

**Lighting Council Australia**

PO Box 1058, Hawthorn, VIC, 3122

Tel: +61 473 844 812

Mobile: +61 418 566 647

Email: [info@lightingcouncil.com.au](mailto:info@lightingcouncil.com.au)

Web: [www.lightingcouncil.com.au](http://www.lightingcouncil.com.au)

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# Media Release

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## Button battery problems underline systemic issues and inaction by Federal and State regulators

“The problems identified in the Herald Sun investigation into button batteries highlight systemic issues within Australia’s product safety laws and the lack of adequate resourcing and enforcement action by Federal and State safety regulators”, said David Crossley – National Technical Manager, Lighting Council Australia.

“Unfortunately, dangerous products exist in many markets in Australia. It is simply too late after products are released into the market. Safety regulators are under resourced and can’t keep up with the flood of new products continually coming into Australia”, said Mr Crossley.

“Australia’s approach to product safety dates back to the middle of the last century. Perhaps it is time to consider compliance checks at the border rather than waiting until consumers are injured or killed”, said Mr Crossley.

“The Australian lighting industry was one of the first sectors to include button battery safety requirements within lighting product standards in 2017”, said Mr Crossley.

“Unfortunately, the button battery safety problem won’t likely be fixed until there is an international safety standard that is adopted globally by manufacturers. We highlighted that to the ACCC in 2019”, said Mr Crossley.

**ENDS.**

**Inquiries:** David Crossley – National Technical Manager, Lighting Council Australia

Ph: 0415 428 731 E: [dcrossley@lightingcouncil.com.au](mailto:dcrossley@lightingcouncil.com.au)