



Fact sheet



Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

If your project involves plans to export certain types of waste material from Australia, you must obtain a licence or exemption in accordance with this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

An export licence or exemption is required before waste material prescribed as 'regulated waste material' under the [Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020](#) (the Act) can be exported from Australia.

Under the Act, waste material includes anything that is discarded, rejected or left over from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, and anything that is surplus to or a by-product of those activities.

Regulated waste material is prescribed within the [Recycling and Waste Reduction Rules](#) (the Rules) and includes:

- glass
- plastic
- tyres
- paper and cardboard.

The Rules specify requirements that apply to the export of that type of waste. [Guidance](#) on export requirements for each of these waste types is available from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) website.

Importantly, you can only export regulated waste material if:

- the material meets licencing requirements
- you hold a waste export licence for the waste type or an exemption has been granted
- you declare each consignment to both DCCEEW and the Australian Border Force (ABF) in accordance with each agency's requirements.

2. Who provides the approvals?

DCCEEW administers the Act and is responsible for granting waste export licences on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and Water. The Minister has final decision-making power to grant an exemption from any requirements under the Act.

3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for waste export licences and exemptions are made online using DCCEEW's [Waste Export Licencing and Declaration portal](#). This portal is also used to declare waste exports to DCCEEW.

Pre-export declarations to the ABF must be made separately through the [Integrated Cargo System](#).

4. More information

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Further information on exporting regulated waste is available on the DCCEEW website, including a [guide to exporting](#) in accordance with the Act.

DCCEEW's Waste Exports Team can be contacted by email at exportwaste@dcceew.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](#) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at MPFA@industry.gov.au.

This fact sheet provides general information and does not constitute legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice tailored to your individual circumstances. The Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) assists major project proponents to navigate Australian Government approval processes. The MPFA does not grant approvals, nor administer the legislation listed in this fact sheet.