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### **Environment Ministers Agree on Recycling Plan timetable – then go home**

The Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEM) in Adelaide today recognised Australia's recycling crisis, then went home without agreeing on any funding or effective actions to resolve the problems, environment groups said today.

"While Australia now has an agreed and staged export ban for mixed wastes, and a target of 80% average 'recovery' rate for all waste streams by 2030 – ministers have kicked the actual mechanisms down the road for more talking," said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance of 49 environment groups.

"What is missing is the detail about how this recovery target is to be achieved. It is also very concerning that incineration is endorsed as it could gobble up most of the resources creating pollution and with no ongoing recycling in the economy."

"Ministers appear to have put the industry Packaging Covenant on notice to achieve targets of 100% of packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable and 70% of plastic packaging to be recycled - by 2025. We would be much happier if we just got on with the job of making these targets enforceable given the repeated failure of the Covenant to achieve previous targets – 2025 is not far away."

"Government procurement to promote the use of recycled materials is also left up to more talk - again we are left none the wiser and will have to wait to hear 'over the coming months."

"Boomerang Alliance does welcome the intention to legislate to ban specific single use takeaway plastics by the South Australian and Queensland Governments and urges other states and territories to act in concert, as part of the promised National Plastics Plan," Mr Angel said.