



Melbourne, the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2019

The Secretary  
Legislative Council, Environment and Planning Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Email: [recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 currently 130 environmental, community and industry groups representing 94,000 Victorians (see attachment), 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.

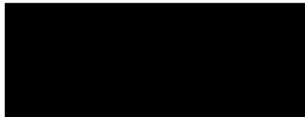


We believe that the Victorian Parliament should play a role on restricting **excessive plastic packaging**, which would significantly ease the pressure on waste and recycling management services in Victoria.

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 complement 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**.



Annett Finger PhD, on behalf of the Plasticfree Victoria Alliance

## **Attachment: List of Plasticfree Victoria Alliance Member groups**

Action For Dolphins	Marine Mammal Foundation
AfroCAB	Minimal Waste Families Australia
Anipal	Monbulk Landcare
Association of International Seafood Professionals	Moonee Valley Matters
Australian Ecosystems	Moop Patrol
Australian Marine Conservation Society	Mornington Environment Association Incorporated
Australian Wildlife Protection Council	Mount Eliza Beach Patrol
Australia-wide Recycling Initiative	Mount Eliza Plastic Free
B-Alternative	Mt Evelyn Boomerang Bags
Beach Guardians Pacific Coast	No Balloon Release Australia
Beach Patrol Frankston	No Waste Ballarat
Beach Patrol Port Melbourne	Ocean Crusaders
Beach Patrol Werribee	Our Wonderful Country Clean Up Project
BeHappy.bags	Plastic Bag Free Castlemaine
Belfast Coastal Reserve Action Group	Plastic Bag Free Daylesford
BendiGo Zero Waste	Plastic Bag Free Healesville
BetterCup	Plastic bag free Victoria
Bob Brown Foundation	Plastic Free Alliance and Fishcare South West
Boomerang Alliance	Plastic Free Woodend
Boomerang Bags Altona	Plastic Pollution Solutions
Boomerang Bags Ascot Vale	Plasticbag-free Peninsula



Boomerang Bags Brunswick  
 Boomerang Bags Castlemaine  
 Boomerang Bags Grampians  
 Boomerang Bags Mornington Peninsula  
 Boomerang bags Mount Martha  
 Boomerang Bags Rosebud  
 Boomerang Bags Sunbury  
 Boomerang Bags Wangaratta  
 Born in a Taxi  
 Boyd Sustainability Group  
 Bring Your Own Container Campaign (Victoria Australia)  
 Brown Paper Packages (Zero-Waste Mornington Peninsula)  
 Brunswick Food Coop  
 Cheltenham Secondary College Environment Team  
 Cirrus Fine Coffee  
 City of Whittlesea  
 Climactic.fm  
 Community Hub Keilor  
 Crap Sacks  
 Croydon Conservation Society  
 Earthspoon  
 Edithvale Community Greengrocer  
 Effect The Change  
 Environment East Gippsland  
 Epping North Scouts  
 Fitzroy High SAVE Team  
 Friends of Kororoit Creek  
 Friends of Langwarrin Outdoors and Waterways  
 Friends of Merri Creek  
 Friends of the Earth Victoria  
 Friends of the Earth Waste and Consumption Collective  
 Geelong Sustainability Group Inc  
 Gippsland Unwrapped  
 Good Will Nurdle Hunting  
 Hepburn Relocalisation Network  
 Here Now Group  
 Hollyburton Farm  
 InnerOrigin Carrum  
 It's A Keeper  
 Ivana's design studio  
 Jilbby Eco  
 La Casa Nostra Deli  
 Leadership Victoria Gippsland  
 Love Our Street Elwood  
 Plasticfree July  
 Plasticwise Beechworth  
 Plasticwise Reservoir  
 Plasticwise Torquay  
 Plasticwise Winchelsea  
 Plasticwise Wodonga  
 Plasticwise Yackandadah  
 Polperro Dolphin Swims  
 Pookie May Coffee  
 Port Phillip EcoCentre  
 Port Phillip Greens  
  
 Raw Travel  
 Reusable Nation  
 Scab Duty  
 Sea Shepherd  
 Seaside Scavage Rye  
 Seaside Scavage Festival Rye  
 Shop Ethical! (the Ethical Consumer Group)  
 South East Environment Network- SEEN  
 Squirrel House  
 Stawell Urban Landcare Group  
 Stawell War On Waste  
 Stonnington Greens  
 Streets of East Community  
 Student Voice Network  
 Sustainable Agriculture & Communities Alliance (SACA)  
 The Beautiful Simple Life  
 The Green Drop  
 Transition Warrungal  
 Trash Bags on Tour  
 Trash Bags!  
 Tyabb Railway Station Primary School  
 Urban Allies Fairfield  
 War On Waste Southern Grampians  
 Warrnambool Coastcare  
 Warrnambool Plastic Free Alliance  
 Werribee River Association  
 Woodend Community Bags- Boomerang Bags  
 Yarra Climate Action Now  
 Yarra River Keeper  
 Zero Waste OZ, National Toxics Network  
 Zero Waste Swan Hill  
 Zero Waste Victoria  
 Zoos Victoria