

From: [REDACTED]
To: recyclinginquiry
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Recycling and Waste Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 26 May 2019 2:28:37 PM

The Secretary^[L]Legislative Council,
Environment and Planning Committee Parliament House,
Spring Street^[L]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 make a submission into this important inquiry.

I have been an active community member doing much to help manage and reduce our serious waste problem.

Having mobilized and ran the Plastic Bag Free Daylesford campaign and established in partnership a small sustainability consultancy specializing in community education and awareness to create behaviour change, I recognize that this is only one lever that needs to be pulled to solve a significant problem.

This issue needs to be tackled at a variety of levels as relying on consumer behaviour and my recommendations for this inquiry are:

1. <!--[endif]-->Put practices, process and legislation in place to transition to a circular economy.
2. <!--[endif]-->Introduce legislation to ban single use plastics (European Union has legislated the ban for top 10 single use plastics found in the ocean) and commence action towards a circular economy with the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme.
3. <!--[endif]-->Invest locally in the recycling industry as it has been shown to be more economically profitable than landfilling. It will also create jobs.
4. <!--[endif]-->Leverage the Product Stewardship Act and put the onus on manufacturers to take responsibilities for the products they produce instead of the onus being on the consumer.

5. <!--[endif]-->Reduction in use of single use plastics through education and awareness campaigns along with the introduction of legislation.
6. Not to introduce a Waste to Energy solution as the research shows the negative impact to human health through the burning of waste.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit my views and I hope this inquiry can solve a systemic problem for our state and as a nation overall.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Stephenson

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