

[REDACTED]

From: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 May 2019 3:28 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Ms Erin Lindwall
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

As a member of the Plastic Free Victoria Alliance, I support the below statement and agree we need urgent, decisive action to fix our recycling crisis.

As a regular volunteer to beach clean ups over the past few years, I can see how grave this problem is, how much plastic is clogging our waterways and literally choking marine life.

I'm a concerned citizen with a young daughter and I want to be able to look her in the eye and said we tried our best to fix the immense waste problem we face right now. I have hope, I'm not giving up and neither should anyone else.

Please seriously support the movement to improve our waste management system asap.

Thanking you,

Erin Lindwall

The Secretary
Legislative Council, Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
Email: recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this inquiry.

Plastic-free Victoria Alliance (PVA) is an alliance of over 120 environmental, community and industry groups working to reduce plastic pollution in Victoria. We started in August 2017 and have grown rapidly, due to the increasing awareness of plastic pollution and sense of urgency to act.

Our mission statement:

"We, as a collection of groups, aim to reduce the use and associated impact of single-use plastics. We urge individuals, communities, businesses and all levels of government to take immediate and decisive action on the main avoidable sources of plastic pollution in Victoria, including but not limited to:

1. Single-use plastic bags (including biodegradable, compostable and degradable bags)
2. Single-use drink containers
3. Products containing microbeads (cosmetic and industrial use)
4. Excessive plastic packaging
5. Single-use plastic consumer items (e.g. straws, take-away containers, coffee cups)
6. Balloons and attachments (including latex and mylar)
7. The enforcement of existing litter/pollution laws. We encourage the research, development and use of sustainable alternatives to plastics, education to increase public awareness and the promotion of effective legislation to reduce plastic pollution."

Our submission to the Recycling and Waste Management Inquiry follows our mission statement. We welcome the promised ban of single-use plastic bags (including biodegradable, compostable and degradable bags).

We are calling for the implementation of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in Victoria. A CDS is proven to reduce litter, increase recycling rates (creating a pre-sorted, clean stream with little contamination) and create substantial fundraising opportunities for community groups. We want to see a mandatory ban of products containing plastic microbeads, both for cosmetic and industrial use.

We believe that the Victorian Parliament should play a role on restricting excessive plastic packaging, which would significantly ease the pressure on waste and recycling management services in Victoria.

We are calling for an extensive consumer education campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of single-use plastic consumer items. Our groups believe that a drastic reduction of single-use plastic items is paramount in fighting plastic pollution. Many local councils and small businesses are leading the way on this and we want the Victorian Government to implement plasticwise policies for events and procurements. This type of 'walking the talk' would be a great way to compliment the aforementioned education campaign.

Plasticwise policies should include the ban of the release of helium balloons.

We are appalled at reports of the recent breaches at SKMs recycling facilities, as well as illegal incineration of recyclable plastics by MJM Fabrication in Altona and are calling for stronger enforcement of existing pollution laws.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: