**Waste 2017 Abstract Submission**

**The reality and fiction of Battery Stewardship in Australia**

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

🗹 Circular economy 🞎 Overseas experiences

🞎 Collection (inc MUD’s, transient population areas) 🞎 Problem/Hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical &

🞎 Container Deposit Schemes medical, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc)

🞎 Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, 🗹 Product Stewardship

monitoring performance) 🗹 Regional issues

🞎 Education (inc community engagement) 🞎 Recycling (inc CRC’s, collection)

🗹 E-Waste 🗹 Regulations and levies

🞎 Grants (outcomes and processes) 🞎 Social enterprise

🞎 Infrastructure (inc major waste grants, EfW, organics) 🞎 State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)

🞎 Innovative projects (case studies preferred) 🞎 Technology

🞎 Landfill (inc operations, regulations) 🞎 Tenders and contracts

🞎 Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives) 🞎 Other 🞎 Organics (inc collection, processing)

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Libby Chaplin

**Presenter position:** CEO

**Presenter organisation:** Australian Battery Recycling Initiative

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**Biography**

Libby Chaplin has recently returned to Australia after living in the United States for 15 years where she ran a successful international consulting company with a focus on product stewardship of electronic waste servicing clients in industry, government, and the non-profit sector.

In her new role as CEO of the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative, Libby has a strong focus on facilitating product stewardship at the national level by understanding the impact of life cycle dynamics on achieving good end-of-life outcomes. Libby also continues to operate her consulting business Arcadian Solutions providing practical innovative solutions to clients**.** A core theme in Libby’s work is collaboration for sustainable change in her work advising for government policy, creating standards for industry best practice, and building systems and capacity in organizations to affect ongoing change.

**Abstract Summary**

There is no question that batteries are a ubiquitous part of all our lives, and yet as a country we fall far behind in providing the necessary infrastructure to manage them responsibly at the end of their life. In Australia, only about 3% of handheld batteries are recovered for recycling. As we look the other way, local government and communities are paying a high price in terms of safety and pollution and will continue to do so well into the future unless we take the necessary action now. So what is the answer?

ABRI is working with other key industry players to facilitate a stewardship approach to end-of-life management of batteries. This presentation will look at the evolving landscape for battery stewardship in Australia, including:

* Key battery stewardship drivers and challenges

Lessons from existing product stewardship initiatives (Landfill bans, levies, etc)

Challenges and opportunities of a de-regulated environment

Outcomes of recent pilots indicating that the community will participate in battery recycling if the infrastructure is provided

* Essential elements for a sustainable approach

Understanding material flows at end-of-life

Industry participation in the design of product stewardship arrangement: Voluntary, regulatory or co-regulatory

Importance of eliminating the free rider issue

* Critical success factors for achieving a viable product stewardship arrangement