

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

### COMMUNIQUÉ

17 August 2023

The Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group met on 2 May 2023 in Canberra to consider the topic of circular design and consumption of products.

The Chair welcomed the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek, and the Minister for Trade and Tourism, the Honourable Don Farrell, and all group members.

Minister Plibersek shared her plans to develop a national circular economy framework and the group discussed the importance of the framework in recognising and addressing challenges in different parts of the economy.

Minister Farrell addressed the group about the trade challenges and opportunities arising from transitioning to a circular economy, including in greening international markets.

Special guest, Dr Leyla Acaroglu, an award-winning designer and UNEP Champion of the Earth, presented on international trends in circularity and led a discussion on opportunities to encourage reusability and new service models for businesses.

The Group also considered submissions provided by Dr Acaroglu, Good Design Australia and the Australian Design Council, and the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence, alongside a suite of other evidence on circular design and consumption of products.

Based on the meeting discussions, the Advisory Group recommends that:

1. Commonwealth regulations be revised and strengthened to ensure they are fit-for-purpose and future-ready to support a circular economy, especially for products and materials. This should include developing a regulatory power to set specific circularity requirements, including for products, materials, and services.
2. The Commonwealth should progress measures to encourage private sector investment in good circular economy practices. This should include better characterising the risks from linear business models and integrating circular economy into the Commonwealth's sustainable finance strategy.
3. Good design principles should be developed that result in clear, concise and adoptable design criteria.
4. The National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) should be used to incubate markets for key areas/enablers of circular economy, and NRF activities and decisions should be guided by circular economy expertise and principles.