

**From:** Jackie Garton <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 May 2019 11:32 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** We Must Do Better

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

I am a mother of two young children and I am worried for their future. We as a species have had a devastating effect on the planet.

The waste crisis is just one of the many environmental disasters that we must solve. We owe it to our children, grandchildren and all future generations to pass down a world in which they can live and thrive.

The way we treat the planet right now - they will be lucky to survive.

Every Monday my kids and I walk the short 1km to school. We regularly take a bag to collect litter along the way. Often our bag is full before we make the half way point.

My children (aged 6 and 2 years old) cannot understand why there is always so much litter.

I do not have an answer for them.

They only see the tip of the iceberg.

They cannot see the mountains of rubbish piling up in landfill.

They do not know about the giant island of plastic in the Pacific.

It doesn't need to be this way.

Now is the time to take action – before it is too late.

Victoria could lead the way in dealing with Australia's recycling crisis.

We would like to see the Victorian Government adopt the following:

- 1) Container deposit scheme like the one introduced in South Australia in 1977! That is 40 years ago! Come on Victoria - what is going on? Is it because Visy Industries is located in Melbourne and the Pratt family are incredibly generous political donators?
- 2) Large-scale composting to avoid food waste going to landfill. We can use our waste, to feed the plants that provide us food, clean air and capture carbon. That is a miracle of nature – why aren't the Victorian government doing this?
- 3) Make single-use plastic items illegal. Nobody needs a plastic straw, food container or cutlery. They are just not necessary.
- 4) Offer government grants and financial assistance such as tax breaks to the recycling industry. We can remake and resell recycled products right here in Victoria. Great for the economy and great for the environment.

This waste crisis is devastating. Let's not panic, flounder and drown in rubbish!

Let's turn this into an opportunity to improve the future for our children.

-- Jackie Garton



I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.