

From: [REDACTED]
To: [recyclinginquiry](#)
Subject: Recycling inquiry submission
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I am an artist and I have been collecting rubbish off our beaches for many years for my artworks. I also volunteer for Caring for Our Bays and I have seen first hand how much plastic waste ends up in our waterways and oceans. It is truly heartbreaking.

Victoria's recycling system is broken and we desperately need to fix it. We should not be incinerating our waste as that would be a waste of resources that could otherwise be recycled or composted. It also generates pollution which in an age of climate change, is just crazy and should not be an option. The carbon footprint created with burning rubbish does not make it a sustainable energy source. **Please don't burn our waste.**

Here are my suggestions:

- Please ban single use plastics as a first step.
- Revolutionise our packaging industry so that all packaging is reusable rather than disposable.
- Invest in local recycling and create jobs in the industry.
- Establish a container deposit scheme (like the rest of Australia has).
- Bring in legislation that forces all manufacturers to take back their product at the end of its life to be recycled.
- We need community education about alternatives to single use plastic. We need education campaigns that help people to reduce their waste in the first place as well as how to recycle properly.

It is the government's responsibility to implement a sustainable waste management system through our local councils. It was never a sustainable option for China to take our rubbish and any talk of shipping our waste offshore is a disgrace.

A sustainable philosophy is simple: "If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production." — Pete Seeger

Kind regards
Deirdre Boeyen Carmichael

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