

ABSC
Australian Bedding
Stewardship Council

FY2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Better Bedding, Together.

bedding.org.au

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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HELLO.

This year we laid the groundwork for national coverage and reuse at scale. We focused where mattresses move — stores, warehouses, council depots, and hotels, and measured what changed. More members came on board. Approved recyclers extended coverage in underserved regions. Reuse pathways to serve communities in need has kicked off with member engagement and early hotel program design. We worked with our partners on data quality so choices rest on evidence, not intent.

Policy settings remained supportive with mattresses on the Minister’s Priority List. We aligned to that by strengthening recycler data reporting requirements and backing design for recovery trials that would speed dismantling and improve material purity. Targeted pocket spring separation and shredding will deliver 2 material streams – cleaner shredded steel, and shredded polypropylene, improving the value for recyclers and reliability of those downstream markets.

There were limits. As an authorised voluntary scheme we connect and collaborate, we don’t regulate or commercialise.

Coverage is still patchy in parts of Queensland, and non-existent in Tasmania and Northern Territory. Offtake markets for foam and textiles are improving but are inconsistent, and regional logistics remain costly. These realities shape the pace and sequence of delivery.

Our focus for FY26 is practical and ambitious: complete national coverage through added capacity and regional consolidation, finalise and roll out reuse guidelines so near-new product is placed responsibly, and establish specifications and supply commitments for foam, textiles and pocket-springs, while supporting spring separation to lift steel recovery and consistency. We’ll publish clearer, more frequent performance data and keep working with government and industry on settings that reward participation.

Thank you to every member, recycler, council and partner doing the work where it counts.

Better Bedding, Together.

Kylie Roberts-Frost
Chief Executive Officer

“Circularity is a system we build - in our factories, on our loading docks and in our homes. Not just on paper or on socials!

It’s design, collaboration and persistence that turns ‘problem waste’ back into products, and not into landfill.”

Kylie Roberts-Frost, CEO



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The ABSC entered this year with a clear strategy: turn the groundwork of FY24 into delivery. I'm pleased to report strong progress. The team has advanced practical pilots, strengthened data and reporting, and deepened relationships across government, industry and community. This is exactly what credible stewardship requires.

The Board's focus remained on governance, financial discipline and continued growth of new members. We supported management to refine the fee model, prioritise projects with the greatest impact, and continue constructive engagement with regulators and policymakers. We also oversaw Board renewal, and I thank Kylie Hughes for her service and contribution to ABSC's early development and wish her well.

Looking ahead, our priorities are expanding service coverage, maturing end-markets, and securing nationally consistent policy settings that cut duplication and costs. My thanks to our members, recyclers, councils, and partners for their confidence, and to the ABSC team for their commitment and results. The foundations are solid; the focus now is delivery (and membership) at scale.

Garry Beard
Chairperson, ABSC



MINISTER'S PRIORITY LIST

Federal Government Endorsement and Mandate

The strategic importance of the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC) and our mission to divert mattresses from landfill and establish a circular economy has received continued and strong endorsement at the Federal level.

Continuity of Priority Status

During her tenure as the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water (1 June 2022 – 13 May 2025), the Honourable Tanya Plibersek officially added mattresses to the Minister's product stewardship priority list for 2022–23. This designation formally recognised the significant environmental and economic imperative of diverting these bulky goods from landfill. Thank you to the Honourable Tanya Plibersek for her focus and involvement during the first two years of authorisation for the Scheme.

We welcome the Honourable Murray Watt as the new Federal Minister for Environment and Water and look forward to further developments once the RAWR Act review is finalised by the department.

Validation of the ABSC's Work

The sustained inclusion of mattresses on the priority list speaks to the urgency of the waste & resource recovery issues Australia faces and directly validates the work of the ABSC. This policy mandate demonstrates that effective, industry-led solutions are essential to achieving national environmental goals.

Minister Watt has highlighted that "Protecting Australia's spectacular natural environment, being a good international partner and facilitating sustainable economic development will all be fundamental principles throughout this term."

The ABSC is uniquely positioned to deliver on these principles through our Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, and Recycle strategic framework. The Minister's focus serves as a clear call to action for the entire bedding industry to unite under the Scheme.

Read on to learn about the ABSC's progress and priorities.



Minister's Priority List

CEO REPORT

Leading the ABSC this year meant heading to airports in the wee hours, transfer stations at dawn, and remote communities where a bed is just one of many challenges at the local landfill. The hardest part was saying "not yet" when we wanted to move faster than the evidence or the economics.

The lesson is clear - our job is to ideate, connect, do the work in the middle, and show what's realistic so others can commercialise with confidence.

This year we set out to prove that a small, determined team—working with industry, councils, recyclers and community partners can move a complex system. The results show real movement and I cannot wait to see how FY26 unfolds.

Policy signal and industry response. With mattresses maintained on the Minister's Priority List and a new Minister appointed, the direction is consistent: higher expectations, better data, practical outcomes. Our industry has leaned in. Membership grew across retailers, manufacturers and supply chain, and we added our first charity member.

Access and data. We onboarded additional approved recyclers, lifting coverage in more regions, including regional WA, Cairns and parts of regional Victoria. This matters for access and for evidence. Approved recyclers report consistent datasets - collections, dismantling, shredding, and tonnes recovered or landfilled so we can target investment and improvements. FY25 data highlights both scale and gaps: strong activity in VIC and NSW, underservice in QLD and regional NSW, no start yet in NT and TAS, clear priorities for FY26. We also flagged anomalies, e.g. heavier average weights in shredding, and will conduct audits to improve data.

Materials reality. Memory foam volumes are rising with bed-in-a-box, latex remains niche yet problematic, contamination from polypropylene and textiles depresses steel values. We advanced two foam pathways (micronisation and rebond market development) and identified separation tech for pocket springs to recover clean steel and polypropylene - this machine will be a first for Australia. On energy, we're explicit: WtE/PEF is fantastic diversion, but it is not recovery and should sit as last resort, so our focus remains on cycling materials back into products.

Design for circularity. With university and industry partners we progressed components and processes that dismantle faster and recover cleaner streams, including spring systems and bases designed for separation, plus trials on foam processing routes.

Reuse with integrity. Recycling a near-new mattress is not a win. We set up comfort return pathways with charities to triage and redirect quality bedding products to people in need. We developed a hotels framework to capture larger, auditable flows and we're creating



guidelines for sanitation, rejuvenation and repair, with the intent to formalise a national standard.

Logistics and equity. The biggest barrier outside of metropolitan areas is cost-to-serve. Our reverse logistics work explores back-loading via retail networks to move volume efficiently from regions to processing. In parallel, our remote communities work with partners is tackling access, hygiene and suitability, because circularity must work for remote Australia, not just capital cities.

Governance and systems. We tightened authorisation alignment, refreshed contracting, upgraded insurance, improved project-based financial tracking, and implemented a CRM system for stakeholder visibility. This "unsexy" work increases trust and speed.

What we'll deliver in FY26. Seven priorities: expand national infrastructure, drive participation and retention, secure accreditation, enable circular product innovation, strengthen government partnerships, enhance consumer awareness, and improve data integrity.

We want recycling coverage, reuse at scale, resilient offtakes and transparent reporting.

What can you do?

- If you sell or make bedding in Australia and aren't yet a member — join us.
- If you can host a regional hub, trial back-loading, or participate in our hotels or comfort returns projects — partner with us.
- If you have credible offtake markets for foam, textile or pocket-springs — bring them forward.

Better Bedding Together succeeds when every link in the chain plays its part. Thank you to everyone who did so this year, we're excited for what we can achieve together in FY26!

OUR VISION

A responsible, sustainable, circular bedding industry.

MISSION

The ABSC is an industry initiative to keep bedding out of landfill and establish a circular economy for the bedding industry. It takes a full product lifecycle approach to sustainability by rethinking policy, facilitating innovative redesign, establishing rejuvenation and reuse pathways to serve communities in need, and maximising safe, ethical, and responsible recycling & recovery of materials at end-of-life.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

Establishing a national recycling network for bedding and progressing towards a circular economy for bedding requires unwavering leadership. Our scheme is driven by the courage to initiate necessary, difficult discussions. We maintain a forward-looking stance, powered by curiosity, an open mindset and a diverse membership. This combined approach ensures our actions, priorities, and innovations across Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, and Recycle are accessible to all and maximise impact for our industry and all of Australia.



FY25 MILESTONES

-  **07/2024**
New Scheme Structure comes into effect
-  **07/2024**
Circular Beds program commenced
-  **08/2024**
First trial bed bases arrive in Darwin for delivery to remote communities
-  **08/2024**
Kick off reinvigorated ABSC Member Meetings
-  **09/2024**
First presentation to franchise organisations at annual Snooze Conference
-  **09/2024**
Meeting with Austrade at UNGC Climate Week with Former PM Rudd, Prof. Thwaites, Chair of CEMAG, and Senator Kerry
-  **10/2024**
South Australia Waste Strategy 2025 (State)
-  **11/2024**
Productivity Commission submission (Federal).
-  **11/2024**
DCGEEW – National Framework for Recycled content traceability (Federal).
-  **11/2024**
Sustainability Vic and ABC media launch of Circular Beds
-  **12/2024**
Submission to the Senate Select Committee on PFAS (Federal)
-  **12/2024**
Swinburne SEED funding for Mattress Shred project
-  **12/2024**
Sustainability Victoria funding for Swincell & Swinspring project

-  **01/2025**
ABSC Constitution Amendments Approved by Members
-  **02/2025**
The Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (RAWR Act) Review (Federal)
-  **02/2025**
Kicked off Reverse Logistics project
-  **03/2025**
Expression of Interest for Recycler site for Brisbane and Surrounds
-  **03/2025**
Expression of Interest for Foam Micronisation Project
-  **03/2025**
Comfort Returns Reuse project start
-  **04/2025**
Kick-off Top of Bed Stakeholder Engagement sessions
-  **04/2025**
Clean Loop Proposal sent to Queensland Government
-  **05/2025**
Kick off Queensland Mattress Material Flows Study
-  **06/2025**
Queensland Waste Strategy 2025 – 2030 (State)
-  **06/2025**
Swinburne projects wrap up
-  **06/2025**
Queensland Proposal (State)

MEMBERSHIP

The Australian Bedding Stewardship Scheme (ABSC) is now the indispensable platform for the bedding industry to lift sustainability performance and navigate the circular economy transition. Membership is driven by a critical need to mitigate regulatory risk—addressing the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water’s call for industry action and preventing the imposition of more onerous mandates. Simultaneously, participation delivers a powerful commercial advantage: it solidifies your brand’s Social Licence to Operate (SLO), enhances Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) credentials crucial for procurement tenders, and fuels the expansion and stability of the national recycling infrastructure. By choosing to join, businesses move beyond compliance to become leaders actively shaping the industry’s future, accessing innovation, and ensuring a responsible, sustainable end-of-life solution for their products in line with the ABSC’s Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, and Recycle pillars.



FY25 Membership Structure Update: Fostering a More Inclusive Circular Economy

The Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC) implemented key changes to its membership structure for FY25, to enhance accessibility, reduce administrative complexity, and drive broader industry contribution. This change aligns with our commitment to foster a sustainable, circular economy for the bedding industry, consistent with the expectations set by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water.

These adjustments are a direct response to industry feedback in FY24 and are designed to simplify engagement, remove barriers to entry, and ensure a more consistent application of product stewardship responsibilities across the sector.

Our Membership Growth

FY25 marked a period of significant growth and diversification for the Scheme. Our paid membership base surged, expanding from 8 to 28 members across supply chain, manufacturers, and retailers. Crucially, this growth reflects a richer diversity across the bedding value chain, encompassing major bricks-and-mortar retail chains, online-only retailers, hybrid models, local manufacturers, and retailers with dedicated overseas suppliers. This breadth of participation ensures the ABSC represents the true complexity and scale of the modern Australian bedding industry.

+20 NEW MEMBERS FY25

FY25 Members



United for Sustainability: Why the Bedding Industry is Partnering with the ABSC

Lifting the sustainability of the Australian bedding industry is not possible without a unified commitment from the entire bedding value chain. From the point of design to end-of-life, both manufacturers and retailers are recognizing the ABSC as the essential platform for driving sustainable change, future-proofing their operations, and meeting modern market demands.

The Shared Imperative: Risk, Reputation, and Responsibility

Across the bedding industry, the decision to partner with the ABSC is driven by a powerful set of shared imperatives:

Future-Proofing the Business: Both manufacturers and retailers recognise the increasing global and domestic focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). By proactively participating in a government-authorized, voluntary industry scheme like the ABSC, businesses are preparing for evolving regulatory landscapes and securing their future against potential mandates and resource scarcity.

Strengthening Brand Reputation and Consumer Trust: Retailers are the crucial link to the consumer, responding to a clear market demand for sustainable products and practices. Manufacturers, meanwhile, are meeting the expectations of environmentally conscious commercial customers and government procurement. For both, alignment with the ABSC enhances brand reputation and positions them as leaders in sustainability.

Driving Innovation and Collaboration: The ABSC acts as a vital hub for the entire bedding value chain. It fosters collaboration, ensuring that the best practices and research needed to transition to a circular economy are shared. Manufacturers gain access to a circular economy network to source recycled materials and establish end-of-life processing partners. Retailers benefit from valuable resources and best practices to operationalise sustainable solutions.

The ABSC supports the manufacturer’s commitment to design and supply with the retailer’s ability to engage the consumer and manage end-of-life logistics, ensuring the entire bedding life cycle, from production to resource recovery is sustainable.

Supply Chain Engagement & Innovation

The successful establishment of a circular economy for bedding in Australia is fundamentally dependent on the proactive engagement with our Supply Chain members. These businesses, which manufacture and source material inputs like textiles, foams, steel, and timber — are pivotal for driving the innovation required in realising the ABSC’s vision.

The availability of recycled inputs and the ability to efficiently recover and recycle components are heavily reliant on the product stewardship demonstrated by our Supply Chain members. By engaging with the ABSC, members are directly contributing to our four strategic pillars: Rethink, Redesign, Reuse and Recycle.

Driving Innovation Through Partnership

The ABSC relies on the expertise, advice, and financial support from our Supply Chain members to drive our innovation agenda. Their unique insights are crucial for evaluating Research & Development (R&D) opportunities and developing commercially viable solutions that meet the detailed quality and performance requirements of bedding manufacturers and retailers.

This collaborative approach helps us achieve our strategic goals:

Rethink & Redesign: Supply Chain members are at the forefront of this effort. They help us Rethink traditional manufacturing models and Redesign products to be built for durability, end-of-life recovery, and Reuse. This ensures bedding products are truly circular by design.

Recycle: By actively supporting and participating in R&D projects, our members accelerate the development of new markets for recovered materials, helping the ABSC expand recycling access and generate jobs in the sustainability sector, thereby fuelling economic and environmental growth.

Our gratitude is extended to all our Supply Chain members for their commitment to innovation and for helping us move closer to our goal of diverting all mattresses from landfill. Their partnership is invaluable.

MEMBER TESTIMONIALS



We're proud to have joined the ABSC this year as a collective that shares our values and ambition to drive meaningful change through collaboration and innovation.

At IKEA, we believe that sustainability should be accessible, affordable, and integrated into every aspect of the product lifecycle. As a company we are working to reduce reliance on virgin fossil-based materials, increase the use of recycled content, and design smarter, more resource-efficient products, without compromising on comfort or quality.

We see great value in this partnership, not only in accelerating progress within our own operations but also in contributing to broader industry transformation. Looking ahead, we're especially excited about the opportunity to collaborate on bed textile recycling. This is a critical area where collective action can unlock new solutions, improve recycling rates, and help build a truly circular economy.

“We look forward to what we can achieve together with the ABSC and its members as we reshape the future of bedding in Australia.”

Renea Robson, Sustainability Manager, IKEA Australia & New Zealand



DAVID JONES



Amesbury Hagan (Buying Manager), Jelina Taylor (Head of Sustainability & Legacy) and Dana Katie King (Sustainability Manager - Environment)

A key pillar of our Vision 2025+ strategy is Legacy, and we are committed to building a legacy underpinned by sustainable and responsible business practices. We recognise the importance of circularity in David Jones' future and the need to contribute to an industry-wide transition to circular practices, particularly for problematic materials like mattresses.

“Becoming a member of the ABSC is an important step for David Jones to ensure we are contributing to solving the current gap in recovery solutions for mattresses.”

Amesbury Hagan, Buying Manager, David Jones



The ABSC are thrilled to have a ground-breaking partnership with our first registered charity member, **Salvos Stores.**

Salvos Stores have been creating change for tomorrow through our stores for over 140 years. Focused on supporting both people & planet, we were early adopters of the circular economy, and strive to ensure items are kept in circulation for as long as possible. As such, we are proud member of the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council.



Through our store network of over 400 stores, each year we rehome over 6,000 second-hand mattresses.

This is done in partnership with some of Australia's leading mattress brands, as well as through home collections and returns. Salvos stores also sell a range of brand-new mattresses in a box for low cost, many of which are provided free of charge to those referred to them by The Salvation Army's community programs, ensuring that those experiencing hardship have a comfortable bed to sleep on each night.

Together, we can continue to keep mattresses in circulation and create change for tomorrow.

“We look forward to working with the ABSC to develop pathways for quality products to help the Salvos fund community projects that help people in need right across Australia.”

Brian Hallett, Corporate Partnerships Manager, Salvos Stores



OMF has strengthened its long-standing Project Zero sustainability commitment by joining the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC). Aligning with the ABSC's product stewardship framework provides a key platform to scale mattress recycling, create effective end-of-life solutions, and drive innovation with recycled materials. Working with the scheme and other members, OMF can test, refine, and develop best practices, cutting waste and lifting standards across the bedding sector.



Sleep Fast, Not Furious campaign

RECYCLERS

Expand National Recycling Infrastructure

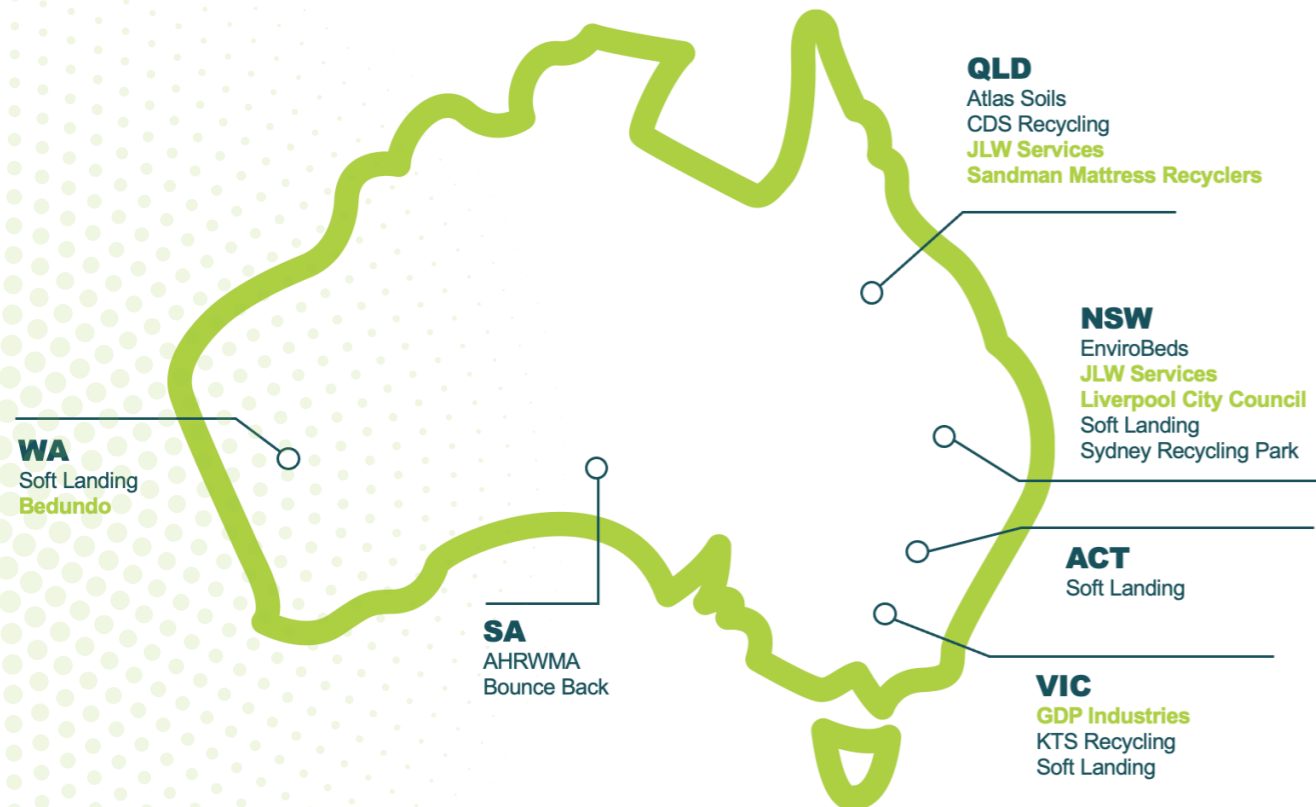
What an achievement for the expansion of the ABSC Approved Recycler Network in this last financial year. From eight recyclers in the year prior, a further five recyclers have been onboarded. This expansion has added mattress recycling services to - regional WA, Cairns and surrounding areas, and regional Victoria.

+5 NEW RECYCLERS FY25



This important expansion of services gives much needed access to responsible recycling and facilitates the framing of a nationwide picture of mattresses entering our waste streams, the tonnages both recovered and landfilled.

ABSC Approved Recycler Network FY25



GDP Industries is a social enterprise based in Geelong, Victoria focused on providing meaningful employment and training opportunities for those living with Disability and or other mental health challenges.

GDP Industries operates commercial businesses within the circular economy focusing on reducing Mattresses, Polystyrene, Clothing and Timber from going to landfill.

As well as recycling various products, the organisation has the capability to manufacture a range of timber products, provide labor resources for warehousing work and currently has ongoing contract to manage resource recovery and recycling services for the City of Greater Geelong. Some of our major commercial partners include Southern Cross Recycling Group, Cleanaway, City of Port Phillip, Timber Truss, Hanwha Defense Australia, City of Greater Geelong and Godfrey Hirst.

“We're passionate about reducing waste to landfill, improving the environmental outcomes for our community. Mattress recycling is a core focus of our work and to ensure we can have maximum impact, being a member of ABSC was extremely important.”

Whilst we directly focus on our local community, being a member of ABSC enables us to contribute data and knowledge to a greater good, also enabling us to learn from other businesses regarding potential innovations and improvements to our processes.

Contact GDP Industries

Email - info@gdpindustries.com.au / Phone - 03 5278 9411



“I love working at GDP Industries and the mattress warehouse, we have a great team here and we get to drive the tipper truck and forklift, so you get to do different jobs.” - Scott, Supported Employee.



Liverpool City Council (LCC) commenced mattress recycling with the introduction of a super shredder affectionately known as 'The Croc'. As landfill space for Western Sydney will be exhausted and not able to receive mattresses in less than 10 years, Liverpool identified this opportunity to reduce volume to landfill and save the Council and its' residents over \$500,000 in disposal costs while creating six local jobs. This initiative demonstrates strong environmental, social, and economic outcomes. Along with the Liverpool area, LCC serves private clients such as Original Mattress Factory, Sydney Prestige, Goodbye Junk Pty Ltd, Remondis, SoftClean Pty Ltd along with Hunt Hotel and All Gone Junk Removal Pty Ltd.

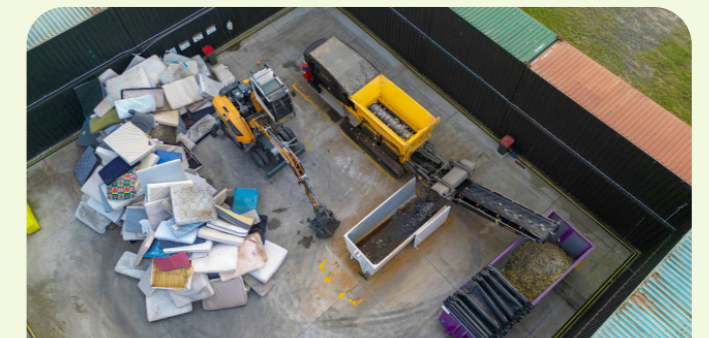
The Croc shreds mattresses to recover the steel with the floc currently going to landfill. In collaboration with University of NSW, and the installation of a micro factory, in the near future, LCC will be using the mattress floc from the shredding process to create Green Ceramics™ and various innovative circular products for use in construction and design, such as but not limited to - benchtops, splashbacks, indoor and outdoor furniture, pavers and public toilet wall dividers. This will increase recovery rates to as much as 99%.

“ABSC’s vision closely aligns with LCC’s goals. As the gold standard for mattress recycling in Australia, joining ABSC was a natural and strategic decision for us.”

Contact Liverpool City Council

Tim Pasley - PasleyT@liverpool.nsw.gov.au, 0436 950 27

Archana Maharjan - maharjana@liverpool.nsw.gov.au, 0475 631 707



The Croc project has created six local jobs, reduced disposal costs, demonstrating strong environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

RECYCLER DATA

Improve data collection and insights.

To become an ABSC Approved Recycler, recyclers must agree to report their outcomes about -

- Mattresses collected
- Physically dismantled
- Shredded
- Tonnages by material saved from landfill
- Tonnages sent to landfill
- Tonnages sent to Waste to Energy.

As for ABSC members, recycler information is aggregated to protect each organisations' privacy. This data is extremely important to:

- Inform ABSC decision making regarding investment of time and money, in CAPEX and in activities and R&D.
- Determine the need for changes in processes
- Highlight the trends impacting recycling outcomes that need to be addressed both with industry and Government.

ABSC material flows data from 2019, determined that 1.8 million mattresses are discarded every year in Australia. Australia's local councils (LGA's) currently bear the brunt of end-of-life product management and disposal, and it can be challenging to achieve a true reflection of the size of the problem when mattresses are not necessarily counted but may be rolled up into a mass of bulky waste tonnages.

Also, the lack of industry sales data available from which to draw conclusions makes it extremely difficult to determine the size of the problem. The ABSC's recycler program facilitates the collection of granular information which builds the picture of the scale of the issue nationally.

The collection and recycling data for FY25 shows that 972,538 mattresses were collected and underwent a recycling process just via the 13 ABSC approved recyclers. Last financial year's data is starting to paint that picture which will drive the ABSC's direction and activities for FY26.

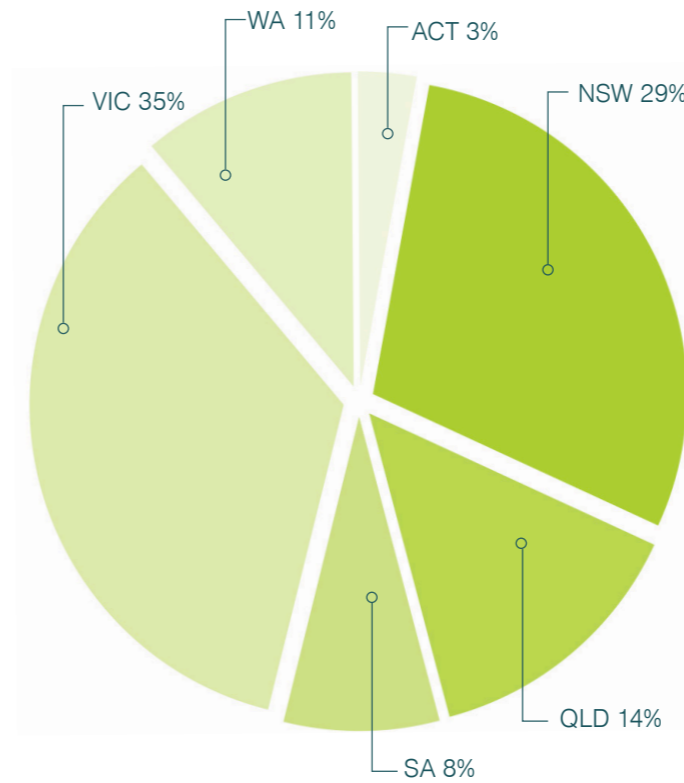
FY25 Total Results

	Units	Tonnes	KGs	KG's per unit
Total Recycled	972,538	28,991	28,991,000	29.8
Physically Dismantled	437,794	12,184	12,184,000	27.83
Shredded	489,280	16,807	16,807,000	34.35

N.B some anomalies in numbers as shredded mattresses are not counted by unit, only measured by tonnage over the weight bridge.

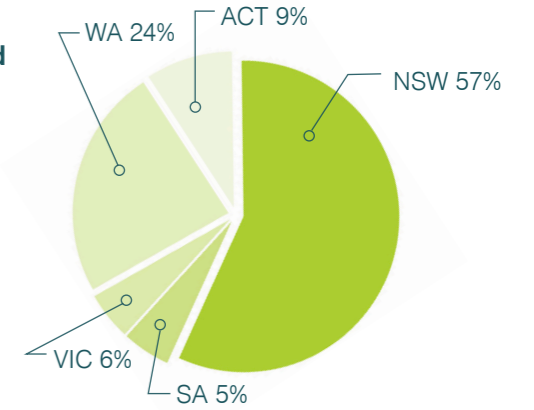
FY25 Results By State

Total Mattresses Recycled



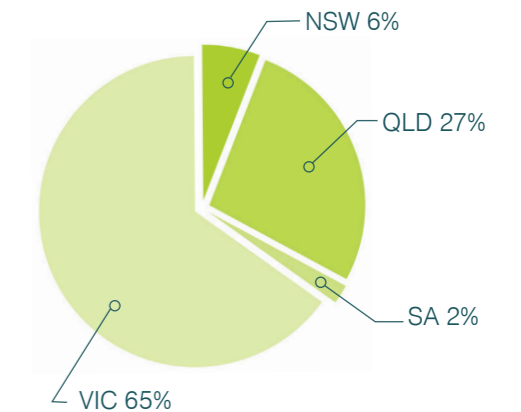
Note: NT & TAS = 0%

Physically Dismantled



Note: NT, TAS & QLD = 0% Physical Dismantled.

Shredded



Note: ACT, NT, TAS & WA = 0% Shredded.

The data by state clearly shows where ABSC must focus recycling efforts for FY26

- Northern Territory where no recycling is recorded.
- Tasmania where no recycling is recorded.
- While Victoria is performing well compared to population, the number of mattresses shredded is disproportionate and needs to be reviewed.
- QLD is under served.
- NSW is under served in regional areas.

There is an anomaly of average unit mattress weights recorded between physical and shredding recycling, with the average weight for shredding is heavier. There could be 3 possible reasons for this -

- Shredded mattresses are often coming from councils and bulky waste and could have been left out in the weather and have become wet, increasing their weight
- These mattresses are not counted by units but by tonnages over the weighbridge, so they total mattress figure is a calculation, not a physical count and the average weight used for this calculation could be too high
- Due to limited end markets for memory foam and latex, more of these types of mattresses could be sent to be shredded rather than dismantled, increasing the weights.

As part of the continuous improvement of data collection, the ABSC intends to conduct some physical audits in FY '26 to prove or disprove these theories and adjust the data collection program accordingly.

RECYCLER DATA

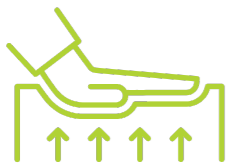
Emerging and escalating trends impacting recycling outcomes



Steel

With the increase in use of pocket coils by the mattress industry, this has created a knock-on effect for the ability to trade steel and recover costs from the recycling process. The contamination from the polypropylene pockets devalues the steel and, in some states/regions, steel traders will no longer accept these bales at all.

In FY'26, the ABSC will be treating this as a priority to work with the steel industry players for solutions. One of those solutions is to address the processing of pocket springs referring to the Recycle Projects section on page 32. We need to keep as much steel as possible in Australia, rather than landfilling or exporting it.



Memory Foam

The use of memory foam is increasing with the rise of the bed-in-a-box. Contrary to common belief, a considerable proportion of this foam currently goes to landfill. Memory foam mattresses are generally heavier than those produced from regular PU foam. As part of the resource recovery industry, recovered materials are measured in tonnage, so increased weight per unit increases the size of the problem. The ABSC has projects in train to divert foams to other uses. Refer to our Recycler projects on page 34.

To further substantiate memory foam as an increasing trend, and to once again improve the quality of data collection, In FY26, The ABSC will:

- Conduct an audit on the floor of physical recyclers to identify mattress types received
- Request to members to provide information about the percentage split across their mattress ranges of PU foams versus memory foams from historical, present and future perspectives.



Latex

Latex mattresses represent a small percentage of mattress sales in Australia.

They may be made from:

- natural latex from the sap of rubber trees
- synthetic latex which is a petroleum-based product like polyurethane foams
- a mixture of both natural and synthetic layers.

There is conjecture about the recyclability and safety of latex products. While some small amounts may be taken to make rebond foam products, most of it ends up in landfill and can be highly combustible according to – [Science Direct: International Journal of Thermal Sciences Feb, 2019](#)

Waste to Energy (WTE) and Processed Engineered Fuels (PEFS)

The WTE and PEFS exploration and investment is gaining traction in Australia albeit these processes have been operational in Europe for many years. These technologies/processes are a component of the waste hierarchy as we aim to reduce landfill of recovered resources but are the last option before landfill as those resources do not re-enter the manufacturing loop to create a circular economy.

The ABSC cannot report WTE/PEFS as recovery to the Federal nor QLD State Governments in Australia. Those volumes must be recorded and reported as 'diversion from landfill'. This is a key point for those organisations preparing for Scope reporting.

The ABSC is exploring processes such as pyrolysis where there is a bi-product outcome such as Biochar as well as energy and heat to run such plants versus incineration with an energy output.

Post manufacture textile waste recycling program

This program was initiated in November of 2023 with the collection of textiles and mixed offcuts from Australian manufacturers. Since this date, 42,744kg/42.7 tonnes have been saved from landfill and converted into useful product called shoddy pad or felt used in new mattress production. This felt is used in furniture production also, and by furniture removalists as a protective covering.

For this reporting year FY25, 28,243kg or 28.2 tonnes were diverted from landfill.



Image credit: GDP Industries - ABSC Approved Recycler.

ABSC FOUR PILLARS

The ABSC Four Strategic Pillars were developed in the previous year FY24 to articulate that product stewardship is more than recycling but a holistic systems thinking approach to work towards a circular economy for the bedding industry. It demonstrates the value of the scheme, and drives activities and investment aligned to our strategies.

RETHINK

ABSC drives improved outcomes by advocating with Government at all levels for industry and for the environment.

The ABSC strives for fairness, transparency, and accountability, representing the industry on key issues, and working towards a level playing field.

Rethinking how we do business and design products addresses the issues of over-production and over-consumption which fuel overstocks and built-in obsolescence which reduces product longevity.

RECYCLE

It is not possible to recycle our way out of the problems faced globally and across all product categories with over-production, and over-consumption due to societies 'throw away' attitude. However, it is an extremely important aspect of the ABSC's strategies.

Expanding the recycler network for a national footprint is crucial to provide access to recycling for all Australians. However, it is not a 'one size fits all approach' and The ABSC is developing a triage of recycling processes to tailor to metro, regional and remote communities with varying populations and needs. Refer to page 34 on Expanding National Recycling Infrastructure.

Commercial viability is a key consideration for recycling of any product and factors such as volumes, plant and equipment requirements, cost of logistics, and viable off-take markets for recovered materials have a major impact and drive the ABSC's focus on activities and investment.

REDESIGN

Products must be designed for appropriateness, accessibility, and recyclability for all communities in Australia.

Redesign considers the selection of recycled materials, the longevity of the product being developed, enables reuse through practical repair features, and ensures the recyclability of the products at end-of-life based on existing recycling infrastructures and end markets.

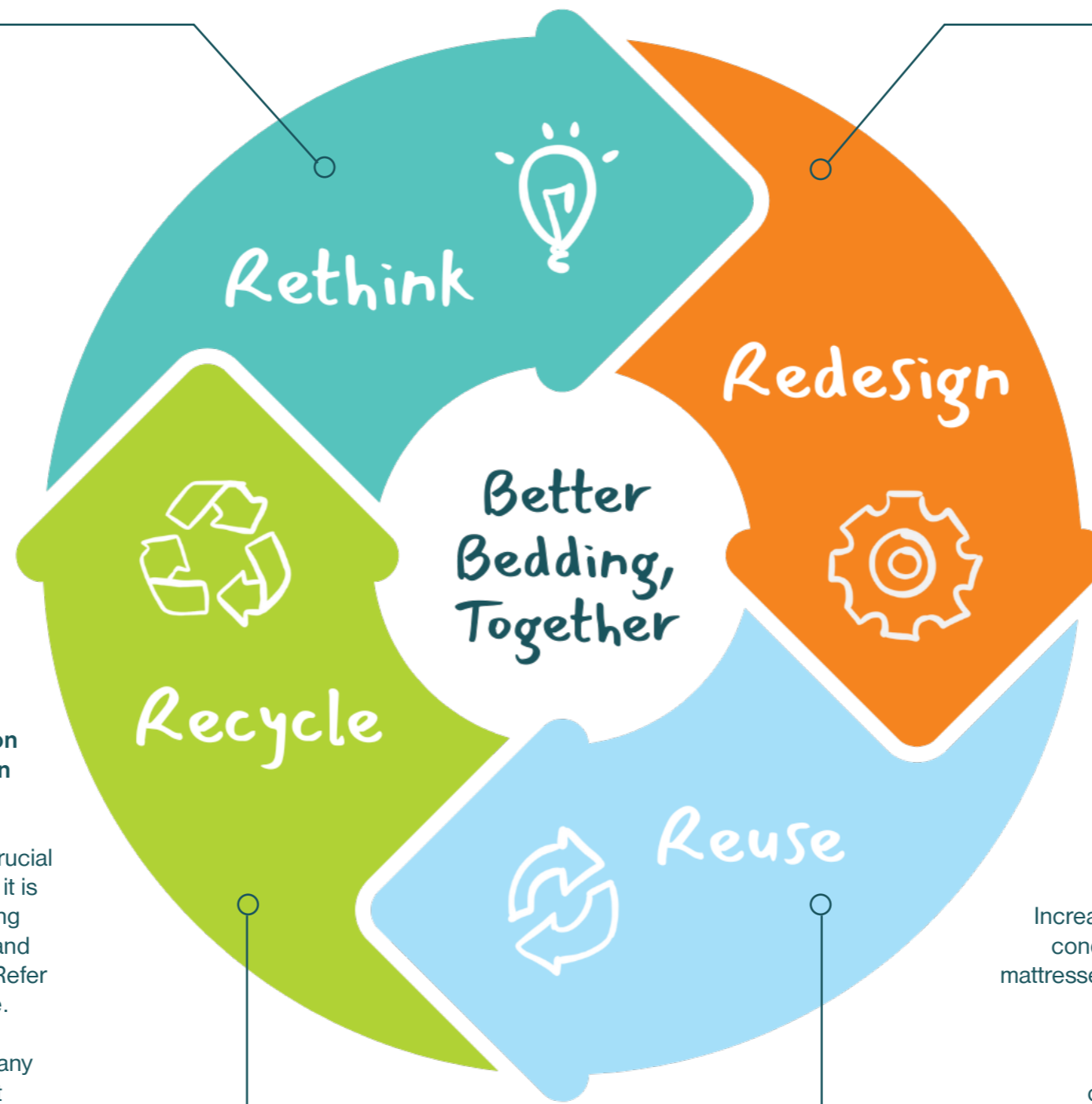
REUSE

Recycling or landfilling mattresses that are not at the end of their useful life is not a win for the environment or for people in need.

The Reuse Pillar is tackling product longevity head-on, recognising that repair, rejuvenation, and reuse are crucial levers for a circular bedding economy.

Increasingly, recyclers are receiving mattresses that are still in good condition. The ABSC proposes that there is opportunity to inspect mattresses to evaluate their condition and take them through processes to ensure they are suitable for distribution to people in need.

To build the necessary transparency and consumer trust for commercially viable reuse, our work is centred on three areas: establishing reuse pathways for clean, good quality mattresses, piloting healthy, safe rejuvenation practices, and setting hygiene standards for mattress sanitation.



RETHINK



Strengthened and deepened government engagement and advocacy

We've established deeper working relationships with state environmental agencies across Australia, notably with NSW, QLD, SA, and Tasmania.

Federal and State collaboration

We've engaged broadly with the federal government to advocate for aligned policy at a national level and stronger product stewardship frameworks. We've responded to seven government submissions to progress sustainability outcomes for the bedding industry and support a strong bedding industry.

At a state level, we have established connections with EPA Tasmania, Green Industries South Australia (GISA), South Australian Environment Protection Authority, Queensland Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, & Innovation, and NSW EPA to progress solutions for reuse and recycling hubs.

Throughout FY25, we have responded to seven calls for submissions across federal and state governments. These submissions are key to advocating for government policy that makes reuse & recycling more accessible and supports the growth of product stewardship to ensure a sustainable bedding industry both environmentally and commercially. [<link to milestones>](#)

Our work with Local Councils (LGA's) and Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC's)

Local Councils invariably bear the brunt of managing a plethora of products when they are no longer wanted by residents, businesses and government entities. One of their most challenging products to deal with is mattresses.

Whether coming through bulky waste collections, from resident and commercial drop-offs or dealing with dumping, mattresses and components that have been recovered by recyclers that unfortunately have no market, end up in landfills across the country.

The ABSC connects with Local Councils (LGAs) to understand how we can encourage recycling and move away from sending mattresses to landfill. Interaction with Regional Organisation of Councils (ROCs) is a great way to connect with local councils at scale and Queensland has been a major focus. Central Queensland, North Queensland and Far North Queensland ROC's meet regularly via LAWMAC – Local Authority Waste Management Action Committee, a group of 29 councils and 49 resource recovery organisations which meets quarterly to share problems and emerging trends as varied as - methane and organic waste management to contingencies to deal with carcasses from Avian Flu and the issues caused by mattresses in landfills.

The focus on Queensland sees our first recycler onboarded in Cairns, and discussions about recycling facilities in Mackay and Townsville continue.

Driving Industry Participation & Retention

We've had 100% retention rate for FY26 retail and manufacturing renewals

In FY25, the ABSC Team drove a remarkable diversification in the retail membership base, welcoming our first charity member, Salvos Stores, a social enterprise, Social Living, smaller mattresses retailers such as Max Mattress in Wollongong, and big retail chains such as Amart, Betta Stores, David Jones, and IKEA Australia.

We completed requirements gathering with retail members around support for corporate teams to engage Franchisees and Store Managers via a tailored, co-branded ABSC Franchisee & Store Engagement Pack.

We have strengthened our partnership with Sustainability Tracker and UNGCNA to drive visibility and leverage membership overlap

We have developed three key strategies to grow the membership base further:

- Commercial sector engagement across accommodation, mining, health and other sectors
- Targeted foam mattress producers engagement plan
- Location based strategies for WA and QLD.

Top of Bed

As the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council, it is the expectation of the Federal Government that other bedding related items are incorporated into the scheme including Top of Bed which includes – pillows and quilts, pillow and mattress protectors, and bed linen.

The learnings from the development and implementation of the scheme for mattresses has determined the ABSC's approach to embarking on this journey for Top of Bed. It was clear that the industry needed to be engaged right at the beginning of the process, and be active participants in formulating the structure and determining the strategic goals.

Individual stakeholder engagement sessions were conducted from March to June 2025 across retailers, manufacturers and importers to explore their appetite to be involved and their willingness to collaborate with other organisations across this industry sector who could be their competitors.

Overall, the outcome of these sessions was extremely positive and indicated that the industry is prepared to be an active participant to formulate a workable scheme for Top of Bed products.

Next steps in FY26

Those organisations agreeing to collaborate will form a Top of Bed Working Group. Participants will be announced before the end of 2025, and a formal kick-off session will be held in February 2026.



REDESIGN



Product Design for Longevity and Ease of Recycling

Mattress Design for Community

Purpose

In Australia, 150,000 First Nations peoples live in over 1,000 communities and homelands. For them, a lack of equal access to necessities is a longstanding issue that has been endured for decades. Critical household items such as mattresses and bedding remain out of reach for many, with people sleeping on overpriced and poor quality mattresses, or no mattress at all.

The purpose of the project is to reimagine, resource and redesign, to provide access to mattresses and other bedding items that are best suited to First Nations people living in the most remote parts of Australia.

Collaborators: ABSC, Remote OpShop Project, Circulanation, Swinburne University of Technology, Zinus, Vendella, Circular Beds and Social Living.

Overview

The ABSC was approached by Remote OpShop Project end of 2023. Remote OpShop provides a vehicle for pre-loved items and overstock donations to be accessible by Aboriginal communities living throughout Australia. Community groups have taken a pro-active role in the creation of these local Op Shops. These community-driven social enterprises generate independent funding to seed creative projects and new opportunities. Since 2016, this network has provided, positive outcomes for women, families and their communities. The stores are run by the local women, driving empowerment, the opportunity to learn to run a business and manage funds.

‘The ABSC believes it is a basic human right for all in our communities to have an appropriate bed for a good night’s sleep’.

The Problem

The problem brought to the ABSC is the lack of access to appropriate mattresses and other bedding items. The tyranny of distance to these communities and the lack of access to stores that the general Australian public are lucky to have, has created disparity in the availability and affordability of even such a necessity as a mattress to sleep on.

Originally, the project was an opportunity to work on a fully fit for purpose mattress specifically designed for people living in these remote communities. Key to the initial phase of the project was identified to be consultation with communities to listen and learn about the problems, before any design ideation commenced. Our CEO Kylie spent time in a very remote community called Urapunga, an 8 hour drive from Darwin as reported in the previous financial year to kick off the project.

Kylie discovered that the need is both urgent and multi-pronged. We can’t wait to design a mattress, we need to get cost effective mattresses, bases, and related products such as mattress protectors to these communities.

The Project - Phase 1

This has entailed sourcing and providing access to affordable mattresses and bed bases to get people off the floor. The importance of this is significant. Australian indigenous people suffer the highest rate of rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in the world. The cause of RHD is scabies infections which are caused by mites. Getting people off the floor and providing sleep surfaces that can be easily cleaned can reduce the incidence of mite infestations. Another key consideration is the portability and ease of storage to reduce cluttering in dwellings potentially housing many people.

It has also identified that just providing product options is not enough. **We need to look at serviceability, sanitation, repairability and recycling on country as key considerations of this project. This is not a quick fix.**

Status

The project is still in Phase 1 – Existing product trials within selected communities.

Timelines for remote communities are longer than for commercial businesses and feedback is still being collected on products. Key to the operational success of the project is establishing the infrastructure; the logistics and warehousing to receive, store and despatch goods to multiple remote locations.

It is co-dependent on the nature of the OpShop structure:

- Is it an enclosed space to keep the products clean and dry?
- Is the space enough to present and store mattresses?

Remote OpShop Project has been focused on infra-structure, particularly:

- The warehousing of goods in N.T as a central location for receipt of goods
- Logistics options and relationships with service providers
- Procurement of Remote OpShop vehicles to facilitate the development of OpShop locations and the movement of goods.

The ability to expand on this project and to procure products at a price that is workable for communities has also been hampered by both the lack of funding and reliable data on the use of mattresses, bases and top of bed items in remote communities that would support funding submissions.



Mattresses and bases being delivered to Urapunga, NT.

Next steps in FY26

- Develop a concept to engage the bedding industry to support specific campaigns such as - Consumer donation at point of sale – bricks and mortar or online (E.g. ‘Buy a new mattress and donate 1% to enable access to mattresses for Australian Indigenous and remote communities).
- Conduct a webinar in February/March 2026 to be followed by face-to-face meetings by Tanya Egerton in Melbourne/Sydney and Brisbane
- Identify potential funding avenues to work on ‘Design for and with Community’

Swincell and Swinspring

The development of novel components produced from recycled materials to create a mattress design for 100% recyclability.

Collaborators: ABSC, Swinburne University of Technology, Sealy of Australia



Overview

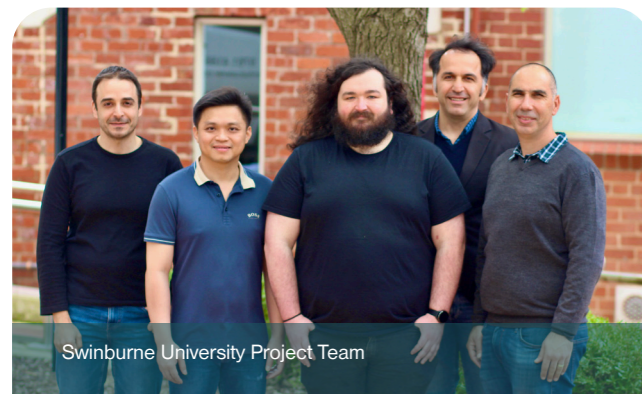
Swinburne University was the research institute selected by Robovoid to create the Circular Beds fully recyclable bed base launched in November 2023. Swinburne's work on this project spawned great interest within their engineering and polymer faculties about the issues of recyclability, material selection and design for mattresses.

An initial mattress concept integrating novel designs and recycled materials was successfully developed by Swinburne as an addendum to this congruent project. Through the analysis of typical mattress design, the team developed recycled plastic springs as an alternative to steel and internal layers as an alternative to mixed foams and fibres. Through this project, these developments were benchmarked against current construction methods and components.

Swinburne has patented novel designs (Application Number: 2024903092) made from recycled plastic content:

Swinspring – a fully recyclable plastic replacement for steel springs encased in a polypropylene pocket.

Swincell – fully recyclable plastic replacements for mattress rails, foams and comfort layers



Swinburne University Project Team

Status

The project received funding for a 6 month project duration – December 2024 to May 2025, from Sustainability Victoria (SV) to move the Technical Level of Readiness (TRL) to a higher rating to drive industry interest. This funding enabled Swinburne to:

- Test methods of manufacturing of the components for commercial viability through injection moulding and extrusion and to develop appropriate tooling
- Explore recycled plastic feedstocks best suited to the manufacturing process
- Test the resulting mattress to benchmark performance against traditional product design principles.

The ABSC circulated an Expression of Interest (EOI) to members to seek industry partners interested to commercialise these components.

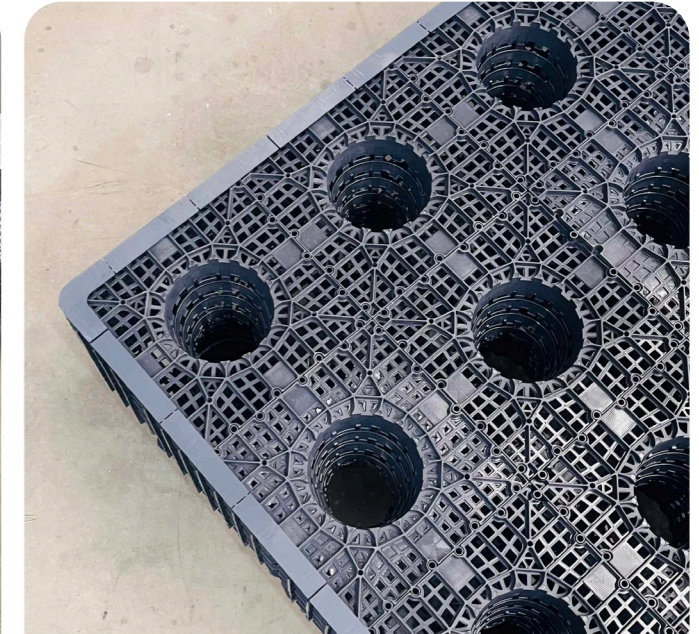
The ABSC believes that this design work has potential applications for the following project – Mattress Design for Community.

Next steps in FY26

- Follow up industry interest expressed via the EOI which includes global parties.
- Facilitate introductions between potential industry partners and signing of NDA's.
- Support the product development process.

Circular Beds

November 2024 saw the culmination of 2 years work by Robovoid to develop the Circular Bed Base, made from recycled plastic and fully recyclable with current recycling processes at end-of-life. The ABSC supported this journey and contributed funding to a Sustainability Victoria (SV) grant to see this project through to commercialisation. The product was launched at SV's offices before which ABC News filmed a feature on the product and interviewed Robovoid Founders Dr. John Stehle and Scott Olding, along with ABSC CEO – Kylie Roberts-Frost.



Check out Circular Beds & the ABSC on ABC News!



RMIT Associate Professor Industrial Design -Soumitri Varadarajan, Tracey Pryor, Maximillian O'Brien

FLOW, a 100% recyclable mattress

The ABSC supported Maximillian O'Brien during his Honours Project at RMIT in 2024. Director Of Innovation - Tracey Pryor, mentored Max providing industry intel and introductions to manufacturers and recyclers. Visits to recyclers gave clear insights into the challenges in recycling mattresses and identifying end markets for resources recovered through the physical dismantling process. This drove Max's material selections and engineering of the mattress. The team at Soft Landing were truly impressed when Max demonstrated his design that can be dismantled in just 30 seconds. Max received a High Distinction for his project.

REUSE



Establish Reuse Pathways for Charities and Social Housing

As part of our commitment to maximising the lifespan and value of bedding products, we have started our “Comfort Returns” project to directly address the critical issue of premature disposal of reusable mattresses. Currently, perfectly good mattresses are unnecessarily sent to recyclers or worse, to landfill due to a lack of accessible and reliable reuse pathways.

This represents a missed opportunity, both environmentally and socially. Our initiative prioritises the highest tier of the waste hierarchy – reuse – by establishing direct connections between retailers with comfort return policies and charities serving vulnerable communities.

Collaborators: You Matter, ReLove, Good360 Australia and IKEA

Key milestones

Develop and Pilot a Quality Assessment Standard:

We are trialling a quality assessment tool to ensure that only good quality, hygienic, and safe bedding is diverted for reuse. This prevents suitable items from entering the recycling stream prematurely and, crucially, from going to landfill.

Establish Efficient Logistics and Costing Models:

Through pilot programs with selected retailers and charity partners, we will:

- Understand the specific requirements and capacity of charities for receiving bedding.
- Develop and test efficient logistical models for collection, transport, and delivery to minimise costs and environmental impact.
- Accurately assess the operational costs associated with establishing and maintaining these reuse pathways.

Status

We are building engagement across membership to connect charities with members for designing and testing new ways of working for comfort returns.

Outcomes

The tangible outcomes of this project are twofold and highly impactful:

- **Environmental Benefit:** By creating robust reuse channels, we will significantly reduce the volume of bedding sent to landfill, conserving valuable resources and lessening environmental burden.
- **Social Impact:** Most importantly, this initiative directly supports families and individuals in need, providing them with essential, good-quality bedding as they establish new homes and transition into stable living arrangements. This offers dignity and comfort to vulnerable members of our community.

This project is a clear demonstration of the ABSC’s dedication to a truly circular economy, where resources are kept in use for as long as possible, benefiting both the environment and society. We aim to scale these successful pilots into a sustainable, national program that transforms how we manage end-of-life bedding in Australia.

Next steps in FY26

In FY’26 we anticipate completing pilots with retailers, charities, and logistics partners to divert comfort returns from recyclers and landfill. We will provide members with a plug and play model for operational processes and a directory for engaging with charities local to their stores, as well as a feedback loop on both environmental impact and social impact.

Hotels – Circular Reuse and Top of Bed

Following discussions at the 2024 AGM, the Hotel Project was developed to explore a more commercial pathway to support our Reuse pillar, ensuring mattresses stay out of landfill for as long as possible and that reuse and recycling are prioritised over disposal. The initiative also provides the foundation for future Top of Bed projects, extending stewardship beyond mattresses to include linen, pillows, quilts and protectors.

During FY25, this project entered its development and scoping phase, focusing on defining what a commercial reuse model could look like for the accommodation sector. This included early engagement with hotel operators, sustainability leads, and recyclers, as well as collaboration with LegalVision to clarify what activities fall within the ABSC’s current authorisation. These formative steps will underpin a pilot phase to be rolled out in FY26.

Purpose

The Hotel Project aims to build a bridge between the commercial accommodation sector and social impact reuse programs by:

- Extending the useful life of quality mattresses and bedding through approved reuse and refurbishment pathways.
- Ensuring that hotels and accommodation providers have access to ethical, auditable options for reuse and recycling over landfill.
- Supporting charities, social housing, and domestic violence shelters with safe, sanitised, high quality bedding.
- Exploring opportunities for linen reuse and repurposing, including trials in remote and Indigenous communities.

Progress in FY25

- **Framework Development:** Defined parameters for hotel engagement, including collection logistics, quality standards, and potential partners.
- **Legal Assessment:** Worked with LegalVision to identify authorisation boundaries and compliance considerations for donation, reuse, and refurbishment.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Initiated conversations with major hotel operators and sustainability networks to identify potential pilot participants.
- **Data and Feasibility:** Began mapping hotel mattress replacement cycles, transportation costs, and potential reuse and recycling partners to ensure practical and scalable solutions.
- **Charity Partnerships:** Scoped alignment with existing community reuse programs to connect surplus bedding with those most in need.

Next steps in FY26

The next phase will focus on piloting the model with select hotel partners to test logistics, quality control, and social impact. These pilots will help establish:

- A standardised inspection and sanitation process to ensure donated products meet hygiene and safety benchmarks expectations.
- A cost-effective logistics framework integrating reverse logistics principles and regional collection hubs.
- Quantifiable data on diversion from landfill and social benefit outcomes.

This project embodies the circular economy in action, keeping valuable resources in use for longer, supporting vulnerable Australians, and reducing the environmental footprint of the accommodation industry. By partnering with the hotel sector, we are demonstrating that stewardship can extend beyond recycling to achieve measurable environmental and social outcomes.



Create Repair, Rejuvenation and Reuse Guidelines for Human Health

To avoid premature recycling or worse, landfill of mattresses that are not at end-of-life, these items can be re-directed to people in need through social reuse programs or charities and social housing. It is vital that donated mattresses are clean and safe for re-use.



Next steps in FY26

Building upon the quality assessment tool, a robust process will be developed with a working group comprising of stakeholders with relevant experience in sanitation, spot cleaning, and mattress manufacturing. This will include offshore entities that collaborate with the ABSC. This Repair, Rejuvenation and Reuse Guideline will build on the quality assessment tool with practical and safe cleaning and sanitation solutions and methods.

In some cases, this may include the replacement of the outer cover should stains not be removed. Putting a new cover over the existing one will not be acceptable. The Guideline will also provide instructions for re-sizing of king size mattresses where deemed possible as king size are not practical for donation due to the large size.

Develop a National Standard for Mattress Sanitation

Following on from the development and implementation of the Repair, Reuse and Rejuvenation Guideline, the process must be audited, and mattress surfaces tested to ensure appropriate outcomes. The ABSC plans to formalise this guide into a National Standard through Standards Australia to drive broad adherence, and to address issues of non-compliant mattress refurbishment practices.



Image credit: RemuVe - ABSC Industry Partner.

Currently, perfectly good mattresses are unnecessarily sent to recyclers or worse, to landfill due to a lack of accessible and reliable reuse pathways.

RECYCLE



Expand the recycler network

In building a national network of mattress recyclers, the commercial viability of the operations is a key consideration. Particularly for the physical dismantling model, offtake markets for recovered materials such as steel, foams, textiles and mixed materials impact the P&L, and in some jurisdictions, recyclers are competing with low or no cost to landfill full mattresses.

The projects under the RECYCLE pillar aim to find markets and uses for recovered resources and identify improved processes to reduce operational costs for recyclers. **See page 14 for more information about the ABSC expanded recycler network in FY25.**

Find a solution for pocket springs

Pocket springs are increasing in usage in mattress design. Once a small percentage of the market, they are currently approximately 50% of mattresses being presented for recycling and it is forecast that within 5 years, 80-90% of mattresses will be pocket springs. These are very difficult to physically dismantle, even if fused, not stitched. The polypropylene pockets are considered contamination if not separated and devalue the price of steel that recyclers can recoup. In some areas, particularly in Northern QLD, these pocket springs are being rejected by steel merchants.

The ABSC identified equipment from USA, that cleanly separates the steel and the polypropylene which increases the value of the steel and makes it possible to recycle the polypropylene also.



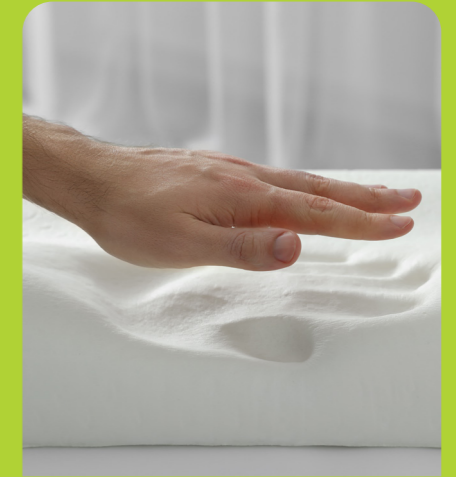
Next steps in FY26

It is hoped that the first machine will be in Australia before the end of the financial year.

Conversion of memory foam

Contrary to popular belief, memory foam is not the most desired foam for carpet underlay. The preference is for regular polyurethane foam due to its high recovery (springy) nature. Memory foam on the other hand, is made to contour to the body, so it does not have the same level of resilience. Also, its chemical composition, while also polyurethane based, makes it 'stretchy and stringy', which can clog up equipment that is currently available in Australia for carpet underlay.

Due to the high volume of air in foam production, and its bulk versus its weight, the transport of post-consumer foams to a facility where they can be converted is often prohibitive. The tyranny of distance in Australia may mean that logistics costs and carbon footprint of the transport outweigh the viability to move foams to a facility for remanufacture.



The ABSC has 2 projects in pipeline to address foams and particularly memory foams.

Foam micronisation

Process end-of-life foams to reduce the volume to a fine powder and re-process to test for the opportunities for the resulting powder to be used as a filler for other products, a binder in re-bond foam or as recycled content in new foam production.

Collaborators: ABSC and Repurpose Recycling.

Overview

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was circulated in March of 2025 to ABSC members. The EOI was then opened to the ABSC database and multiple presentations took place which included global entities.

Status

While significant interest was shown from the EOI, it did not secure funding as the proof of concept needs to be clearer.

Next steps in FY26

As the project has yet to attract investment, in FY26 the approach for this project will be reviewed to be more targeted.

Rebond foam market expansion

Rebond foam is used across a wider range of products in Europe, UK and India, not just for carpet underlay. It is used for furniture inserts, internal mattress pads, and caravan and marine cushioning.

These offshore rebond foam production lines can process all types of foams including memory foam. Discussions are underway to explore the opportunity to bale and ship post-consumer foams offshore for conversion to new products or recycled content.



Next steps in FY26

Samples, pricing and testing will be required to introduce to the market.

Research mattress shred for commercial uses

Shredding is a common method of mattress recycling particularly for those that are highly contaminated and/or wet, and where there are stockpiles to be dealt with. Shredding recovers steel and the balance of materials are currently landfilled. This project aims to identify potentially multiple end uses in the building sector for mattress shred that has been processed through biotechnological fungal networks, a patent pending process of Swinburne University.

Collaborators: ABSC, Swinburne University of Technology, JLW Services, Repurpose Recycling and Four Seasons Insulation.



Overview

Swinburne University has been conducting research on behalf of the ABSC since late 2023 to analyse and characterise the waste left from shredding end-of-life mattresses.

In December 2024, The ABSC was successful in receiving SEED Funding from Swinburne University with a \$ for \$ contribution for a 6 month research program to move this project to a higher TRL – Technical Level of Readiness.

Swinburne’s researchers have successfully developed a novel approach using biotechnology to address this challenging, heterogenous waste stream which has demonstrated exceptional thermal performance, particularly in its’ ability to withstand extreme temperatures with minimal degradation, hence the decision to target uses in the building sector.

Status

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was distributed in June seeking interested parties to support an ARC Linkage grant submission. Unfortunately, insufficient cash contributions could be secured to meet this grant criteria.

Next steps in FY26

ABSC and its collaborators will submit an application for an Australia’s Economic Accelerator - Ignite grant program which is a shorter, sharper grant with less cash contribution requirement.

Optimise Reverse Logistics

In collaboration with the University of Melbourne, the ABSC is undertaking a capstone project to transform reverse logistics for bedding products. This project directly addresses the significant challenge of diverting bulky end-of-life bedding from landfill and expanding access to vital recycling services across Australia, particularly for regional areas.

Currently, the absence of regional processing facilities creates substantial hurdles for the efficient collection, transportation, and dismantling of mattresses at scale. The inherent bulkiness of these items makes their transport both costly and environmentally inefficient.

We’ve identified a significant opportunity to leverage the existing infrastructure of retail supply chains. Specifically, we aim to utilise the empty return legs of regional deliveries of new bedding and possibly other goods to transport used items back to metropolitan recycling facilities. This innovative approach aims to:

- Significantly reduce transportation costs and carbon emissions.
- Boost the volume of bedding diverted from landfill.
- Expand access to ethical and responsible recycling services for regional communities.
- Optimise resource recovery by ensuring valuable materials are recaptured.

Our strategic approach involves several key phases:

Data Analysis and Research: The team will map current product flows using the University of Melbourne’s expertise in data modelling and analysis. This will provide a robust understanding of existing logistics and identify critical bottlenecks.

Solution Development: Based on our research, we will develop a range of innovative and practical reverse logistics solutions.

Pilot Program Implementation: We will test promising options with selected ABSC members and key partners. This real-world application will provide valuable insights for refinement and further development.

Scalable Implementation: We will then implement the most viable solutions, establishing a sustainable and efficient system for returning used bedding for recycling.

The University of Melbourne’s data analysis capabilities and research acumen are essential to the success of this project. Their involvement ensures we deliver a data-driven, scalable solution that not only diverts bedding from landfill and increases resource recovery but also connects regional communities to essential recycling services. This project is a cornerstone of the ABSC’s commitment to a circular economy for bedding products in Australia.



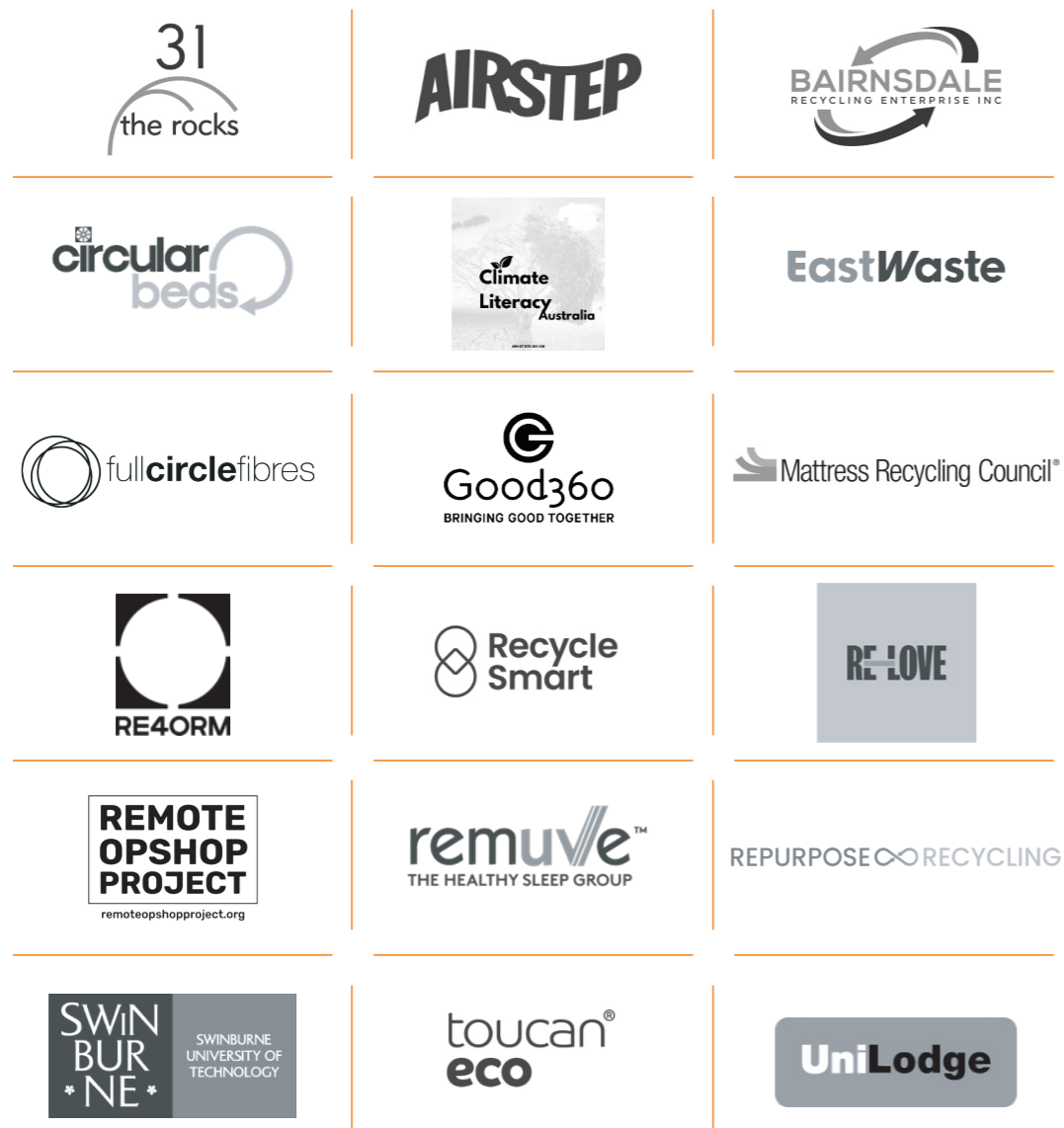
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

We are proud to collaborate with a growing network of Industry Partners who share our commitment to building a circular economy for the bedding industry. These partners play a vital role in advancing our four strategic pillars—Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, and Recycle—by contributing their expertise, innovation, and resources to help extend the life of mattresses, support community reuse initiatives, and ensure responsible end-of-life recycling.

Our Industry Partner programme welcomes a diverse range of organisations, including component recyclers, local and state governments, commercial and health accommodation providers, associations, and sustainability-focused charities. Their contributions are instrumental in driving meaningful change across the sector and details on their contributions can be found in the Project Updates section of this report.



We extend a sincere thank you to the support we have received from all of our Industry Partners:



OUR TEAM

Meet the team that serves as the heart of the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council. We are a small, dynamic group of four, committed to driving tangible, positive change for the bedding industry.

Our strength lies in our diverse professional backgrounds. Our experience spans the entire product lifecycle and business ecosystem bringing expertise from:

Industry & Operations: Bedding, textiles, product development, and complex logistics.

Strategy & Finance: Financial services, operations management, and leading national NFP organisations.

This breadth of knowledge—gained from running small businesses to working for global multi-nationals—equips us with the strategic agility to navigate complex challenges. We are committed to working alongside our members to find solutions and make a real difference in the world of bedding.

The Dynamic Team Behind the ABSC

Kylie Roberts-Frost
Chief Executive Officer



Leading the ABSC with over two decades of global experience and a passion for the circular economy, Kylie drives recycling initiatives and partnerships across the value chain to achieve change in the bedding industry.

Tracey Pryor
Director of Innovation



With 35 years of hands-on experience across the textiles industry and a talent for transforming waste into valuable resources, Tracey drives a circular economy by exploring solutions for businesses of all sizes.

Krisandra Knight
Director of Stakeholder Engagement & Transformation



With over two decades of transformational leadership at global companies, Krisandra builds strong stakeholder relationships and drives initiatives with an inclusive approach, fostering collaboration towards a circular economy for bedding.

Lou Randazzo
Operations & Business Process Manager



Drawing on over two decades of expertise in finance, management, and business ownership, Louise ensures operational excellence and supports franchisees on their sustainability journey.

ABSC BOARD

This Annual Report is presented under the **governance and strategic direction** of the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council's Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for the organisation's overall strategy, financial oversight, and adherence to the principles of product stewardship. Their leadership ensures that the Council remains **accountable, effective, and compliant** with its operational mandate. We acknowledge the commitment of the Directors in fulfilling their governance duties throughout the 2025 Financial Year.



Garry Beard
Chair



David Wood
Secretary & Treasurer



Damian Donohoe
Director



David Edwards
Independent Director



John Elliott
Director



Pancho Gutstein
Director



Kylie Hughes
Director



Alexis Phitidis
Director



Kylie Roberts-Frost
Director



Leanne Wiseman
Nominated Director



LOOKING AHEAD

FY26 Strategic Priorities

The Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC) is dedicated to protecting and enhancing Australia's natural environment by reducing waste, preventing illegal dumping, and ensuring the responsible recovery, reuse, and recycling of bedding products. By working collaboratively with industry, policymakers, and consumers, ABSC actively diverts bedding products from landfill, advances circular economy initiatives, and promotes sustainable industry practices. Through education, advocacy, and compliance measures, ABSC ensures environmental benefits while driving systemic change.

We are focused on seven key outcomes in FY26:



By focusing on these priorities, we will:

-  Divert over 1 million mattresses from landfill, significantly reducing waste and environmental harm.
-  Establish a standardised national mattress recycling network, improving accessibility and efficiency.
-  Develop a scalable framework for mattress refurbishment and donation, benefiting vulnerable communities.
-  Drive policy change through advocacy and industry collaboration, ensuring long-term regulatory support.
-  Enable circular product design, reducing resource extraction and improving product lifespan.
-  Enhance compliance and reporting transparency, simplifying obligations for industry participants.



Better Bedding, Together.

FY26 Strategic Plan

GOVERNANCE

As the ABSC continues to evolve and extend its reach across the bedding industry, our commitment to strong governance remains at the core of how we operate. FY2025 marked a year of consolidation and progress, as we built on the foundational improvements introduced in FY2024 and continued refining our systems to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with our Authorisation.

We remain focused on maintaining best practice governance and meeting all compliance obligations with the ACCC, ACNC, and DCCEE, ensuring that the scheme is operating not only within its regulatory framework but also in step with industry expectations.

Following the groundwork laid in FY2024, the new ABSC Constitution was officially adopted at our last Annual General Meeting and is now in full force. This important milestone reflects our focus on clarity, fairness and agility as the scheme grows.

We have once again engaged LegalVision, whose expertise has continued to strengthen our approach to compliance, risk management, and partnership engagement. Their support has been instrumental in reviewing and drafting agreements that underpin

our growing research and development (R&D) collaborations. These agreements ensure that the ABSC is protected, that our initiatives align with our Authorisation, and that the outcomes of these projects serve our members and the broader industry.

Our relationship with William Buck, serving as Trust Accountants and Aggregators, has continued, providing robust financial data handling and ensuring individual business data remains secure and confidential. Their oversight gives our members confidence that their membership fees and contributions are managed with care and in line with the scheme structure. We also continued our long-standing engagement with Poole Group for our independent audit, reinforcing accountability through external validation.

This year we also engaged a specialist insurance broker to review our coverage across all aspects of the business. This proactive review has allowed us to identify and address any coverage gaps, ensuring that ABSC remains protected and appropriately insured as our operations expand. Several adjustments and additions were made to our insurance portfolio to better reflect our current risk profile and future activities.

Strategic improvements were also made to our financial systems. A change in bookkeeping providers has simplified our internal processes while enhancing our ability to track expenses with greater precision. Our revised chart of accounts and project based tracking now aligns with our Authorisation requirements, ensuring funds are being directed to the right R&D initiatives for improved reporting. This gives our members greater confidence that their financial contributions are delivering tangible outcomes across our four pillars: Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, and Recycle.

Recognising the importance of Board leadership in governance, FY25 also saw the creation of a Board Matrix with the help of LegalVision, a tool designed to guide our approach to Board composition and succession planning. The matrix maps the mix of skills, experience, diversity, and independence needed for strong governance. While progress is ongoing, we made important adjustments this year, welcoming new Board members to better align with our required attributes and bring a diversified skill set and perspectives to support the scheme's next phase of growth.

We have also made great strides in upgrading our digital infrastructure. The implementation of HubSpot CRM is now complete for marketing, lead generation and contact management. While we continue to explore its full potential, the benefits are already clear. Data collection and reporting have improved dramatically, giving our team a clearer understanding of member engagement, interests, and trends. This system is helping to streamline project management, improve stakeholder communication, and support more informed decision making.

These improvements across legal, financial, operational, and strategic governance are more than administrative upgrades. They are critical steps towards building a more agile, transparent, and member responsive organisation.

As we look ahead, the ABSC remains firmly focused on governance that enables innovation, invites collaboration, and ensures the scheme can scale sustainably, delivering long-term value to our members, the industry, and the environment.



TREASURER'S REPORT



David Wood,
Treasurer

FY25 saw a year of financial consolidation for the Scheme. The transition to the member-based revenue model is now fully implemented. Revenue from members fees continued to grow with the retention of existing members and the addition of new scheme participants.

During the year, the team allocated spend across the Scheme's four pillars, managing costs to outcomes through project-based tracking.

Operationally, we spend in areas that build ongoing value: lifting access in underserved regions, improving measurement and verification, advancing material solutions for foam, textiles and pocket springs, building reuse pathways and connections with stakeholders across Australia.

We successfully completed our independent audit with an unqualified audit opinion. The Scheme's insurance programme was renewed to match our expanding footprint across pilots, regional logistics and R&D collaborations. These measures provide assurance over reporting and protect the Scheme as activity scales.

Looking ahead, in FY26 we will continue to maintain prudent financial settings while backing initiatives that advance the core outcomes of the Scheme - regional consolidation and reverse-logistics pilots, credible offtakes for foam and textiles, and data systems that improve visibility.

The detailed financial statements and the independent auditor's report follow.

David Wood
Secretary & Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORTS



Statement of Profit or Loss

Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Member Fees	790,435	429,500
Donations	-	157,500
Product Stewardship Fees	59,378	176,820
Other/Sundry Income	125,000	-
Total Income	974,813	763,820
Total Income	974,813	763,820
Expenses		
Administration	116,503	63,873
Contractors	218,725	164,591
Labour	554,138	340,558
Labour on costs	90,312	50,558
Travel (Domestic)	114,272	47,196
Professional Development/Training	3,629	-
Recycling Costs	762	-
Travel (Overseas)	9,866	32,006
Other	93,335	3,000
Membership Fees	1,856	-
Total Expenses	1,203,398	701,782
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(228,585)	62,038



Statement of Financial Position

Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	68,045	224,478
Trade and Other Receivables	83,710	28,809
Prepayments	-	25,612
Total Current Assets	151,755	278,899
Non-Current Assets		
Receivables	1,870	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	183	367
Intangibles	14,914	1,445
Total Non-Current Assets	16,968	1,812
Total Assets	168,723	280,712
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	162,196	45,599
Total Current Liabilities	162,196	45,599
Total Liabilities	162,196	45,599
Net Assets	6,527	235,113
Equity		
Retained Earnings	6,527	235,113
Total Equity	6,527	235,113

Statement of Changes in Equity

Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Equity		
Balance at Start of Year	235,113	173,074
Increases		
Surplus for the Period	-	62,038
Total Increases	-	62,038
Decreases		
Deficit for the Period	(228,585)	-
Total Decreases	(228,585)	-
Balance at end of year	6,527	235,113



Statement of Cash Flows

Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Operating Activities		
Receipts from members	777,519	400,950
Receipts from product stewardship fee	102,375	340,463
Cash receipts from other operating activities	137,500	-
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,164,803)	(851,779)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(147,410)	(110,366)
Investing Activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	(3,938)
Payment for investments	(9,023)	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(9,023)	(3,938)
Net Cash Flows	(156,433)	(114,305)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	224,478	338,783
Net change in cash for period	(156,433)	(114,305)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	68,045	224,478

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that 30 June 2025; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high-level assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Company.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based, on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Bedding Stewardship Council Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report



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Donald Glenn Poole
Registered Company Auditor No. 5951
Poole Audit Group Pty Ltd
Level 1, 8 Innovation Parkway
BIRTINYA QLD 4575

27 October 2025



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