

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 2023 APCO Annual Report. The organisation's reporting period was **July, 2021 - June, 2022**



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

The Muir Group (TMG) created a company-wide sustainability strategy in 2019. The strategy includes regular reviews of progress to targets. Our initial priority has been the products and services we offer (as opposed to their packaging) as our assessment was this is where we could make the biggest positive environmental impact. Packaging is now a key priority for 2023. We have joined APCO and committed to achieving APCO 2025 goals. The Muir Group also signed a commitment to participate in BagMUSTER and will actively participate in the 2023 pilot. We have been supporting horticulture industry sustainability projects and in forestry we are actively working to eliminate the use of non-compostable materials for tree seedling use (seedling guards).

We are exploring the use of mushroom mycelium based insulative packaging to replace polystyrene. We would use this packaging to support transport of live insects (see naturalsolutions.com.au) from our breeding facility in QLD to our customers.

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

We see inadequate data collection as a constraint for achieving better material packaging management. We see opportunity in doing better in the future through our soon to be implemented Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business management system and participation in the APCO initiative.

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

Working with one of our suppliers, we have increased recycled content of fertiliser bags to 30%. Through the introduction of a new pallet wrap type we have reduced pallet wrap waste by 30% and we are exploring further opportunities in this area.

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 **25%** 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).
- 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
- **10%** of our packaging to be optimised for material efficiency.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding packaging material efficiency.

Criteria 3:

Recycled Content:

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

- Develop a policy or procedure to buy products and/or packaging made from recycled materials.
- 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 stationary and suppliers etc.)
- **71%** 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.

- 30% of our packaging to be designed to have all packaging components be recoverable at end-of-life.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding recoverability.
- Aim to have 5% of our compostable packaging certified to Australian standards.
- Investigate opportunities to use reusable packaging.
- 21% of our packaging to have all packaging components that are reusable.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding reuse.

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.

- 40% of our packaging to have on-pack labelling to inform correct disposal.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding labelling.

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
 - Rigid plastics
 - Timber
 - Glass
 - Metals
- Aim for 20% 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

- Phase-out the following problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items:
 - EPS loose fill packaging