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From: Peter Stafford <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 April 2019 9:54 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Cradle to grave product stewardship and public education

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The start of our waste problem is with the public's lack of understanding about the negative effects of consumerism and relying on 'things' to shore up our fragile self esteems like big houses, constant new clothes and shiny new cars. We need a new model of happiness that instead promotes self development, low levels of consumption, efficiency and sustainability. This wholesale change will require many areas of government to work together. For example, educational curricular will need to prioritise sustainability. Industry will need to account for the whole life of the products they produce, sell and or buy.

A good start would be to put a price on containers and other short lived products. Also, single use non-essential plastics should be banned and recycle content should be legislated for in as much product as possible without driving production away from local suppliers.

There is much that needs to be done from the government down and the population up (education) and everywhere in between.

Certainly by what I've seen in Melbourne lately, there are lots of rogue operators in the waste and recycle industries that lease properties, get paid to accept waste and with no plan for its disposal, just decamp leaving the waste disposal bill with government and council. This is happening in the C & D industry, chemical industry, recycling industry, tyres and others.

We need harsher penalties for the enforcement agencies.

Yours Sincerely,

-- Peter Stafford

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I wish to remain confidential.