

Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name: **MUIR GROUP PTY LTD**

Trading As: **E.E. Muir & Sons P/L**

ABN: **16004732656**

About APCO

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is a co-regulatory not-for-profit organisation leading the development of a circular economy for packaging in Australia. APCO's vision is a packaging value chain that collaborates to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retains the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

Each year, APCO Brand Owner Members are required to submit an APCO Annual Report and an APCO Action Plan. This document is the Annual Report and Action Plan output for the organisation listed above. This document provides the overall performance level of the organisation, as well as any commitments they have made to work towards on their packaging sustainability journey. This document may also include additional information provided by the Member in their report.

Overall Performance **Good Progress**

The chart below indicates the overall performance level of this organisation listed above in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. The organisation's reporting period was **July, 2022 - June, 2023**



Understanding APCO Annual Reporting performance levels:

- 1 Getting Started:** You are at the start of your packaging sustainability journey.
- 2 Good Progress:** You have made some first steps on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 3 Advanced:** You have taken tangible action on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 4 Leading:** You have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 5 Beyond Best Practice:** You have received the highest performance level and have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.

Contact

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Additional Information

The information below indicates additional information that the organisation included in their APCO Annual Report.

Describe initiatives, processes or practices that you have implemented during your chosen reporting period that have improved packaging sustainability

During the reporting period, we have laid the groundwork for significant improvements in packaging sustainability. We initiated a comprehensive review of our current recycling practices across branches, benchmarking our standards to identify areas for enhancement. Additionally, we've begun engaging with our suppliers to critically review the materials used in our packaging. These discussions aim to engage with our suppliers across the supply chain to meet our SPG goals. A key development has been the transition to a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system with enhanced data capture capabilities, which is pivotal in accurately measuring and managing our sustainability metrics. These proactive measures are pivotal in directing our sustainability efforts, laying a robust foundation for progress in packaging sustainability and aligning closely with our SPG objectives.

Describe any opportunities or constraints that affected performance within your chosen reporting period

Constraints included the need for comprehensive data on our current packaging practices, a delay in transitioning to a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, inconsistency in practices across stores, and a delay in the BagMUSTER program implementation. Despite these challenges, we identified significant opportunities to advance our packaging sustainability. The customisation of the new ERP system is underway to enhance our capability to capture essential packaging data. This advancement, coupled with our targeted approach to addressing specific areas within our packaging SPG goals, positions us to overcome initial setbacks effectively. Our active involvement and leadership in the BagMUSTER program have also emerged as a critical opportunity to lead industry practices in sustainable packaging solutions. These opportunities pave the way for substantial progress in our SPG objectives.

Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation.

Our investigation into packaging sustainability revealed a commendable trend: many of our branches had independently initiated recycling practices, demonstrating a grassroots commitment to environmental stewardship. Our first store's engagement with the Big Bag Recovery scheme is a standout example. Facing the challenge of disposing of empty fertiliser bags, the store sought recycling options. After navigating several dead ends, they discovered a local facility offering a viable recycling solution. This case highlights our branches' proactive efforts and underscores the importance of local solutions in achieving our sustainability goals. It's a testament to our collective effort towards environmental responsibility, showcasing a practical approach to overcoming recycling challenges.

APCO Action Plan Commitments

For each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria listed below, a description is provided along with the

commitments made by the organisation in their APCO Action Plan.

Criteria 1:

Governance & Strategy:

This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.

- Develop a strategy that includes goals (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent.
- Include a commitment to achieving the 2025 National Packaging Targets in our strategy.
- Have our executive or board of directors review our strategy and have the strategy integrated within our business processes.
- Regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within our organisation.
- Regularly engage or communicate with our external stakeholders about the environmental impacts of our packaging.
- Actively participate in initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of our organisation.

Criteria 2:

Design & Procurement:

This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).

- Review 1% of our packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding reviews of packaging using the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Incorporate the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent) into procurement processes.
- Consider the following Sustainable Packaging Principles in our packaging reviews:
 - Design for recovery
 - Use recycled materials
 - Design to minimise litter
 - Design for transport efficiency
 - Provide consumer information on environmental sustainability

Criteria 3:

Recycled Content:

This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.

- Use recycled content in:
 - Our products
 - Primary packaging that we use to sell our products
 - Secondary packaging that we use to sell our products
 - Tertiary packaging that we use to sell our products

- Other items which we purchase (e.g. office stationery and suppliers etc.)
- 30% of our packaging to be made using some level of recycled material
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding use of recycled materials.

Criteria 4:

Recoverability:

This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of reusable packaging.

- 29% of our packaging to be designed to have all packaging components be recoverable at end-of-life.
- Investigate opportunities to use reusable packaging.
- 20% of our packaging to have all packaging components that are reusable.
- Participate in a close-loop recovery program/alternative collection system.

Criteria 5:

Disposal Labelling:

This criteria considers the extent to which packaging has been labelled to help consumers determine what to do with packaging at end-of-life.

- 23% of our packaging to have on-pack labelling to inform correct disposal.

Criteria 6:

On-site Waste:

This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being diverted from landfill.

- Have recycling programs for the following materials:
 - Paper/cardboard
 - Soft plastics
 - Timber
 - Metals
- Aim for 44% of our on-site waste to be diverted from landfill.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding on-site waste.

Criteria 7:

Problematic Materials:

This criteria considers the extent to which organisations are actively phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging and preventing/reducing litter.

- Help reduce litter by:

- Conducting regular clean ups
- Participating in Business Clean Up Day