

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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It is the responsibility of the Victorian government to establish and maintain a coherent, efficient and environmentally responsible approach to solid waste management across the state, including assistance to local councils. I am very disappointed that despite extensive warnings about the China National Sword policy coming, that nothing seemed to have been done by many councils, government and industry! They all seemed to ignore warnings, perhaps simply hoping another country would take our rubbish. But let's be real, not dealing with our own waste was never a sustainable solution.

Victoria really needs to:

- a) avoid dangerous stockpiling and ensure recyclable waste is actually being recycled in a local industry to create more jobs. It's so incredibly frustrating to be doing all the right things at a household level only to find out people and institutions further up the chain where not doing their part for Australia and the environment.
- b) better enable the use of recycled materials in local manufacturing to drive a circular economy.
- c) use the existing Sustainability Fund to fund solutions to the waste crisis.
- d) implement strategies to reduce waste generation such as: 1) product stewardship; 2) container deposit schemes; 3) banning single-use plastics; 4) government procurement policies.
- e) NOT support Waste to Energy – incinerating our rubbish is not acceptable because it destroys materials so they are no longer available for future use. They are hungry beasts and it is a slippery slope to go from burning unrecyclable waste to burning everything. The money for these projects would be better spent on creating a circular economy and innovation so that there wouldn't be anything to go to landfill or incineration.
- f) develop and deliver education campaigns focused on informing waste-wise decisions, reducing waste, g) Emphasis reuse and repair including training programs for skill development and subsidising repairs to reduce landfill.
- h) Encourage or subsidise the use of local recycled material – importing recycled resin (because it's cheaper) might make a product sound good because it has recycled material, but it doesn't help our local recycling crisis.
- i) Support councils, hospitality, schools and community groups to compost and better manage food waste.

j) Mandate that all business, schools, organisations etc. are required to have recycling service – you'd be surprised how many don't! The sustainability fund should also support education and implementation of recycling infrastructure in these organisations.

k) go further with the Container deposit scheme. Victoria could be forerunners in innovation and set up to include refillable bottles as well as recyclables. But starting with plastic recyclables is a sensible start, and we should stop wasting time thinking about it. PLEASE be a leader and do these things.

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File1:

File2:

File3: