

APCO Material Stewardship Committees

Charter

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Introduction

The Material Stewardship Committees (MSCs) are the successor to the Technical Reference Group (TRG) and take their place in terms of the requirements outlined in the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC).

This Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) **MSC Committee Charter** sets out, in broad terms, **what the committee will do**. Specific actions undertaken by the committee will be guided by the relevant Material Pathway and action plans.

The **MSC Terms of Reference** outlines **how APCO committees work**, including structure, decision making and obligations of committee members. This document is to be read in conjunction with the Terms of Reference and other policies issued by APCO.

[➔ Read the MSC Terms of Reference](#)

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Material Stewardship Committees

Purpose

The purpose of the MSC is to enable the establishment of a thriving circular economy for their nominated material. The Committee will play a convening and advisory role, working across the value chain, to identify pathways to effective recycling and circularity by:

1. Facilitating an inclusive supply chain dialogue.
2. Creating a shared understanding of sector challenges and opportunities.
3. Developing consensus amongst the supply chain on actions to realise APCO and broader sector objectives that work towards the realisation of packaging circularity.
4. Ensure continued progress by regularly receiving updates from working groups and providing them with guidance and support.

Function

The function of the committee is to:

1. Develop a Material Pathway and 3-to-5-year action plan for their nominated material.
2. Maintain the Material Pathway, facilitate and develop material flow analysis to identify areas that need intervention.
3. Create a priority action plan as identified by the data insights and mutually agreed through the planning process.
4. Support priority projects identified as part of the plan.
5. Provide guidance, positioning, and consensus on sector-related topics and issues, including feedback or consultation on circularity, legislation, and other relevant areas.

Working groups

Purpose

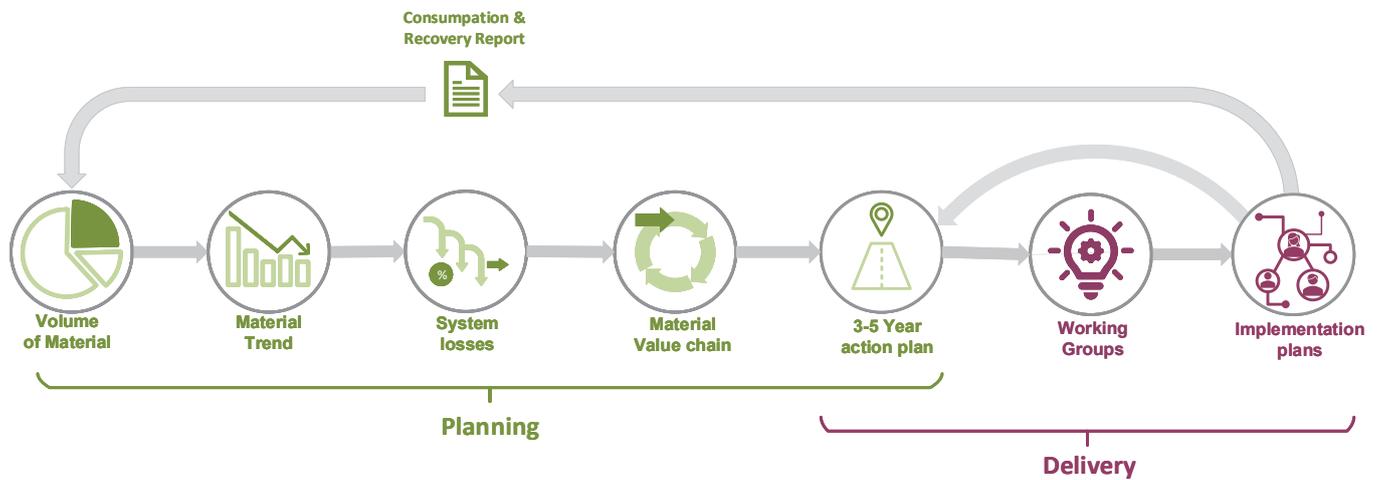
Recognising the diversity of materials and stages (sortation, collection, reprocessing and end markets) within each of the material pathways, the purpose of the Working groups is to focus on specific areas relating to material type or stage; either relating to delivery of the priority action plan or to explore in detail specific material format or systemic problems. The Working Group feeds back to the MSC to further existing projects or to inform future inclusions to the project pipeline.

Function

Working groups lead projects which deliver on 3–5-year action plan and provide detailed progress reports to MSC that allow programme oversight. They involve a wider member base and external parties where necessary to facilitate project delivery and gain insight into the Material Pathway.

Priority planning process

Process for System transformation



1. Process data is reviewed from the Consumption and Recovery report annually, volume of materials and trends are taken, and areas of largest losses are identified, along with where in the material value chain they are happening. This information is used to refine the 3-5 year plan by generating new or validating existing priority projects. Existing or new working groups then enact priority projects with a view to achieving desired outcomes (see point 4).
2. The plan will include actions that APCO may lead or support, and actions that it will advocate for others to take. Responsibility for delivery of priority projects can be passed to Working groups by the MSCs.
3. The MSCs will meet at least twice annually to plan and review action plans and evaluate progress. It will meet on an as-required basis in between.
4. Material Pathway and action plan will prioritise and align with:
 - (a) Best possible industry achievement the national packaging targets (NPT).
 - (b) The principles of the Australian Packaging Covenant.
 - (c) Delivery of a shared vision for circularity of nominated material by 2030.

Appendices

- Terms of reference: The Australian Packaging Covenant



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