

**From:** Jacklyn Yowell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2016 6:49 PM  
**To:** LCLC  
**Subject:** Victoria - shirking responsibility about plastic pollution?

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AMENDMENT (BANNING PLASTIC BAGS, PACKAGING AND MICROBEADS) BILL 2016

Victoria - shirking responsibility about plastic pollution?

Generally Victoria has been progressive in its policies, compared with other states in Australia, including in its valuing of our natural environment. After all, we once prided ourselves for being the Garden State. As a long-term resident and taxpayer, I am therefore shocked that our state has lagged in its responsibilities regarding the blight that plastic pollution has been to our environment - when so many other states in Australia have taken action on this already, as have many other nations.

The Victorian government must know that its electors are reminded every single day of their inaction on this. I am fortunate to live near Gardiner's Creek in Melbourne's leafy Glen Iris, but on my regular walks along the creek, the piles of plastic bottles and bags are an affront, knowing that so many of our natural places, rivers, seas, are similarly blighted, and so much wildlife badly affected. This is especially disturbing knowing that so much of it could be avoided, that so much use of plastic bags is unnecessary in the first place, that plastic bottle waste could so easily be drastically reduced with a deposit scheme (as South Australia has had for so long). There are many other obvious ways to reduce plastic waste, which are surely not beyond the capabilities of our Victorian corporations, councils, citizens and government.

There is no excuse for producers or consumers, or the governments charged with regulating them, to allow this to continue - it is simply irresponsible.

When so many states in our nation and across our world have already initiated action to reduce plastic waste successfully, why on earth has Victoria not done so?

I urge our politicians and legislators to act responsibly on this now. There are no more excuses, and their citizens are watching and waiting.... And electing.

-- Jacklyn Yowell, [REDACTED]

I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.