

Waste Tyre Collections Update

The first half of 2022 has seen an increase in tyre retailers and mechanical workshops experiencing significant delays and huge price increases from waste tyre collectors. Many businesses are reporting stockpiling above the legal limits as a result. There are several factors impacting waste tyre collections including the global shipping crisis, labour shortages, the export on whole or baled tyres, and the price of fuel for transportation just to name a few. According to the Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA), there is a shortage of containers used to send tyre derived product overseas and the cost of shipping containers has increased by approximately 500%.

VACC along with the Victorian Tyre Division (VTDA) Executive Committee, and Richard Dudley, CEO of the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) have been working with local and federal governments on this issue along with other key stakeholders to help ease the strain on businesses. It appears however, that there are no immediate short-term fixes and the situation is set to worsen.

We are already seeing a rise in illegal dumping of tyres in Victoria's parks and reserves. VACC is also aware of some members receiving please explain letters from the EPA due to the use of non-EPA registered tyre collectors.

VACC reminds members of their legal obligations

Under the General Environmental Duty (GED), which comes into effect from 1 July 2021, everyone has a duty to minimise as far as reasonably practicable the risk of harm from pollution or waste. The *Environment Protection Regulations 2021* classify waste tyres as reportable priority waste and producers of priority waste must arrange for their waste to be transported and deposited legally. Producers of waste tyres must use Waste Tracker to report the movement of their waste.

EPA Tyre waste classification: 104

For more information or to register for waste tracker please visit epa.vic.gov.au.

Storage of tyres

Tyre shops storing more than 5 cubic meters of waste tyres are required to be registered with EPA.

Survey results

For your information, a recent VACC industry survey of members revealed the following:

- Over 29% have between 6-10 cubic meters (72-120 tyres) of waste tyres stockpiled.
- Over 46% have more than 10 cubic meters (more than 120 tyres) of waste tyres stockpiled.
- Disposal costs ranging from \$5-\$8 per passenger tyre in February 2022 as opposed to \$2-\$4 per passenger tyre in July 2021.
- 88% experienced collection delays of up to 2 months, some more than 3 months.
- Tyre collectors not answering calls

How we can help

VACC is in discussions with a major accredited tyre collector and may be able to assist with clearing your stockpile. Members with large stockpiles of waste tyres who are experiencing trouble having them collected are encouraged to contact VACC.

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