

MEDIA RELEASE

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Queensland falls behind NSW after groundbreaking new recycling law passes NSW Parliament

Queensland must follow NSW and introduce regulations for manufacturers of dangerous products or risk missing out on potential benefits of the circular economy, including safer disposal of lithium-ion batteries and other products.

In an Australian first, NSW this week became the first state in Australia to pass a Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act which will lead to mandatory product stewardship on products with environmental, human health and safety concerns.

Last month, an application to send e-waste offshore was granted to a manufacturer despite the availability of EPA-licensed facilities capable of processing the e-waste in Australia – a clear attempt to shirk its responsibility to safely recycle its e-waste and batteries in Australia.

This decision has set a dangerous precedent for Australian companies looking for loopholes to avoid their responsibility to safely dispose of used lithium batteries on our shores.

Livium CEO and Managing Director, Simon Linge said the new law was a good first step towards regulating product manufacturers, but all states and territories would have to follow suit to enforce manufacturers to take responsibility for recycling their end-of-life batteries in Australia.

“In a broad sense it is encouraging that the law has passed, but we are still waiting for details about the regulations and implementation.”

“With increases in the number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries incorrectly disposed of, this is an urgent safety issue for Australian communities.”

“For the past year Environment Ministers have been meeting to discuss this issue. Now, all states and territories must get behind NSW as it seeks to work with industry to get the regulations right.

“Once NSW’s regulations are set, we will be calling for them to be adopted across Australia.”

“When State and Territory Governments take collective action, we will be able to ensure a national approach that holds manufacturers accountable for safer processing of e-waste and batteries benefitting all Australians.”

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About Livium

Livium is aiming to lead and enable the global transition to sustainable lithium production. The Company operates Australia’s market leading battery recycler, produces critical battery material lithium ferro phosphate (LFP), and has developed a patented lithium extraction technology. Livium’s revenue-generating recycling business and technologies are well-placed to capitalise on growing global lithium-ion battery demand and provides diversification benefits to global supply chains.