

HERE IS HOW THE NEW AUSTRALIA'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRAMEWORK WOULD WORK...

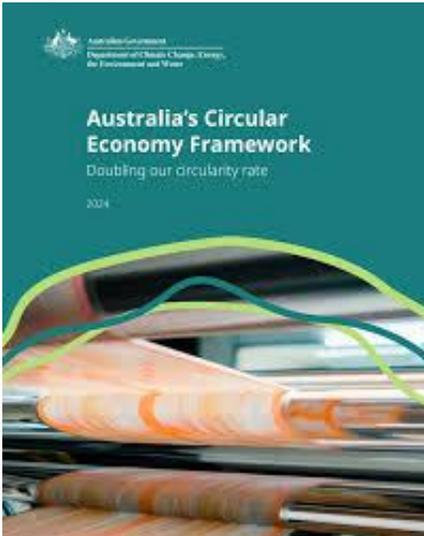


Image credit - DCCEEW 2024, Australia's Circular Economy Framework, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra, December

It wasn't long ago that we saw Australia's Circular Economy Framework 2024 being released by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), which aims to double the nation's circularity by 2035. The framework builds upon prior efforts, insights gathered from extensive consultations, including insights from the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group's final report - "The Circular Advantage."

While the framework sets ambitious targets for improving and advocating regeneration (circularity), its specific impact on manufacturing processes, supply chains, and sustainable product design will depend on future policy developments and industry adoption.

What's the pretext?

Australia's Circular Economy Framework 2024 emerges from a confluence of pressing environmental concerns, including escalating waste management challenges, the urgent need for climate action, and the growing recognition of the economic opportunities inherent in sustainable practices. Building upon previous policy initiatives and extensive consultations, the framework reflects a global shift towards circular economy principles, aiming to address resource depletion and pollution while fostering innovation and job creation..

Here are 5 facts about how it works

- The framework encourages the adoption of eco-design principles, supporting manufacturers in creating products that last longer, are easier to repair, and can be recycled or remanufactured.
- It advocates for improved material selection, prompting products to be regenerative, such as biodegradable, recyclable, and non-toxic materials.
- It promotes modular design approaches that enable easy replacement of parts rather than discarding entire products.

1. SHIFT TO SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT DESIGN

HERE IS HOW THE NEW AUSTRALIA'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRAMEWORK WOULD WORK...

Here are 5 facts about how it works

2. GREATER USE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS

- Recycled content incentivises manufacturers to integrate more recycled materials into new products.
- The framework supports the enhancement of waste recovery systems to ensure the availability of high-quality recyclables.
- It acknowledges the role of innovation in material science in developing sustainable alternatives such as bioplastics and advanced composites.

- The framework advocates for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), encouraging manufacturers to take greater accountability for their products throughout their lifecycle.
- It recognises the value of return and refurbishment programs, particularly in industries such as electronics, textiles, and automotive.
- It promotes discussions on mandatory take-back programs for high-impact industries like packaging and consumer electronics.

3. EXPANSION OF PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP SCHEMES

4. INCREASED ADOPTION OF CIRCULAR BUSINESS MODELS

- The framework encourages a shift towards product-as-a-service models to improve resource efficiency.
- It promotes remanufacturing and refurbishment as strategies to reduce reliance on virgin materials.
- It advocates for the development of shared manufacturing platforms where companies can collaborate to optimize material use and reduce waste.

- Stricter regulations on waste generation and resource efficiency will require manufacturers to redesign operations.
- Tax incentives and subsidies may be introduced to encourage investment in circular manufacturing processes.
- Harmonization of national standards tend to ensure consistency in recycling and material recovery requirements.

5. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND POLICY ADJUSTMENTS