


From: 
To: [recyclinginquiry](#)
Subject: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management.
Date: Friday, 31 May 2019 9:26:21 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. I think about these issues every day and I am eager for the Government to lead us all towards solutions and actions that improve the health of our environment.

A major part of the solution lies in education. I am repeatedly surprised and disheartened at the misuse of yellow recycling bins that I see in my community. Landfill bins in community spaces are often filled with recyclable materials too. Food and plant wastes are resources that need to be returned to the natural eco-system. We all stand to benefit if we keep them in 'the loop'.

Running education programs to inform people on the whole life-cycle of materials could help to develop more environmentally conscious consumer behaviour. We all need to be accountable for what we consume and not disengage from the waste issue by throwing things away. 'Out of sight, out of mind' is not sustainable.

And importantly, let's think about how we can **reduce** our use in the first instance.

People, and more importantly, businesses, need to take more responsibility for their consumption and waste strategies. Government can guide and model this behaviour.

A container deposit scheme would capture more recyclable waste AND importantly, help people to change their thinking on the usefulness and value of materials.

Many of the strategies above, could be funded using The Sustainability Fund. There are so many innovative businesses with solutions and practices that can empower all of us to do more in ways that don't damage our environment.

I have concerns about "Waste to Energy" schemes that

incinerate materials that can and should be recycled. The process produces greenhouse gases, which we should be decreasing, leaves toxic waste to be dealt with and allows the continuance of a throwaway mindset.

We need our governments to make new laws and to support businesses, organisations, schools and communities to change.

We will not see the kind of change our planet needs unless we are led by our governments, NOW.

Sincerely,

Nicole Johnston

