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Letter of Support and Endorsement

15/02/22

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW & ACT (WCRA) to express our strong support for the iQrenew project under the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSI). Our association represents a wide range of waste management and recycling businesses across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, and we are deeply committed to promoting innovation, safety, and sustainability in our industry.

One of the pressing issues facing our industry is the increasing incidence of battery-related fires in waste collection vehicles. With the growing popularity of portable electronic devices and electric vehicles, the improper disposal of batteries has become a significant safety concern. Lithium-ion batteries, in particular, pose a serious risk due to their tendency to ignite when damaged or improperly handled.

These fires not only endanger the lives of waste collection workers but also pose a threat to the environment and public safety. When a fire occurs in a waste collection vehicle, it can quickly spread to other vehicles or nearby structures, resulting in extensive damage and potential injury or loss of life. Furthermore, the contamination of recyclable materials with burned battery components can render them unsuitable for recycling, leading to further waste and environmental impact.

The iQrenew project offers a promising solution to this critical issue by integrating RFID technology into kerbside collection operations. This technology enables the identification and separation of batteries from other waste items, reducing the risk of inadvertent collection and subsequent fires. By preventing these fires, the iQrenew project not only enhances the safety of waste collection workers but also protects the environment and community from the harmful effects of battery-related incidents.

WCRA believes that the iQrenew project has the potential to make a significant impact on the industry and the wider community. By supporting this initiative, we are demonstrating our commitment to fostering innovation and driving positive change in waste management practices. We are confident that with the support of the HVSI grant, iQrenew will achieve great success in enhancing the safety and efficiency of kerbside collection operations.

WCRA is excited about the prospect of collaborating with iQrenew and other stakeholders to further advance safety and sustainability in waste management. We are ready to offer our expertise and support to ensure the success of this important initiative. Thank you for considering our endorsement of the iQrenew project. Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Brett Lemin - Executive Director

Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW