

Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 7 Minutes

6 February 2023, 3:00pm - 3:30pm

Attendees

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: Chloe Bird, Annette Williams.

Coles: Brooke Donnelly, Kristen Boverly-Spencer, Adam Fitzgibbons, Llew Fleming, Simone Brookes, Cath Macneil, Matt Swindells, Sally Fielke.

Woolworths: Laurie Kozlovic, Peter Bruce, Nerilee Telford, Alice Yang.

Aldi: None.

Minutes

Agenda item 1: Welcome and attendance

- Chloe Bird confirmed her role as Chair for this meeting and commenced with an acknowledgement of country.

Outcome:

- **Attendees agreed that Woolworths would take minutes for this meeting.**

Agenda item 2: Recap of EPA actions and current communications

- Woolworths and Coles each noted that they had received a draft Clean Up Notice (**Notice**) from the NSW EPA on Friday which, if formally issued, could potentially require the full volume of REDcycle's ~5,200T NSW stockpile to be landfilled (irrespective of the high / medium / low fire risk designation), given the very limited timeframes proposed by the draft Notices. Woolworths and Coles each needed to provide any comments on the draft Notices by Thursday 9 February 2023.
- The parties discussed their surprise at the issuing of the draft Notices, noting that REDcycle, the party responsible for stockpiling this material, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Woolworths noted a high level discussion it had had with the NSW EPA earlier in the day, during which [REDACTED]

Outcome:

- Attendees agreed they would consider REDcycle’s response to the letter sent by the Taskforce to REDcycle, once received.

Agenda item 3: AFGC position on key issues

- Tanya Barden and Barry Cosier from the AFGC joined the call.
- Woolworths and Coles discussed the opportunity for major brand owner members of the AFGC, who are partners of the REDcycle program, to work with the Taskforce to assist in a response to the NSW EPA in the coming days, which may include financial contributions. Given that these brands, like Woolworths and Coles, provided funding for REDcycle and used the program for stewardship of their own products, a joint approach to the stockpiles may be appropriate.
- The AFGC noted that several major brand owners have indicated a willingness to work with the Taskforce on a solution conditional upon receiving more information to understand the issue and commence developing solutions.

Outcome:

- AFGC agreed to liaise with its members who were partners of the REDcycle program regarding collaborating with the Taskforce to develop urgent potential solutions to present to the NSW EPA.

Agenda item 4: Discussion of proposed responses and next steps - clear actions, roles & responsibilities

- Woolworths and Coles noted the preference for an aligned response to the NSW EPA.
- The attendees noted the strong preference that as much as possible of REDcycle’s soft plastic stockpiles identified in the draft Notices be diverted from landfill.

█ [REDACTED]

- The attendees also discussed the practical difficulties likely to be faced in dealing with the REDcycle stockpile, given Woolworths and Coles did not have access to or control over REDcycle’s stockpiled material. Both parties were first made aware of the specific volumes and locations of stockpiles by the relevant EPAs.

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

- The Department indicated that APCO may have a role to play in relation to current issues due to their role in managing the Australian Recycling Label program for brands.

Outcome:

[Redacted text block]

[Agenda item 5: Meeting close](#)