

## Exports of Australian waste and recovered materials from October to December 2022

31 March 2023, Yong Lin 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 second quarter (Q2) of the 2022-23 financial year. Comparisons are made with the previous quarter (Q1 of 2022-23) and quarterly averages from the previous financial year (2021-22).

The original exports data is provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and comprises monthly data and updates to previously reported data<sup>1,2</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 second quarter of financial year 2022-23, Australia exported about 1.10 million tonnes of waste and recovered materials with a reported value of \$1.23 billion<sup>4</sup>. This represents increases of 19% in tonnage and 14% in value compared to the previous quarter. The exports included 972,000 tonnes (88%) within the scope of national waste reporting ('core waste plus ash'). Monthly exports in this quarter ranged from a low of 317,000 tonnes in November to a high of 412,000 tonnes in December.

### Comparison by destination

The top 10 recipients of Australian waste and recovered materials between July 2021 and December 2022, in descending order, were Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, India, Taiwan, New Zealand and China (including Hong Kong and Macau). In Q2 of the 2022-23 financial year, 90% 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 Q2 of 2022-23 compared to the previous quarter, and includes each recipient's 2021-22 quarterly average. Exports to India, Vietnam and New Zealand grew significantly. Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, and Taiwan also saw small to moderate increases, whilst exports to Bangladesh and China declined. India's increase is attributed to imports of metals, which almost doubled since the last quarter.

Metals remained the highest tonnage waste exported from Australia, and they were the sole or main export from October to December 2022 to Bangladesh (100%), Taiwan (100%), India (87%), China (85%), Thailand (71%) and South Korea (61%). The remaining receipts by Thailand and South Korea were paper and cardboard (28% and 19%, respectively); those for India were mainly tyres (8%); and those for China were mainly organics (12%). Indonesia and Malaysia mainly received paper and cardboard (54% and 47%, respectively), followed by metals (45% and 40%, respectively). Vietnam mainly received metals (54%), non-core waste (27%) and paper and cardboard (18%). New Zealand received mainly non-core organic wastes (92%).

<sup>1</sup> The data should be used with caution as it cannot be guaranteed that exporters or agents reported the correct codes or values.

<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.

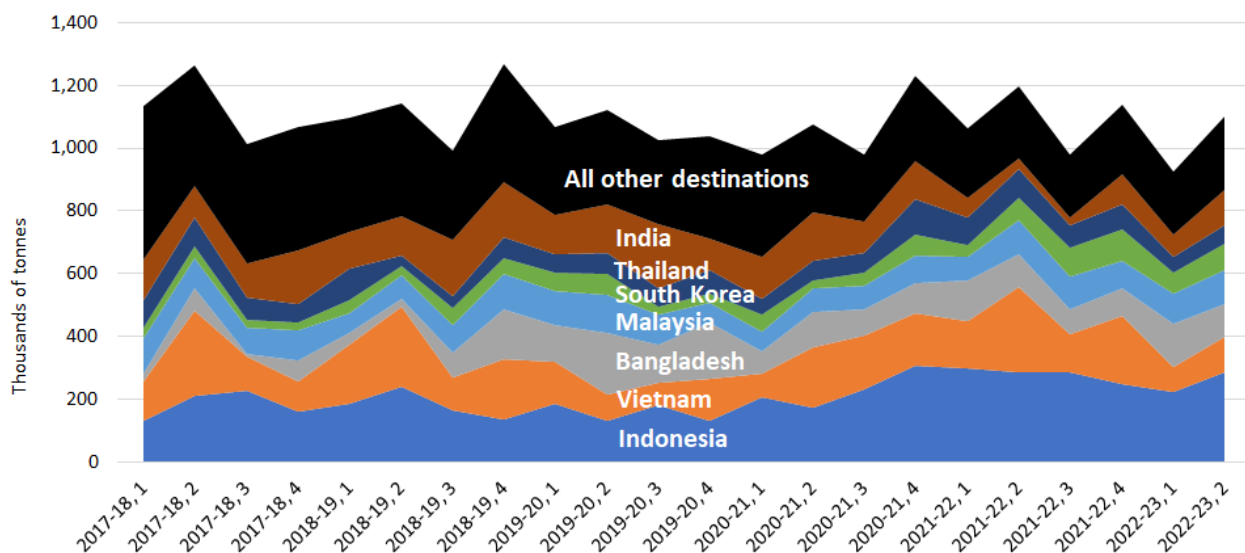
<sup>4</sup> Dollar values in this report are in Australian dollars. Historical values are inflated based on the annualised consumer price index.

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

| Export destination (ranked by tonnes since July 2021) | Oct-Dec '22 (tonnes) | Jul-Sep '22 (tonnes) | Oct-Dec'22 to Jul-Sep '22 (% change) | 2021-22 quarterly average (tonnes) | Oct-Dec '22 (\$ mil) | Jul-Sep '22 (\$ mil) | Oct-Dec '22 to Jul-Sep '22 (% change) | 2021-22 quarterly average (\$ mil) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Indonesia  | 283,000              | 221,000              | 28%                                  | 279,000                            | \$121                | \$106                | 13%                                   | \$145                              |
| 2. Vietnam  | 117,000              | 80,000               | 47%                                  | 190,000                            | \$55                 | \$33                 | 66%                                   | \$108                              |
| 3. Bangladesh   | 103,000              | 142,000              | -28%                                 | 100,000                            | \$67                 | \$77                 | -13%                                  | \$74                               |
| 4. Malaysia   | 110,000              | 92,000               | 19%                                  | 95,000                             | \$60                 | \$82                 | -26%                                  | \$74                               |
| 5. South Korea  | 82,000               | 70,000               | 17%                                  | 75,000                             | \$198                | \$130                | 52%                                   | \$158                              |
| 6. Thailand   | 58,000               | 47,000               | 23%                                  | 83,000                             | \$109                | \$81                 | 36%                                   | \$83                               |
| 7. India  | 115,000              | 72,000               | 59%                                  | 56,000                             | \$102                | \$96                 | 7%                                    | \$70                               |
| 8. Taiwan   | 54,000               | 52,000               | 5%                                   | 57,000                             | \$45                 | \$37                 | 22%                                   | \$53                               |
| 9. New Zealand  | 43,000               | 31,000               | 39%                                  | 20,000                             | \$34                 | \$26                 | 29%                                   | \$20                               |
| 10. China   | 30,000               | 32,000               | -6%                                  | 21,000                             | \$165                | \$115                | 43%                                   | \$116                              |
| Top 10 total  | 995,000              | 838,000              | 19%                                  | 975,000                            | \$956                | \$783                | 22%                                   | \$901                              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,102,000</b>     | <b>924,000</b>       | <b>19%</b>                           | <b>1,095,000</b>                   | <b>\$1,233</b>       | <b>\$1,082</b>       | <b>14%</b>                            | <b>\$1,152</b>                     |

Figure 1 presents the trend in tonnes of exports of waste and recovered materials from Australia by destination between July 2017 and December 2022. No clear trend in total tonnage is evident over the 66-month timeframe.

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



The reported value of exports from October to December 2022 was \$1,233 million, up from \$1,082 million in the previous quarter. This is higher than the quarterly average for 2021-22 (\$1,152 million) and the previous four financial years, which were all in the range \$785 to \$884 million. The proportional increase in value this quarter was similar to the proportional increase in tonnage. Monthly values across October to December 2022 ranged between \$344 million to \$495 million.

## Comparison by material

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

Table 2 Comparison of export tonnage and value by material

| Material                | Oct-Dec '22 (tonnes) | Jul-Sep '22 (tonnes) | Jul-Sep '22 to Oct-Dec '22 (% change) | 2021-22 quarterly average (tonnes) | Oct-Dec '22 (\$ mil) | Jul-Sep '22 (\$ mil) | Jul-Sep '22 to Oct-Dec '22 (% change) | 2021-22 quarterly average (\$ mil) |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Glass                   | <1                   | 100                  | -52%                                  | 400                                | <\$1                 | <\$1                 | -66%                                  | \$0.1                              |
| Hazardous (excl. tyres) | 16,300               | 14,800               | 10%                                   | 10,600                             | \$169.5              | \$142.2              | 19%                                   | \$106.2                            |
| Metals                  | 632,000              | 532,500              | 19%                                   | 630,000                            | \$873.4              | \$754.1              | 16%                                   | \$827.2                            |
| Paper and cardboard     | 266,100              | 228,800              | 16%                                   | 265,000                            | \$60.5               | \$69.0               | -12%                                  | \$84.7                             |
| Plastics                | 11,600               | 10,500               | 10%                                   | 26,100                             | \$9.8                | \$12.0               | -18%                                  | \$21.5                             |
| Textiles                | 28,600               | 25,900               | 10%                                   | 26,600                             | \$24.8               | \$21.8               | 13%                                   | \$23.4                             |
| Tyres                   | 14,600               | 19,100               | -24%                                  | 22,000                             | \$2.4                | \$2.7                | -10%                                  | \$6.4                              |
| Other core waste        | 2,600                | 1,700                | 51%                                   | 2,000                              | \$0.9                | \$2.9                | -67%                                  | \$2.0                              |
| Non-core waste          | 130,400              | 90,300               | 44%                                   | 112,000                            | \$91.5               | \$77.0               | 19%                                   | \$80.9                             |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>1,102,000</b>     | <b>924,000</b>       | <b>19%</b>                            | <b>1,095,000</b>                   | <b>\$1,233</b>       | <b>\$1,082</b>       | <b>14%</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 now exported from Australia; less than a tonne from October to December 2022.
- Exports of **hazardous waste** (excluding tyres) increased slightly from about 14,800 tonnes to 16,300 tonnes. These exports were mostly lead waste and scrap (86%) follow by slag, ash and residues containing mainly lead (9%).
- Quarterly exports of scrap **metals** increased from 532,500 tonnes to 632,000 tonnes. Still, metals remained Australia's major exported recovered material, and in the latest quarter contributed around 57% of export tonnes and 71% of export value. Scrap and non-scrap metal prices across 2021-22 were strong and gradually increased, 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 Indonesia (20%), Bangladesh (16%), India (16%), Vietnam (10%) and Taiwan (9%).
- Exports of scrap **paper and cardboard** increased from 228,800 tonnes to 266,100 tonnes. Despite these high volumes, the value of scrap paper and cardboard exports fell from \$69 million to \$60.5 million. Prices trended slightly upwards during 2019-20 and 2020-21 driven by high demand, particularly in South East Asia<sup>7</sup>, but fell subsequently. The main recipients were Indonesia (57%), Malaysia (20%) and Vietnam (11%).
- Exports of scrap **plastics** increased by 10%, from 10,500 tonnes to 11,600 tonnes. No mixed plastics have been exported since the waste export regulations commenced in July 2021. Scrap plastic exports from October to December 2022 were mostly sent to Malaysia (48%), Indonesia (18%) and Vietnam (10%).
- Exports of waste **textiles** increased by 10%, from 25,900 tonnes to 28,600 tonnes. These were almost entirely exports of worn clothing and other worn textile articles. Waste textiles were mostly sent to

<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;](#)

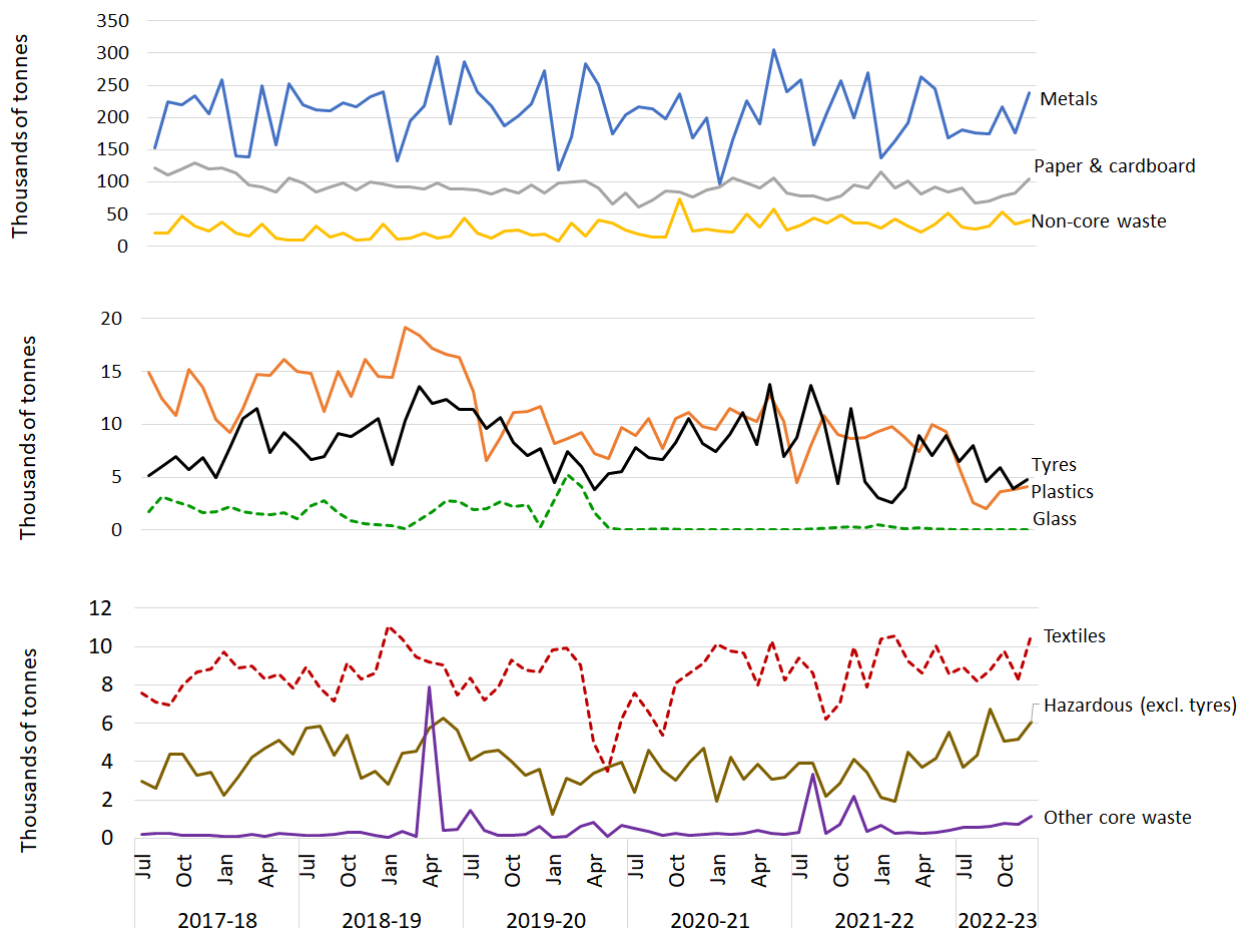
the United Arab Emirates (60%), Pakistan (16%) and Malaysia (11%). Their value has remained stable since July 2017.

- Exports of waste **tyres** fell by 24%, from 19,100 tonnes to 14,600 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 4,500 (-24%) tonnes in this quarter compared to last. Waste tyres were mainly exported to India (64%) and Malaysia (28%).
- Exports of **other core waste** rose from 1,700 tonnes to 2,600 tonnes. Exports under this category were mostly sent to Japan (69%), China (14%) and Singapore (11%).
- Exports of **non-core waste** increased from 90,300 tonnes to 130,400 tonnes. Exports under this category mainly comprised various organic processing wastes.

*Comparison with the 2021-22 quarterly average* – Exports in the quarter covering October to December 2022 were 1% higher than last year’s quarterly average by tonnage and 7% higher by value. This reflects increased export tonnages for key materials, notably metals, paper and cardboard and non-core waste.

*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 December 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, and may now be stabilising. Scrap tyre exports were quite volatile in 2021-22, and appear to be rising 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 December 2022*

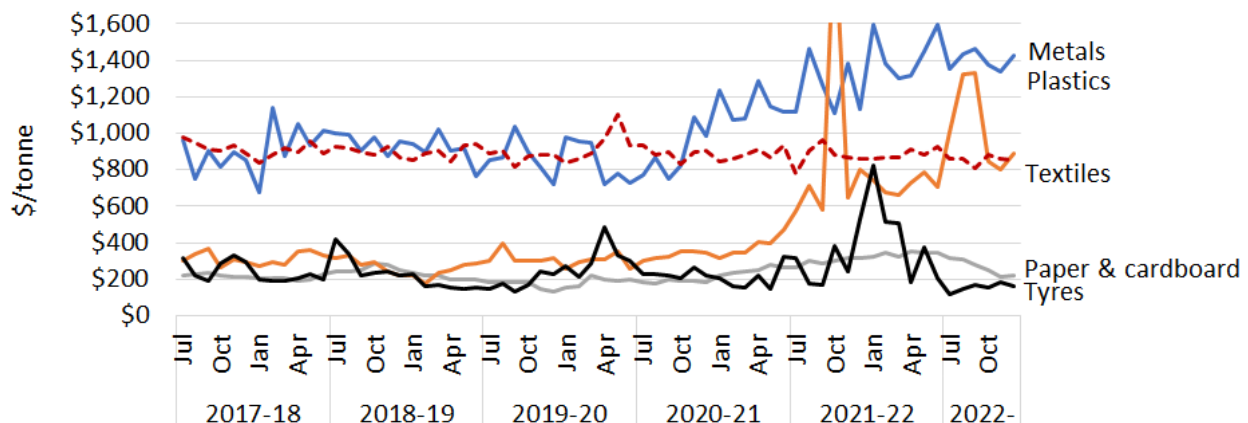


<sup>8</sup> Tyre exports in the ABS data have generally been lower than tonnages reported by industry sources. Significant miscoding is likely. The ABS dataset also excludes some exports of a low value which may account for a significant proportion of tyre exports.

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

- The reported value of exported scrap metals has trended upwards for about two years.
- The reported value of exported used textiles has remained relatively stable.
- The reported value of exported scrap plastics dropped in 2018 drop due to China’s import restrictions but 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. Late 2022 also saw a spike in the value of scrap plastics, which peaked at \$1,332/t. This is thought to be due a spike in container costs<sup>9</sup> and higher prices, especially for PET.<sup>10</sup>
- 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>11</sup>. It also coincides with increased prices for used tyres internationally<sup>12,13</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 December 2022



### Port of loading and state of origin

Between July 2021 and December 2022 about 78% of Australia’s waste and recovered materials were exported from four ports: Melbourne (25%); Sydney (18%); Brisbane (19%); and Fremantle (16%). Figure 4 compares the tonnes exported from October to December 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. Exports from Brisbane, Fremantle, Sydney and ‘All other ports’ exceeded the average whilst exports from Melbourne were below average. These changes were mostly associated with metals exports.

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> Konrad J. (24 July 2022) [Australia & New Zealand get slammed by container rates.](#)

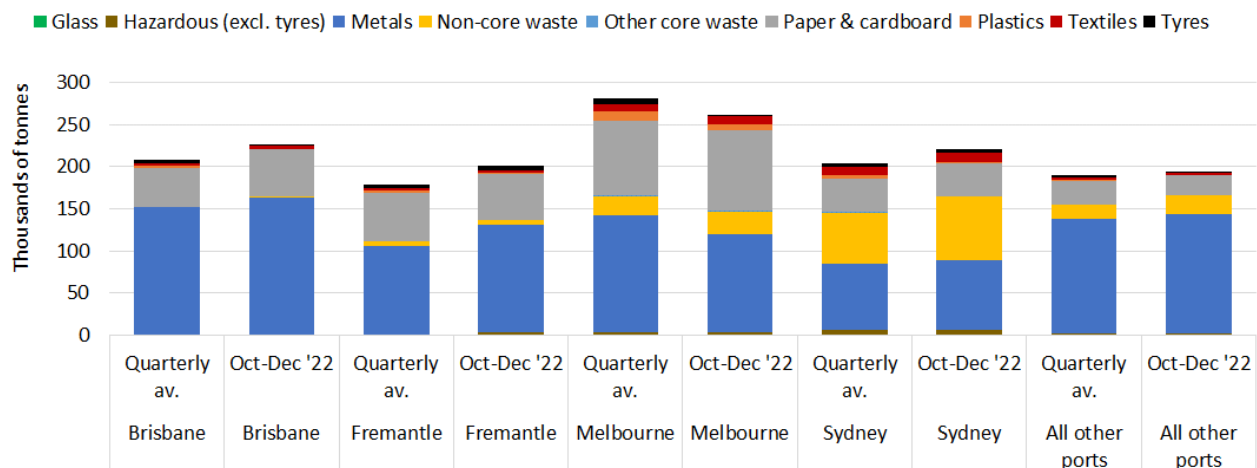
<sup>10</sup> Impacted (22 July 2022) [What is driving price increases for virgin PET plastics and PCR materials?](#)

<sup>11</sup> ECA (2021) [Exporting tyres? You are going to need a licence.](#)

<sup>12</sup> PriceRunner (13 January 2022) [Expert says tyreing times ahead with prices driven uphill.](#)

<sup>13</sup> Liu B. (11 January 2022) [Soaring 48%! The price of scrap tires has risen three times a month!](#)

Figure 4 Exports by material and port of loading – latest quarter compared with the quarterly average from July 2021 to September 2022



### 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. This was 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 then.
- Regulation of the export of scrap **mixed plastics** commenced in July 2021, and Australia has not exported mixed waste plastics for recycling since then. 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 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 have declined since the regulations came into effect<sup>8</sup> and continued to fall in October to December 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 is 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 are set out in Table 3 by grade during October to December 2022 and the preceding quarter, and show an overall decline. Most were of unbleached kraft (59%) and unsorted material (39%).

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

|                                  |   | Exports (tonnes) |                |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| 47071000                         | Recovered (waste and scrap), unbleached, kraft paper or paperboard or corrugated paper or paperboard                                | 156,000          | 134,000        |
| 47072000                         | Recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, made mainly of bleached chemical pulp, not coloured in the mass                    | 2                | 580            |
| 47073000                         | Recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, made mainly of mechanical pulp (for example, newspapers, journals and similar ...) | 5,400            | 2,500          |
| 47079000                         | Waste and scrap paper or paperboard (incl. unsorted waste & scrap) (excl. 470710, 470720 and 470730))                               | 104,000          | 92,000         |
| <b>Total paper and cardboard</b> |   | <b>265,000</b>   | <b>229,000</b> |

## Regulations on waste imports – developments since October 2022

Thailand remains poised to begin the first phase of their waste plastic restrictions in 2023<sup>14</sup>. It plans to enforce a total ban on plastic scrap imports by 2025<sup>15</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 targeted 19 single use plastics on July 1 2022<sup>16</sup>, prohibiting manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution and sale and use of the effected plastics. The effects are reportedly minimal and single use plastic products continue to be available as usual<sup>17</sup>. Potential improvements to the restrictions have been identified, such as providing technical assistance for manufacturing of alternatives to banned single use plastic products.

Similarly, as of 1 October 2022, New Zealand banned several single use plastics<sup>18</sup> and plans to further restrict plastics in July 2023.

## Regulations on waste import – overview

Table 4 summarises the current status of import restrictions in Australia’s top 10 waste export destinations. Table 5 provides details of the import restriction policies, their dates and potential impacts. Both tables exclude hazardous wastes restrictions associated with being a signatory to the Basel Convention.

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

| 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>19</sup> |          |
| South Korea | Restricted | Announced           |             | Announced   |            |                          |          |
| Thailand    | Restricted |                     |             |             |            |                          |          |
| India       | Restricted |                     | Considering | Considering |            |                          |          |
| Taiwan      | Restricted | Restricted          |             |             |            | Restricted <sup>19</sup> |          |
| New Zealand |            |                     |             |             |            |                          |          |
| China       | Restricted | Restricted          | Restricted  |             |            |                          |          |

<sup>14</sup> Heffernan M. (11 October 2022) [Thailand moving ahead with plastic scrap import ban.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Waldeck (19 September 2022) [Thailand announces total ban on plastic waste imports by 2025 to “protect country”.](#)

<sup>16</sup> Laird (04 July 2022) [India bans 19 single use plastic items from 1 July 2022.](#)

<sup>17</sup> Danda AA. (13 December 2022) [Single-use plastic ban in India: implementation and scope for improvement.](#)

<sup>18</sup> Ministry for the Environment New Zealand (20 January 2023) [Phasing out hard-to-recycle and single-use plastics.](#)

<sup>19</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 (Oct-Dec '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>20</sup> . Importation of scrap material is only allowed in certain ports and must be shipped directly <sup>21</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>22</sup> .   | Imp.: Nov-19, with further restrictions on May-20          | Plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, glass, hazardous waste, tyres, other | 1,094,625 (273,656 per quarter) | 282,558                         | 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>23</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>24</sup> . Under new national standard <i>QCVN 32: 2019/BTNMT</i> , import of e-waste plastics (e.g. TVs and computers) would be forbidden <sup>25</sup> . Scrap metal waste needs to be 99% metal to be allowed in <sup>26</sup> . | Imp.: Dec-21 (building on existing restrictions from 2018) | Plastic, paper, metals  | 643,778 (160,945 per quarter)   | 85,486                          | 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>20</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>21</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>22</sup> AntaraNews (2021) [Recycling industry processing just one-third of nation's waste: govt.](#)

<sup>23</sup> Prime Minister of Vietnam (24 September 2020) [Promulgation of the list of waste permitted for import as production materials](#). Unofficial translation.

<sup>24</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>25</sup> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2018) [Vietnam to ban imports of plastic from used electronics](#).

<sup>26</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 (Oct-Dec '22) | Impact on imports from Australia   |
|-------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Bangladesh  | The Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce Import Policy Order 2015-2018 includes details of waste import regulations <sup>27</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>28</sup> and waste paper <sup>29</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.:<br>Plastics – Jul-18<br>Metals and paper and cardboard – Jan-22  | Plastics, metals, paper and cardboard | 342,281<br>(85,570 per quarter) | 102,476                         | Imports in this quarter are higher compared to the 2021-22 quarterly average.                                  |
| South Korea | On 6 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced bans or restrictions on their top 10 waste import materials <sup>30</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 tyres in 2023. Corrugated cardboard, dust and sludge will be subject to restrictions in 2023 <sup>31</sup> . A ban on imports of PET, PE, PP and PS came into force at the end of June 2020 <sup>32</sup> . | Imp.:<br>Plastics – Jun-20<br>Ann.: Jan-21 (mix plastics, paper, etc.) | Plastics                              | 813<br>(203 per quarter)        | 303                             | This quarter's waste plastic imports were 303 tonnes, higher than the 2021-22 quarterly average of 203 tonnes. |
| 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>33</sup> .   | Imp.: Aug-18<br>Ann.: Jan-20 (total ban)                               | Plastics                              | 44<br>(11 per quarter)          | 0                               | Imports reduced from 2.8 to 1 kt per quarter from 2018-19 to 2020-21. In 2021-22                               |

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2016) [Import Policy Order 2015-2018](#).

<sup>28</sup> Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2022) [Guidelines for Importation and Inspection of Metal Scrap, January 2022](#).

<sup>29</sup> Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2022) [Guidelines for Importation and Inspection of Waste Paper, January 2022](#).

<sup>30</sup> Business Korea (7 January 2021) [Waste import ban roadmaps to come out soon](#).

<sup>31</sup> Inquirer.net (10 January 2021) [S. Korea to phase out industrial waste imports](#).

<sup>32</sup> The Korea Times (2020) [Plastic waste imports banned in Korea amid mounting local trash](#).

<sup>33</sup> Bangkok Post (6 August 2021) [Plastic waste imports are 'unwanted'](#).

| Destination | Scope of restrictions  | Announced and/or implemented                      | Associated types              | Associated tonnes (2021-22) | Associated tonnes (Oct-Dec '22) | Impact on imports from Australia   |
|-------------|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|             |  |   |                               |                             |                                 | imports have decreases significantly, to 11 t per quarter.   |
| India       | In 2016 India banned the import of scrap plastics but exempted 'special economic zones' and 'export-oriented units'. In August 2019 <sup>34</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>35</sup> and has proposed a new policy seeking to increase local scrap metal processing and reducing reliance on imports <sup>36</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>37</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)     | 88                              | Imports fell from 4.4 to 1 kt per quarter between 2018-19 and 2021-22. Imports this quarter were very low at 88 t. |
| New Zealand | No import bans apparent. Received mainly non-core waste from Australia, which are not subject to export bans.  | None.   | None.                         | 0                           | 0                               | None.  |
| China       | China banned the import of all solid waste from January 2021 <sup>38</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) | 29,996                          | Imports fell after the first restrictions in 2018, and dropped again after the further 2021 bans.                  |

<sup>34</sup> Business Today, (24 June 2019) [India bans import of plastic waste from August this year to curb pollution.](#)

<sup>35</sup> Waste Dive, (15 January 2020) [India to enforce 1% contamination rate on paper imports, conduct random inspections.](#)

<sup>36</sup> Bone C. (2021) [India mulls over self-sufficient future without imported scrap.](#)

<sup>37</sup> Taipei Times (2018) [New waste plastic, paper import rules to take effect.](#)

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China (25 November 2020) [MEE Announcement No. 53 2020.](#) Unofficial translation.