



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water
and the Environment

COST RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT
Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation
2020–2021



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)

This CRIS provides information on how the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (the Department) will implement cost recovery under the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (the Act) and the *Recycling and Waste Reduction (Product Stewardship-Accreditation of Voluntary Arrangements) Rules 2020* (the Rules). The Act will reduce the environmental and other impacts of products and waste material, including through regulating the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres. It replaces and improves on the product stewardship framework of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (the Product Stewardship Act).

This CRIS also reports financial and non-financial performance information for voluntary product stewardship accreditation and contains financial forecasts for 2020–2021 and three forward years. The Department will maintain the CRIS until the activity or cost recovery for the activity has been discontinued.

1.2 Description of the regulatory charging activity

What is voluntary product stewardship

Product stewardship is an approach to managing the human and environmental health impacts of different products and materials. It acknowledges that those involved in designing, producing, manufacturing, importing, selling, using and disposing of products have a shared responsibility to manage those products or materials in a way that reduces their impact on the environment and on human health and safety throughout their lifecycle. Voluntary product stewardship schemes are an opportunity for industry to share responsibility for the sustainable management of the products they produce.

Why accreditation

Accreditation shows the public that the Australian Government has assessed voluntary product stewardship schemes as meeting their stated objectives. These objectives will be specific to each scheme, but are expected to relate to using, designing, recycling and reusing products or materials in an environmentally sound way. Accredited schemes can use the product stewardship logo, including on products and marketing materials.

Prior to being granted accreditation, schemes need to provide specific, measurable and clearly defined outcomes over five years, and show that the activities will result in an overall benefit to the environment or human health. This assessment process helps ensure that only schemes that are expected to further the objects of the Act and satisfy the product stewardship criteria are accredited, thus maintaining the credibility of these schemes. Requirements for the accreditation of voluntary arrangements are set out in Part 3 of Chapter 3 of the Act, and in the Rules.

Requiring a fee with each application for accreditation allows the Department to complete a thorough assessment. This can include responding to questions and assisting in developing applications. Charging a fee is consistent with the policy goals for accrediting voluntary product stewardship schemes as it:

- provides resources to efficiently process applications, even if demand is higher than expected
- allows a larger number of schemes to be considered for accreditation than if provided finite funding from general tax revenue
- signals to applicants the costs involved in assessing an application, and
- deters organisations from submitting poorly developed applications.

Application for Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation and assessment

To be accredited, a scheme must have clearly defined, measurable outcomes that contribute to one or more objects of the Act. These objects include:

- reducing the impact on human and environmental health of products, waste from products and waste material, including by reducing the greenhouse gas emitted, energy and resources used, and water consumed in relation with them
- contributing to Australia meeting its international obligations concerning the human and environmental health impacts above
- realising community and economic benefits from taking responsibility for products, waste from products, and waste materials
- developing a circular economy.

As part of the application process, the administrator of the scheme must show that it can deliver these outcomes by providing information about the scheme's governance; financial arrangements and funding; environmental, health and safety policies; and risk management strategy.

The application must also show that:

- the administrator is a body corporate
- the scheme is already running or will be ready to begin within a reasonable time
- the scheme's activities will have an effect in more than one State or Territory
- the scheme's plans for using the voluntary product stewardship logo are appropriate
- the objects of the Act will be furthered, and
- the product stewardship criteria are satisfied.

The assessment of an application may involve the following steps:

- receiving the application and lodging the details in a database
- assessing the application against the eligibility requirements, including the arrangement's technical and financial viability,
- review of the assessment by senior staff,
- preparation of a recommendation report for the delegate of the Minister; and
- consideration of the recommendation report by the delegate of the Minister.

The Department may request further information as required to complete the assessment.

If the application meets the eligibility and accreditation requirements, the applicant will be notified advising of their accreditation and granted use of the Australian Government product stewardship logo.

The Minister, or delegate, may impose conditions on accreditation of a scheme, as authorised under the Rules and the Act.

Monitoring and compliance (not cost recovered)

The Department is likely to conduct one or more audits of the scheme during the five-year accreditation period to verify that the scheme is meeting its stated outcomes. This is a change from the previous requirement that schemes provide audited reports annually to the Department to maintain accreditation. This change is intended to balance the costs to participating schemes, while maintaining the overall integrity of accreditation.

Administrators of accredited schemes are required to notify the Minister in writing after any of the following events occurs:

- there is a change to who the administrator of the arrangement is
- an event that may affect whether the administrator is a fit and proper person
- an event that hinders the ability of the arrangement to achieve its outcomes
- an event prescribed by the Rules.

Notification of these events may result in the Department taking action to determine if the scheme is meeting the objects of the Act. Cancellation of the scheme's accreditation may be appropriate if it is found that the scheme no longer meets the objects of the Act. Costs associated with monitoring and compliance comprise the direct costs to the Department for staff time and an appropriate portion of indirect costs (e.g. worker's compensation premium, staff training and development costs, human resource support costs, organisational service costs, accommodation costs and IT costs). These costs are currently government funded as the government has only authorised cost recovery for accreditation.

Adding products to an accredited product stewardship scheme

During the five-year term of an accredited scheme, technological, social, economic or other changes may result in the scheme wanting to expand the scope of their activities. This will require an assessment of the expanded scope (e.g. whether new products proposed to be included in the scheme meet the criteria for accreditation) but is unlikely to need a full reassessment of the overall scheme proposal, including its administration and financial management.

Charging for the assessment of additional products while avoiding the need to reapply for re-accreditation of the whole scheme will provide more flexibility and avoid charging unnecessary costs. As the complexity of these assessments is likely to vary at the product level, assessment of the new items will be charged as a fee per quarter hour or part thereof.

The Department will work with prospective applicants to provide an estimate of the total cost before a scheme commits to an application.

Renewal of accreditation

Successful applicants are granted accreditation for a period of five years unless otherwise withdrawn or cancelled. To maintain accreditation following this period, the administrator of an arrangement will need to re-apply for accreditation. This involves an assessment by the Department to determine if the scheme continues to meet the eligibility and accreditation requirements, as per output one (see section 3 below).

A renewal of accreditation requires less effort than a new application as:

- the scheme will already be familiar with the process and require less assistance in preparing an application
- some criteria will not need to be reassessed, or can be assessed in less time due to the ongoing monitoring and compliance that occurred in the preceding accreditation period
- significant changes to the scope of the scheme have already been assessed through output three (see section 3 below), and
- the scheme will have a demonstrated history of activity.

Who are the stakeholders?

A range of stakeholders have an interest in the accreditation of voluntary product stewardship schemes. However, cost recovery only applies to accreditation applicants who are the administrators of product stewardship schemes.

Stakeholders include:

- **Industry associations and businesses:** Many existing voluntary product stewardship schemes are managed by industry associations and businesses. The Department expects that industries and businesses will continue to develop new schemes for accreditation under the Act and will be more interested in accreditation with the reduced fee schedule.
- **Waste management authorities (including local government):** Product stewardship and the move to a circular economy reduces pressure on landfill and traditional waste management activities. Responsibility for waste management and landfill varies across the country, so affected parties include state and territory governments, local councils and private companies.
- **State and territory governments:** The 2018 National Waste Policy has been agreed by all Australian governments. Under the 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan state, territory and local governments are partners with the Australian Government in evaluating the effectiveness of product stewardship activities across the country, to help inform future policy.

- **Environmental and other Non-Government Organisations:** These organisations are interested in ensuring accredited schemes are credible and delivering outcomes in line with the objects of the Act.
- **Community:** Members of the community are interested in services provided by accredited schemes, such as recycling collection points and events.

The Department expects that future applications will predominantly be made by industry associations and private companies.

2. POLICY AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO COST RECOVER

2.1 Government policy approval to cost recover the regulatory activity

The *National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources* (the National Waste Policy) was agreed by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council on 5 November 2009 and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in August 2010.

Strategy one of the National Waste Policy was to establish a national framework underpinned by legislation that supports voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship. The National Waste Policy identified that the accreditation of voluntary product stewardship arrangements is to occur on a cost recovered basis through a fee-for-service. The Product Stewardship Act came into effect and implemented the framework on 8 August 2011.

Voluntary product stewardship was published as a measure in the 2012–2013 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement.

The second National Waste Policy was adopted in 2018. It continued the focus on product stewardship, by committing to: “*develop and implement partnerships across government and business to ensure ownership and responsibility for action to minimise the negative impacts from products, ensure the minimisation of waste and maximise reuse, repair and recycling of products and materials throughout their life cycle.*”

The Act commenced on 16 December 2020 and will replace the Product Stewardship Act as provided for by the transitional arrangements of the *Recycling and Waste Reduction (consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2020* and provides the statutory authority to cost recover for voluntary product stewardship accreditation.

2.2 Statutory authority to charge

Section 155 of the Act provides the legal basis for charging for voluntary product stewardship accreditation.

The *Recycling and Waste Reduction (Fees) Rules 2020* (the Fees Rules) specify the application fees for the accreditation of voluntary product stewardship arrangements. They can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01627>.

3. COST RECOVERY MODEL

3.1 Outputs and business processes of the regulatory charging activity

The activity to obtain accreditation has been categorised into three outputs:

1. Application for voluntary product stewardship accreditation and assessment
2. Adding products to an approved voluntary product stewardship accreditation
3. Renewal of voluntary product stewardship accreditation

Output one, application for voluntary product stewardship accreditation and assessment, is fully cost recovered and the fees reflect the resources required for assessment.

A detailed account of the activities required to assess an initial application and the expected time taken is provided in Table One.

Table One Activities and estimated time for assessing a new application

| Estimated staff hours per initial assessment | |
|---|--------------|
| Receive application and preliminary assessment | 7.00 |
| Assessment | 22.50 |
| Prepare assessment report and decision | 11.50 |
| Brief the Minister | 4.50 |
| Notify scheme of decision and conditions of accreditation | 4.00 |
| Publish outcome | 4.00 |
| Administration | 2.00 |
| Total | 55.50 |
| Total working days | 7.4 |

Output two, adding products to an approved voluntary product stewardship accreditation is fully cost recovered and the fees reflect the resources required for assessment.

The activities required to assess an application to expand the scope of an existing accredited scheme are likely to vary, depending on factors such as:

- How mature the accredited scheme is
- How similar the additional products are to those the scheme already manages
- Whether the scheme had additional conditions imposed to be granted accreditation

This new charging point adds flexibility and avoids the need for a scheme to wait until the current accreditation period concludes or apply for a new assessment for a separate scheme. For a mature scheme adding a product that is similar to those the scheme already manages, the activity required to assess the application would be minimal. For more complex changes, the time taken is not expected to be more than that required for an initial application for accreditation.

Output three, renewal of voluntary product stewardship accreditation is fully cost recovered and the fees reflect the effort required for assessment.

A detailed account of the activities required to assess an application to renew an existing accreditation, and the expected time taken is provided in Table Two.

As there would be five years of interactions between the scheme and the Department, the time taken to assess renewal activities is lower than assessing a new application.

Accreditation is for a period of five years. One existing accredited arrangement may choose to renew in 2023. As accreditation is for five years the Department has assumed that there will be no further renewals until 2025–2026.

Table Two Activities and estimated time for assessing a renewal application

| Estimated staff hours per application to renew an accreditation | |
|--|--------------|
| Receive application and preliminary assessment | 2.00 |
| Assessment | 6.50 |
| Prepare assessment report and decision | 11.50 |
| Brief the Minister | 4.50 |
| Notify scheme of decision and conditions of accreditation | 4.00 |
| Publish outcome | 4.00 |
| Administration | 2.00 |
| Total | 34.50 |
| Total working days | 4.6 |

3.2 Costs of the regulatory charging activity

Costs associated with processing and assessing applications comprise direct costs of staff time (i.e. salary, superannuation and long service leave) and an appropriate portion of indirect costs (e.g., worker’s compensation premium, staff training and development costs, human resource support costs, organisational service costs, accommodation costs and IT costs). The review of existing costs for this activity found that direct supplier costs such as consultants and travel were no longer necessary.

Table three below shows the direct and indirect cost for each step of assessing an application for voluntary product stewardship accreditation. The cost per initial assessment has been shown in detail, the process to assess an application to add a product to an accredited arrangement and to renew an accreditation is similar.

Table Three The cost breakdown estimates for each activity for 2020–2021

Estimated cost per assessment 2020-2021

| | Direct costs | Indirect costs | Total |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Receive application and preliminary assessment | \$489 | \$156 | \$645 |
| Assessment | \$1,644 | \$526 | \$2,169 |
| Prepare assessment report and decision | \$1,179 | \$377 | \$1,556 |
| Brief the Minister | \$405 | \$130 | \$535 |
| Notify scheme of decision and conditions of accreditation | \$353 | \$113 | \$466 |
| Publish outcome | \$269 | \$86 | \$356 |
| Administration | \$135 | \$43 | \$178 |
| Total cost per initial assessment | \$4,474 | \$1,432 | \$5,905 |
| Total cost per assessment of application to add a product to an accredited arrangement | Up to \$4,474 | Up to \$1,432 | Up to \$5,905 |
| Total cost per application to renew an accreditation* | \$2,948 | \$943 | \$3,892 |

* No schemes will renew in 2020–2021

Table four below shows the expected total indirect and direct costs for the voluntary product stewardship accreditation arrangement in 2020–21. This assumes there will be three initial applications for assessment, one application to add a product to an existing accredited scheme and no renewals. The expected volumes are discussed in more detail in section six, Financial Estimates.

Table Four The cost breakdown estimates for the arrangement for 2020–2021

| | Expected Demand | Direct costs per unit | Indirect costs per unit | Total |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Output one: Application for Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation and assessment | 3 | \$4,450 | \$1,450 | \$17,700 |
| Output two: Adding products to an approved Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation (per quarter hour or part thereof) | 130 | \$20.15 | \$6.45 | \$3,460 |
| Output three: Renewal of Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation | 0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | | | | \$21,160 |

3.3 Design of regulatory charges

Overview

Under the Australian Government Charging Framework, where specific demand for a government activity is created by identifiable individuals or groups, they should be charged for it unless the government has decided to fund that activity. The amount charged should be no more than the full and efficient cost of the activity.

The assessment fees have been calculated on the actual total costs associated with processing and assessing an application.

A fee has been determined to be the most appropriate form of cost recovery for the assessment of applications for accreditation because there is a service provided to an identifiable recipient. There is currently no authority to charge a levy.

For initial applications an application fee of \$5900 has been set based on the average time taken to complete the assessment. Setting a standard fee provides certainty for potential applicants about how much they will pay and reduces the administrative burden on the Department.

Schemes will also be charged a set application fee of \$3900 when applying to renew an accreditation.

The fee for an application to add an additional product to an accredited scheme will be charged per quarter hour or part thereof required to assess the application, with rounding applied to the total. As these assessments are likely to vary in complexity, setting a standard application fee is not appropriate.

Table Five comparison of costs and fees per activity for 2020–2021

| | Cost per unit | Fee per unit |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Output one: Application for Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation and assessment | \$5,905 | \$5900 |
| Output two: Adding products to an approved Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation (per quarter hour or part thereof) | \$26.60 | \$26.60 |
| Output three: Renewal of Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation | \$3,892 | \$3900 |

2020 Review of existing cost recovery model (2020-21 CRIS) - Consultation

The Department re-examined this charging activity in 2020 as part of implementing the Government's response to the recommendations of the *Review of the Product Stewardship Act 2011*. As part of this review, the Department found that the actual cost of assessing applications is now lower than the previous charging structure.

The Department consulted on the exposure draft of the Bill with around 70 industry stakeholders and representatives from states, territories and local government between 7

and 21 July 2020. Feedback from this consultation was incorporated into the Bill, including changing requirements for audited annual reports of product stewardship schemes to reduce burden on industry stakeholders.

The improvements resulting from the above include allowing applications to be made at any time, simplifying the information to make the application easier to complete, and supporting applicants throughout the process. As applicants will be better informed, better supported, and not preparing applications in a limited time frame, applications are expected to be of higher quality and so are expected to need less staff time to assess. The time taken for an assessment is expected to be 7.4 working days, down from 32.7 days in 2015-16.

The time taken to assess an application to renew an accreditation is expected to be 4.6 working days. Before, schemes wishing to be accredited for a further five years were charged the initial application fee again. The time taken has been calculated in consultation with the policy team responsible for conducting assessments, with reference to the requirements for accreditation under the Act.

The revised charge points and rates are specified in the Fees Rules and shown below in Table Six.

Table Six Charging structure for voluntary accreditation and revenue estimates for the 2020–2021 financial year

| Charge title | Type | Rate | Estimated volume | Estimated total revenue |
|--|------|---------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation application assessment fee | Fee | \$5900 | 3 | \$17,700 |
| Adding a product to an approved Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation (quarter hour or part thereof) | Fee | \$26.60 | 130 quarter hours | \$3,460 |
| Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation renewal* | Fee | \$3900 | Nil | Nil |
| TOTAL | | | | \$21,160 |

* No schemes will renew in 2020–2021

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

The overall risk associated with this regulatory charging is low. Potential risks, and how they will be managed are illustrated in Table Seven.

Table Seven Potential risks and mitigation with cost recovery

| Risk | Mitigation |
|---|---|
| More applications are received than can be assessed with existing staff levels. | The Department maintains good working relationship with stakeholders and industry representatives so understands the potential applications that would be received each year. However, if more applications are received the workload of the assessment team would increase. The new charging points will mitigate this risk in the future, as accredited schemes will no longer need to apply for a full assessment if varying or renewing accreditation. This allows the arrangement to be more flexible. |
| Assessment processes taking longer than expected to complete | The time taken to assess an application has been determined and averaged out in the review process. The Department will track the time spent on assessments and monitor costs compared to revenue and take steps to address the causes of higher than expected costs, if necessary. This will be considered in the annual review of the CRIS. With better guidance and more streamlined application materials, the Department expects applications to be of a high standard. |
| The revised fee schedule results in more poor-quality applications due to lower costs of entry. | The Department maintains good working relationships with stakeholders and industry representatives. As the process will be simpler and applicants are no longer required to apply in a short time frame, the Department expects that the applications received each year will be of higher quality. |

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation arrangement was established in 2013, after extensive stakeholder engagement in 2012.

The arrangement has engaged stakeholders on an ongoing basis to support the activity.

The Review of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* considered the degree to which this Act supported product stewardship benefits for Australia. The scope of the review included accreditation of voluntary product stewardship. The consultation paper received more than

270 submissions from a broad range of stakeholder groups. Submissions on the voluntary product stewardship arrangement noted:

- The process to apply for a renewal is onerous and could be streamlined by only requiring applicants to provide new or updated information.
 - This has been addressed by the addition of a separate activity and charge point for renewal.
- The accreditation process was not frequent enough and not enough notice was provided.
 - This has been addressed by opening applications on an ongoing basis.
- The accreditation process should be simpler to make it more user-friendly, which would encourage current or prospective scheme operators to seek accreditation.
 - This has been addressed through the ongoing streamlining of application and guidance materials.
- The previous fee of \$20,600 meant that the cost of accreditation outweighed the benefit for many unaccredited voluntary product stewardship schemes.
 - The revised fee schedule will allow the benefits of accreditation to more easily outweigh the cost, while still recovering the full and efficient costs of assessment.

The Department engaged a behavioural insights team to undertake a market and behavioural analysis to inform the review of voluntary accreditation provisions. This was based on stakeholder interviews conducted from June - July 2020. Stakeholders interviewed reiterated the issues noted in the submissions to the review.

The Department held the webinar 'Overview of new stand-alone legislation for recycling and waste reduction' with targeted stakeholders on the then Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020 (the Bill) and draft Fees Rules on 15 July 2020.

In response to the exposure draft of the Bill the Department received a submission noting that the five-year term of accreditation is a long time compared to how rapidly technology changes, with new products being developed or becoming obsolete. The addition of the charge point for adding a product to an approved voluntary product stewardship accreditation addresses this.

In August 2020 the Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management conducted informal consultation with several voluntary product stewardship schemes and companies interested in future accreditation.

The Department conducted targeted consultation on the draft CRIS with 58 stakeholders including product stewardship schemes, industry organisations and peak bodies, and state and territory governments. From Friday 9 October to Tuesday 20 October 2020 stakeholders had the opportunity to read, review and comment on the draft CRIS and the Rules. We received 3 submissions, which were broadly supportive.

6. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

Table Eight Estimated projected costs to 2024

| | 2020–2021 Do not change during budget year | 2020–2021 Update during budget year | 2021–2022 Update during budget year | 2022–2023 Update during budget year | 2023–2024 Update during budget year |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Expenses = X | \$21,160 | \$21,160 | \$35,400 | \$57,000 | \$88,500 |
| Revenue = Y | \$21,160 | \$21,160 | \$35,400 | \$57,000 | \$88,500 |
| Balance = Y – X | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Cumulative balance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Explain material ^a variance | No material variance | | | | |
| Explain impact on balance management strategy | We seek to cost recover the full and efficient costs of the arrangement | | | | |

a As defined by AASB1031 and Division 12 – Materiality and Disclosure of the Finance Minister’s Orders.

From 2021–2022 uptake of accreditation is expected to increase year on year.

7A. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Table Nine Financial results from the second round of voluntary accreditation 2018-19

| | 2015–2016 | 2016–2017 | 2017–2018 | 2018–2019 | 2019–2020 |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Expenses = X | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$8,540 | 0 |
| Revenue = Y | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$8,500 | 0 |
| Balance = Y – X | 0 | 0 | 0 | (\$40) | 0 |
| Cumulative balance | 0 | 0 | 0 | (\$40) | (\$40) |
| Explain material ^a variance | This arrangement previously only accepted applications during open application rounds. Both expenses and revenue were nil in years that did not have an open round. The second round of assessments ran from 26/03/2018–31/08/2018. One arrangement was accredited in this round. The cost of assessment was lower than the fee prescribed in the Product Stewardship Regulations 2012 due to the high quality of the application. The Department maintains records on the actual expense and revenue of the arrangement and updates this information annually. | | | | |
| Explain balance management strategy | Cost recovery reflected the full and efficient costs of considering applications | | | | |

^a As defined by AASB1031 and Division 12 – Materiality and Disclosure of the Finance Minister’s Orders.

^b Rounded to the nearest hundred

7B. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The key performance indicator for voluntary product stewardship accreditation is the quality of the schemes that are accredited. Accreditation provides assurance to the community that voluntary product stewardship schemes are achieving real and effective outcomes for the environment.

Upon completion of the first round of applications in 2013, the Australian Government successfully accredited two schemes. In the second round of applications in 2018 one scheme was reaccredited.

The Department’s Annual Report describes the outcomes of the Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation arrangement, specifically accreditation of schemes.

The Department intends to add the key performance indicators in Table Ten, from 2020–21, in line with the recommendations of the ANAO performance audit report, *Application of cost recovery principles*.

Table Ten Non-financial performance measures—product stewardship cost recovery arrangement

| Performance indicators | 2021-22 Target | 2022-23 Target | 2023-24 Target | 2024-25 Target |
|---|--|---|----------------|----------------|
| Improvements to the voluntary product stewardship arrangement drive more demand for accreditation | The number of applications for accreditation increases annually | | | |
| The variety of schemes accredited represents a broad approach to waste management across sectors to achieve the highest environmental outcomes | The number of product classes accredited increases annually | | | |
| Our cost recovery guidance material is tailored to the needs of regulated entities. Cost recovery frameworks, strategies and service standards are available on our website and the information is regularly reviewed to ensure currency. | Publish frameworks, strategies and service standards on website. | Review and refine frameworks, strategies and service standards. | | |

| Performance indicators | 2021-22 Target | 2022-23 Target | 2023-24 Target | 2024-25 Target |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| We engage with regulated entities on potential changes to cost recovery for product stewardship. Advice notices and guidance material are up to date, accurate, accessible and in plain English. | Publish advice notices and guidance material on website. | Review and update advice notices and guidance material. | | |
| The resources allocated to the arrangement are appropriate to the level of demand for accreditation | If demand varies by more than 10% but less than 20% from the estimate at Table Nine, review actual costs and prices If demand varies by more than 20% from the estimate at Table Nine, review the process model, costs and prices | | | |
| The fees set reflect the full and efficient costs of assessment for voluntary product stewardship accreditation | >95% of initial assessments for voluntary product stewardship accreditation are completed in 7.4 working days or less >95% of assessments for renewal of voluntary product stewardship accreditation are completed in 4.6 working days or less | | | |
| Cost recovery invoicing is accurate and timely | >95% of Invoices are prepared without errors and issued within one week of notification of outcome. | | | |
| Client complaints are responded to in a timely manner | >95% of complaints and enquiries about cost recovery are responded to within one week. | | | |

8. KEY FORWARD DATES AND EVENTS

From the date of publication of this CRIS applications for accreditation will be open and will remain open on an ongoing basis.

Previously the cost recovery arrangement and activities were reviewed after each open round was completed. As applications will now be ongoing, the arrangement will be reviewed annually to ensure that underlying assumptions and estimates of expenses and revenues are relevant and current.

The Department is scheduled to undertake a Portfolio Charging Review in 2023, with review outcomes scheduled to be brought forward in Budget context in 2024-25. This is a review of all existing and potential charging activities within the portfolio, including the Voluntary Product Stewardship Accreditation Arrangement.

9. CRIS APPROVAL AND CHANGE REGISTER

| Date of CRIS change | CRIS change | Approver | Basis for change |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 18/01/2012 | Certification of the CRIS | Acting Secretary, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities | New cost recovered activity |
| 30/06/2015 | Update of financial estimates | Assistant Secretary, Waste Policy Branch, Department of the Environment | Review of average staffing levels effort and update of cost estimates |
| 1/08/2018 | Update of financial estimates | Assistant Secretary, Assessments and Waste Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy | Update of cost estimates |
| 16/12/2020 | Update description of costs and charges | Minister for the Environment | Change in statutory authority to charge Update of fee schedule |