


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

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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The current environmental emergency is an issue that greatly concerns me. Compounding this is the apparent lack of concern from governments, who continue to miss opportunities to effect change. Part of the solution must be in our management of waste in terms of reducing the production and use of throw-away objects, and in the development of a comprehensive recycling program that replaces environmentally damaging industries. The absence of a sound Victorian recycling policy is something that makes me angry and anxious on a daily basis, as I carefully separate my garbage from recyclables, knowing that it's pretty pointless at the moment. There are so many opportunities being missed for diverting reusable materials.

Australia is home to innovative and ground-breaking materials technology researchers, who are developing technological solutions to deal with plastics, tyre waste and fabric, to name but a few. Overwhelmingly however, the use of these technologies occurs in other countries. I would love to see Victoria embrace these technologies and develop industries that provide jobs to the community while reusing and recycling precious resources. Why not locate such facilities in places where outdated industries like coal mining or logging destroy the environment for short term gain? Gippsland could become a site for the recycling industry, replacing coal and logging industry jobs with sustainable manufacturing which reduces landfill and utilises current technologies to manufacture building products, fabrics and other goods.

In addition, we need government to ban single use plastics (bags, containers, cotton buds, straws). We need incentives for households to recycle food waste for compost; we need the establishment of community gardens to utilise this waste and produce food/re-green urban and regional settings. We need you to move the onus for change away from individuals, who are already trying their best, and back onto industry and corporations, ensuring that there is support for companies to do the right things, and consequences for those who don't. More than anything we need leadership from our progressive government; we need you to set an example to the rest of the country as this government has on so many other important social issues.

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File1:

File2:

File3: