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From: Riina Aapa <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2019 11:23 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: We can do more!

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

To whom it may concern,

I am shocked and saddened by the state of our waste and recycling in Victoria. I grew up in Finland and lived through the transition from everything going into landfill to everything being sorted into separate recyclables and compostable waste. A concerted campaign to educate the community will work! I talk to many people who refuse to separate their recyclables as they do not believe that they will actually get recycled. People need to be able to trust that their efforts will not be in vain.

A container deposit scheme should be implemented urgently. This will not only make recycling more efficient, it will reduce the amount of rubbish on the side of the road, in parks, etc.

I want to see us actually making use of recycled materials. Industries should be incentivised to use recycled material in place of virgin materials, and we should do the recycling right here in Victoria. This would create new jobs, as well as reduce our reliance on others to take our waste.

Unnecessary single-use plastics such as plastic straws and shopping bags should be a thing of the past. No one will miss them once they are banned.

Compostable waste should not go into landfill where it produces greenhouse gases, however, not everyone can have a home composter. Councils should therefore collect compostable waste / food waste and there should be a way to commercially compost it all efficiently.

I look forward to a greener future for us all.

-- Riina Aapa
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