



Darrell Channing
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Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
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By email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

Dear Mr Channing

A91504 – APMF & Ors – submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for authorisation by the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation Inc. (APMF).

Waste paint makes up 80 per cent by volume of the chemicals in household chemical collections operated by state governments. These services are not available to business; alternative disposal for trade waste paint is costly, potentially providing an incentive for business operators to choose unsafe disposal methods.

Paint contains a number of environmentally harmful substances including heavy metals and surfactants which inhibit oxygen and photosynthesis when disposed of in waterways and may potentially leach when disposed of in landfill in solid form. Therefore, effective management is required to increase the recovery of waste architectural and decorative (A & D) paint in Australia and reduce the amount of this product released into the environment at end-of-life.

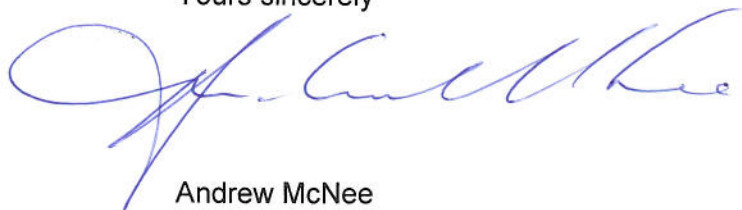
A list of products proposed for consideration under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* during the next financial year is published each year to inform the community and business about what is being considered for coverage under the Act. Waste A & D paint was listed on the annual product list in 2013-2014 and in each annual list subsequently.

Following listing, an Implementation Working Group was established to develop an industry-led paint product stewardship scheme. The objective of the scheme was to increase the recovery of and to minimise the environmental, health and safety footprint of waste A & D paint in Australia. The working group included representatives of the New South Wales, Queensland and Victorian Governments, the Australian Government, the APMF, Master Painters Australia and key paint manufacturers and retailers.

Following almost two years of work by the Working Group, Victoria presented the Victorian and industry-led paint stewardship approach developed to the ad-hoc Meeting of Environment Ministers on 15 July 2015. Ministers endorsed the approach and congratulated manufacturers, master painters and major retailers on their work.

The Department of the Environment supports the application and the implementation of a national paint product stewardship programme by Paint Stewardship Limited. The department welcomes the commitment of the paint industry to create and fund Paint Stewardship Limited to administer the scheme.

Yours sincerely



Andrew McNee
Assistant Secretary
Chemicals & Waste Branch

7 August 2015