

8 December 2022

ACT No Waste Team  
Waste Policy  
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate  
PO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

via online submission portal

## ARA SUBMISSION REGARDING ACT'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the ACT government's draft Circular Economy Strategy (the Strategy).

The ARA is the oldest, largest and most diverse national retail body, representing a \$400 billion sector that employs 1.3 million Australians and is the largest private sector employer in the country. As Australia's peak retail body, representing more than 120,000 retail shop fronts and online stores, the ARA informs, advocates, educates, protects and unifies our independent, national and international retail community.

We represent the full spectrum of Australian retail, from our largest national and international retailers to our small and medium sized members, who make up 95% of our membership. Our members operate across the country and across all categories - from food to fashion, hairdressing to hardware, and everything in between.

The ARA acknowledges the important role the retail sector plays in the transition to the circular economy and optimising the use of natural resources through the product lifecycle. Our members are committed and actively working on the design and development of products to create as little waste as possible. The ARA and members also support the recollection of used materials through product stewardship programs.

We are therefore broadly supportive of the draft Strategy. However, we do have some concerns around how it will be implemented and the need to ensure appropriate policy settings and investments in infrastructure to support implementation of the Strategy.

Specifically, we make the following recommendations in terms of a policy approach to support the Strategy to support our responses to the on-line survey on the draft Strategy.

- Circular businesses must be encouraged and supported to operate in the ACT through appropriate incentives.
- More repair and refurbishment services for consumer goods should be encouraged.
- Promotion of job creation in circular industries should be supported by government.
- Incentives for businesses to design and develop products to minimise waste and ensure the recollection of used materials.
- Product stewardship schemes should be streamlined so that they are both efficient and effective and duplication of effort and resources is avoided.

The ARA is keen to partner with government to support the Strategy and we look forward to engaging further as the Strategy is developed and implemented. Any queries in relation can be directed to our policy team at [sustainability@retail.org.au](mailto:sustainability@retail.org.au)

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Zahra**  
Chief Executive Officer