

## **Inquiry into recycling and waste management submission**

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### **Submission:**

The Victorian government has a responsibility to establish and maintain a coherent, efficient and environmentally responsible approach to solid waste management across the state, including assistance to local councils.

This issue has affected me personally, with waste collections being missed or delayed in my local area due to problems with council recycling partners and the struggle to meet the demand of recycling at the moment. These delays are just the beginning of an issue which will soon become much bigger and more serious if it's not dealt with as a high priority.

Not only will we have to continue to deal with delays in waste collection, but with the environmental consequences of stockpiling waste. This waste is highly damaging and unsustainable, leading to an environment that is unhealthy and dangerous for people to live in.

Therefore, the government must invest in expanding the recycling industry and support local councils in managing issues and creating more sustainable solutions.

Some of these solutions could include:

- Establishing a 10c refund on bottles and cans.
- Banning unnecessary single-use plastics.
- Establishing green bins that accept food waste in all councils and setting up a long-term sustainable and large-scale composting system accessible to all.
- Invest in the recycling industry, creating more infrastructure and systems to accommodate all recycling needs.

With the challenges of climate change becoming more and more critical, now more than ever we need to set up systems that enable a healthy and safe future for all.