



**Gas Appliance  
Manufacturers  
Association of  
Australia**

### **National Packaging Covenant - is your business exposed to this reporting?**

The voluntary National Packaging Covenant has been in place for some time and is operated by APCO ( [www.packagingcovenant.org.au](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au) ). The covenant aims to reduce the harmful impact of packaging in Australian communities and is delivered through the 13 reporting criteria and 5 performance levels of sustainable packaging. There is an annual membership fee payable to APCO based on turnover.

In July 2018 the NSW Govt created a state regulation (attached) that imposes requirements (similar to those included in the Covenant) on businesses with turnover in excess of \$5million. Businesses that are signed up to the National Packaging Covenant are exempt from the legislative requirements, but failure to meet obligations imposed by either the Covenant or the Legislation can result in heavy fines. It is my understanding that other states have introduced legislation that mirrors the NSW requirements, however I am yet to verify this is the case.

If suppliers choose the APCO route, they are required to prepare an annual online submission showing progress against the Covenant guidelines and plans for improvement and are potentially subject to random auditing. The NSW legislative route requires a similar submission to be made, however the timeframe for delivery appears to be shorter, and submitted plans can be subject to advice from the EPA regarding changes that they may require. Company submissions to the EPA are kept on file for 5 years, also with the potential for random audits.

Based on the above, companies with turnover in excess of \$5m should be assessing their options on this issue.

Additionally, last April the Government announced a set of 2025 National Packaging Targets. The targets are:

1. 100 per cent of all Australia's packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 or earlier.
2. 70 per cent of Australia's plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025.
3. 30 per cent average recycled content will be included across all packaging by 2025.
4. Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out through design, innovation or introduction of alternatives.

It is probable that both the Government and the Opposition will announce policies on this before the Election – and these will probably be similar, if not bipartisan.

### **ME-093 Hydrogen Technologies**

GAMAA has received an Invitation to participate in Standards Development Committee: ME-093 Hydrogen Technologies – Ross Jamieson received the invitation from Standards Australia inviting GAMAA to nominate a representative to participate in the work of this committee.

Please advise us no later than **Monday 4 March 2019** whether your organisation wishes to participate and advise the name and contact details of your proposed representative. Note that a balanced group of interested stakeholder organisations has been invited to participate.

It is proposed that the Technical Committee will undertake work as the ISO mirror committee to ISO / TC 197 Hydrogen Technologies.

If anyone is interested to join this committee, please contact Ross Jamieson at [rjamieson@sitgas.com.au](mailto:rjamieson@sitgas.com.au)

**GAS**  
**Connections**