

**From:** [Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management](#)  
**To:** [recyclinginquiry](#)  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Miss Emily Jeffery  
[REDACTED]

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### **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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We are currently experiencing a recycling and waste crisis. One that could have been acted upon before it has become a crisis.

I would like to make clear some of the points I think the inquiry into recycling and waste management should consider. I am one of many that are deeply concerned and want genuine action to turn around this poorly managed industry. Many Victorians, including myself and my family want to truly believe that when we carefully sort and port items in our recycling bin, they will be made into something else, and not ignorantly end up in landfill. We need to also focus on reducing unnecessary over-packaging and develop a community and state wide focus on reducing, repairing and reusing.

Shipping recycling overseas is unethical and unsustainable. It is our recycling and rubbish and we need to deal with it. It is understandable China and other countries taking our rubbish has refused to do so anymore. I'd hope this was the shake up Australia, and Victoria needs.

It is the responsibility of the Victorian government to establish and maintain an efficient and environmentally friendly approach to waste management across the state, including assisting local councils and providing education. Solutions need to be established to avoid sending recycling to landfill; to improve the sorting and cleaning capabilities of Victorian recycling centres; to further enable the use of recycled materials in local manufacturing and community initiatives and to reconsider the current business model to ensure that repairing options are made available.

Possible short and long term considerations and solutions to this could be:

1. Improving all niche recycling systems such as composting, soft plastic collection and using more compostable products in the larger supermarket chains.
2. Product stewardship
3. Banning single use plastics
4. Decreasing the cost of choosing low or zero waste alternatives
5. A container deposit scheme in Victoria
6. Allowing "bring your own containers" in larger supermarket schemes to increase

consumer choice

I am particularly in favour of Victoria introducing a container deposit scheme - why don't we have one yet? South Australia's scheme proves this reduces littering and waste. I would like to see the state use the \$400 million Sustainability Fund to introduce this and to focus on education. Developing and delivering education campaigns focusing on informed and practical waste reduction information will allow community members to move their mindset to reducing, reusing and repairing instead of the linear process of consuming, using and then throwing out. A circular economy needs to be achieved. This includes supporting businesses to revolutionise reusable packaging (such as compostable cardboard and refillable glass milk bottles - this has already been the case 30 years ago, why can't it happen again?). I truly believe the emphasis needs to be placed on education and ensuring Victorians understand that we need to REDUCE our waste and REPAIR/REUSE what we already have. There are amazing repair cafe's in Victoria already, this need our support and funding.

I'd like to also emphasise that incinerating our recycling will have a devastating impact on our environment. Converting waste to energy this way is simply not acceptable and a cop out to dealing with this recycling and waste management crisis. The carbon footprint created with burning rubbish does not make it a sustainable energy source, and therefore, I am strongly against the funding of Combustion or Thermal waste to Energy technologies. This is not a solution to this crisis.

I hope you strongly consider such points in the inquiry into recycling and waste management in Victoria and consideration is given to the circular economy, rather than a linear one and commit to reducing, refusing, reusing, repairing and recycling.

Thank you kindly,  
Emily Jeffery

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File1:

File2:

File3: