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5 August 2015

Mr Darrell Channing
Director, Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street,
Canberra, 2601

Dear Mr Channing

WASTE PAINT STEWARDSHIP SCHEME SUBMISSION A91504

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent application by the Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation (APMF) seeking ACCC authorisation to apply a levy on the sale of architectural and decorative paints.

Sustainability Victoria strongly supports the APMF's application to apply a levy of up to 15 cents per litre on the sale of new architectural and decorative paint, including woodcare products, to fund a national paint stewardship scheme.

Waste paint is the single largest chemical, by volume, collected and processed through any household chemical collection (HCC) program in Australia. Sustainability Victoria's HCC program alone diverts over 1000 tonnes of waste paint and associated packaging from Victorian landfills and waterways each year.

The Victorian Government, through Sustainability Victoria has been working with the paint industry for many years and more recently has been the lead agency progressing the development of a co-ordinated, national scheme in partnership with Federal, State and Territory governments. A national paint stewardship scheme, supported by a levy, will provide safe access to households and trade painters that currently do not have an accessible and cost effective option for the environmentally responsible disposal of waste paint.

We look forward to receiving the final determination from your office in November and congratulate the paint industry on taking a voluntary approach to improve the management of the 24,000 tonnes of waste paint and packaging that requires disposal each year in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Stan Krpan
Chief Executive Officer

