

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SETTING THE STANDARD FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: NEW RECYCLING FACILITIES  
CERTIFICATION OPENS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**24 March 2026**

GECA, in partnership with the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), has released a draft Australian Recycling Facilities Standard (ARFS) for public consultation, marking a major step toward a consistent, credible benchmark for recycling across Australia.

The draft standard sets out a framework for assessing recycling facilities on a site-by-site basis, recognising that activities can vary across operations and locations. It is designed to support best practice in environmental management, material quality, health and safety, and operational performance.

The ARFS will underpin an independent certification program, helping governments, businesses and the community identify high-performing recycling facilities and make more informed procurement and investment decisions.

The standard aims to strengthen confidence in Australia’s recycling sector by clearly defining what good practice looks like and enabling independent verification of facility performance.

**ACOR CEO Suzanne Toumbourou** said the release of the draft standard is an important milestone for the sector.

“This is about building trust in Australian recycling,” Ms Toumbourou said. “Our sector achieves some incredible outcomes, remaking recovered resources into products and materials for new markets. We need to support good operators by drawing a clearer line between genuine recycling and other activities across the sector. This standard provides a practical way to do that by recognising best practice across recycling facilities.”

Developed in partnership with ACOR, the standard will be administered by GECA under its independent, ISO 14024-compliant certification framework.

**GECA CEO Josh Begbie** said broad input is essential to ensure the standard works in practice.

“Public consultation is a critical step in GECA’s standards development process. We want to hear from operators, governments, industry and the community to ensure the standard is robust, practical and delivers real impact,” Mr Begbie said.

The [public consultation period is open now](#), with **submissions closing on 19 May 2026**. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the draft standard and provide feedback.

**Media contacts:**

Josh Begbie, GECA CEO | 0403 701 202 | [josh@geca.org.au](mailto:josh@geca.org.au)

Suzanne Toumbourou, ACOR CEO | 0423 407 467 | [ceo@acor.org.au](mailto:ceo@acor.org.au)

**About GECA:**

GECA, formerly Good Environmental Choice Australia, is an independent, purpose-driven not-for-profit established in 2000 with a clear vision – to help create a sustainable future for people and planet. With 25 years of experience, GECA works across the entire lifecycle of products and services to empower better choices. GECA's lifecycle ecolabelling program – the first of its kind in Australia – certifies products and services against rigorous standards based on ISO 14024, covering environmental, health, and social impacts. [geca.eco](http://geca.eco)

**About ACOR:**

The Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) is the preeminent industry forum for resource recovery, recycling and remanufacturing, leading the transition to circular economy in Australia. ACOR represents a growing industry that contributes almost \$19 billion in economic value, generating broad social and environmental benefits. Our sector collects, sorts and reprocesses material, and makes new products with recycled content, creating more jobs for Australians. [acor.org.au](http://acor.org.au)