

Recycling and Waste Reduction - Waste Tyres Exports

The Australian Government has published the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export-Waste Tyres) Rules 2021. This legislative instrument, together with the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, is designed to effectively manage the human and environmental health impacts of waste material and associated disposal of waste materials and products in line with the [National Waste Policy Action plan](#).

What does this mean?

From 1 December 2021, whole-baled tyres will no longer be permitted to be exported from Australia. Only the following waste tyre products will be permitted beyond this date provided you have a license and make a consignment declaration to the Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment.

- tyres that have been processed into crumbs, buffings, granules, or shreds
- tyres that have been processed into fuel
- tyres exported for re-treading
- tyres that will be re-used on vehicles overseas.

Waste tyres that are regulated as waste material

Waste tyres regulated under Part 2, section 5 of the Rules is:

- a. tyres that are designed for motorised vehicles and that are discarded, rejected, or left over from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or
- b. tyres that are designed for motorised vehicles and that are surplus to or a by-product of an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or
- c. the rubber component of a tyre described in paragraph (a) or (b); or
- d. tyre derived fuel.

Tyres that fall within these categories are subject to the requirements of the Act and the Rules, unless excluded in section 5 (4) of the rules.

Exclusions:

- a. waste tyres that exported for personal or domestic use;
- b. waste tyres that are imported into Australia on a temporary basis and are re-exported in the same condition;
- c. waste tyres that are classed as hazardous waste;
- d. tyres designed for an electric single-person transport such as scooters, skateboards, and bicycles;
- e. tyres designed for wheel chairs;
- f. tyres designed for remote control toys; and
- g. tyres with no rubber component.

Applications for waste tyres export license

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, the Government will be deferring the introduction of fees

and charges once the regulation starts. This is to provide relief for businesses dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19 and gives businesses time to adjust to the new regulations. This means that currently, exporters do not have to pay either:

- for assessment of a waste export licence
- to make an export declaration through our Waste Export Licensing and Declaration (WELD) portal.

To apply for a license or for more information visit the [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#) portal. Applicants need to meet the fit and proper person criteria outlined in section [175 of the Act](#).

Further information is also contained within Part 3 of the [Waste Reduction \(Export-Waste Tyres\) Rules 2021](#).

An export licence is subject to certain conditions and can remain for no more than 3 years.

To apply for a license visit It A license in force for a specified period or until a specified event occurs. It cannot remain in force for more than 3 years.

An export licence may be varied, renewed, suspended or revoked.

Penalties for non-compliance

Section 20 of the [Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020](#) outlines the penalties prescribed by the Act for non-compliance. There are substantial civil penalties of 300 and 600 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment for individuals found to be in breach of the Act and prescribed export conditions.

A person commits an offence, or is liable to a civil penalty, if the person:

- a. exports regulated waste material in contravention of prescribed export conditions; or
- b. makes false or misleading representations about regulated waste material that is entered for export.

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