

22 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern

**National Heavy Vehicle Regulator: Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative**

I write on behalf of the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), in support of iQ Renew's grant application under the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSII).

ACOR is the peak industry body for the resource recovery, recycling, and remanufacturing sector in Australia. Our membership is represented across the recycling value chain, and includes leading organisations in kerbside recycling, CDS operations, recovered metal, glass, plastics, paper, textiles, tyre and e-product reprocessing and remanufacturing, advanced chemical recycling processes, road recycling, and construction and demolition recovery. Our mission is to lead the transition to a circular economy through the recycling supply chain.

Batteries—in loose or embedded form—are an increasingly alarming hazard in both kerbside and commercial waste and recycling streams. The recycling sector is overwhelmingly concerned about increasing incidents involving batteries causing property damage, serious injury and death. The rapid digitisation of everyday items, the increasing number of 'smart' and 'disposable' items such as vapes containing embedded and sealed batteries, and a lack of safe disposal options and poor consumer education, have all contributed to the steep rise in batteries in inappropriate waste streams. This is causing fires and property damage, and severely compromising collection and resource recovery operations for recyclers all across Australia.

We understand that iQ Renew is seeking to develop a solution to the fire hazard posed by batteries in collection trucks, by demonstrating that existing RFID technology can be used to identify battery items collected from kerbside bins.

With the support of a HVSII grant, there is strong potential for iQ Renew to make significant strides towards enhancing the safety and efficiency of kerbside collection operations, and mitigating the alarming fire danger posed by batteries in kerbside bins.

We look forward to further addressing the challenge of batteries in waste and recycling streams. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Suzanne Toumbourou  
**Chief Executive Officer**