed waste paper and waste fibre were set to commence in 2022 (but it is uncertain at the time of writing if this occurred), and on coal ash and	Imp.: Plastics – Jun-20	Plastics	813 (203 per quarter)	328	This quarter's waste plastic imports were 328 tonnes, higher than the 2021-22

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2016) [Import Policy Order 2015-2018](#).

<sup>26</sup> Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2022) [Guidelines for Importation and Inspection of Metal Scrap, January 2022](#).

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2022) [Guidelines for Importation and Inspection of Waste Paper, January 2022](#).

<sup>28</sup> Bangkok Post (6 August 2021) [Plastic waste imports are 'unwanted'](#).

<sup>29</sup> Business Korea (7 January 2021) [Waste import ban roadmaps to come out soon](#).

Destination	Scope of restrictions	Announced and/or implemented	Associated types	Associated tonnes (2021-22)	Associated tonnes (Jul-Sep '22)	Impact on imports from Australia
	tyres in 2023. Corrugated cardboard, dust and sludge will be subject to restrictions in 2023 <sup>30</sup> . A ban on imports of PET, PE, PP and PS came into force at the end of June 2020 <sup>31</sup> .	Ann.: Jan-21 (mix plastics, paper, etc.)				quarterly average of 203 tonnes.
India	In 2016 India banned the import of scrap plastics but exempted 'special economic zones' and 'export-oriented units'. In August 2019 <sup>32</sup> the ban was extended to these zones but in January 2021 this was revoked, meaning scrap plastics can again be imported to these areas. In December 2021, India reopened permitted importing of PET bottles. India sets a contamination limit of 1% for recovered paper <sup>33</sup> and has proposed a new policy seeking to increase local scrap metal processing and reducing reliance on imports <sup>34</sup> .	Imp.: 2016	Plastics	19 (~5 per quarter)	0	Waste plastics imports to India are low, and were nil in the latest quarter.
Taiwan	Import of waste plastics is limited to licensed local firms that import waste plastics originating from their own overseas production processes or are a single material, but not from original production processes <sup>35</sup> . Paper imports are restricted to deinked paper, kraft paper, corrugated paper or cardboard that is not bleached. Import of waste newspapers and magazines is banned.	Imp.: Oct-18	Plastics, paper and cardboard	3,883 (971 per quarter)	680	Imports fell from 4.4 to 1 kt per quarter between 2018-19 and 2021-22. Imports this quarter were low at 0.7 kt.
China	China banned the import of all solid waste from January 2021 <sup>36</sup> . Certain high quality reprocessed materials are not considered waste under the legislation's definitions, including scrap metals and paper grade recycled pulp.	Imp.: Jan-21 (building on restrictions from 2018)	All solid wastes	82,591 (20,648 per quarter)	33,096	Imports fell after the first restrictions in 2018, and dropped again after the further 2021 bans.
New Zealand	No import bans apparent. Received mainly non-core waste from Australia, which are no subject to export bans.	None.	None.	0	0	None.

<sup>30</sup> Inquirer.net (10 January 2021) [S. Korea to phase out industrial waste imports.](#)

<sup>31</sup> The Korea Times (2020) [Plastic waste imports banned in Korea amid mounting local trash.](#)

<sup>32</sup> Business Today, (24 June 2019) [India bans import of plastic waste from August this year to curb pollution.](#)

<sup>33</sup> Waste Dive, (15 January 2020) [India to enforce 1% contamination rate on paper imports, conduct random inspections.](#)

<sup>34</sup> Bone C. (2021) [India mulls over self-sufficient future without imported scrap.](#)

<sup>35</sup> Taipei Times (2018) [New waste plastic, paper import rules to take effect.](#)

<sup>36</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China (25 November 2020) [MEE Announcement No. 53 2020.](#) Unofficial translation.