## Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	266
Submitted by:	Australian Council of Recycling
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	



Level 23, 520 Oxford St, BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022 admin@acor.org.au www.acor.org.au ABN: 60 574 301 921

16 May 2025

Committee Secretariat State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee Parliament House George Street BRISBANE CITY QLD 4000

**Dear Committee Secretary** 

## Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 Lifecycle management of renewable energy infrastructure

On behalf of the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), we welcome the opportunity to provide input on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, particularly as it relates to the rollout of solar and wind farm infrastructure in Queensland.

ACOR is the peak industry body for Australia's resource recovery, recycling, and remanufacturing sector. Our membership is represented across the entire recycling value chain and includes leading organisations in CDS operations, kerbside recycling, recovered metals, glass, plastic, paper, organics, tyre, textile, oil, battery, solar and electronic product reprocessing and remanufacturing, as well as construction and demolition recovery. We are committed to leading Australia's transition to a circular economy that benefits the environment while driving innovation and supporting local industries.

We acknowledge the importance of community benefit considerations during the project approval phase, and wish to highlight a critical lifecycle aspect that requires attention: the management of infrastructure at its end-of-use.

As renewable energy deployment accelerates in Queensland, it is imperative that project approvals incorporate clear and comprehensive requirements relating to lifecycle management. This should include provisions for decommissioning, dismantling and material recovery within planning, approval and regulatory frameworks for wind farms, large-scale solar farms and associated battery storage.

These technologies contain a range of valuable and recoverable materials, including steel, copper, aluminium, glass, silicon, rare earth elements and various critical minerals. While many of these materials are technically recoverable, this is not always achieved in practice. More should be done to ensure that renewable infrastructure is designed and constructed in a way that embeds circular economy principles, genuinely supporting reusability, recoverability, and recyclability.

Additionally, measures should prioritise the procurement and use of local recycled content in the construction and maintenance of renewable energy facilities, strengthening domestic recycling markets and supporting local industry.

We recommend the Committee consider mechanisms to embed circular economy priorities, end-of-use planning and material recovery obligations within environmental and planning approvals for renewable energy infrastructure. Such measures will ensure responsible management of infrastructure at the end of its life, support the recovery of valuable materials, and create local employment opportunities. They will also build public confidence in the sustainability of the energy transition while encouraging investment in local remanufacturing and circular economy initiatives—fostering jobs, enhancing resource security, and reducing the environmental impact of raw material extraction.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Toumbourou Chief Executive Officer