

[REDACTED]

From: Hazel Maung <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2019 7:54 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Every little bit helps

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to appeal to you regarding Victoria's waste and recycling crisis. The news that China was suddenly refusing to accept anymore recycling waste and watching War on Waste has prompted me to question what really happens to our recycling. My husband and I became Australian citizens last year, so I feel it is my duty as an Aussie to urge the Victorian government to do their bit.

Firstly, we would win the wooden spoon for implementing a refund incentive scheme for our bottles and cans! Joking aside, I have seen how simple and effective this has been in other states and abroad and feel that we need to get on board with this as soon as we can.

Secondly, I strongly believe that Victoria can lead the way in investing in a recycling scheme and be a great role model for the other states and, indeed, the rest of the world. I already subscribe to some great programs, such as Terracycle, and think that we need to be championing initiatives such as these and encouraging more projects by providing funding and forums to foster new ideas.

I also feel that we need to be more collectively aligned in our local council recycling schemes and introduce food waste recycling schemes throughout Victoria. Better education of what can and can't be placed in the recycle bins needs to be implemented and also the fact that things need to be cleaned before being placed in the bins.

Whilst the introduction of a ban on single use shopping bags in Woolworths and Coles is welcome, I feel that we can further develop this into an overarching ban on single use plastics. I see so much unnecessary plastic packing on our food and also other goods that could either go without or use a more sustainable type of packaging.

As a household, we try to do our part by recycling what we can in our council bins and also taking soft plastics to our local Woolworths to place in the Red Cycle bins. We have a worm farm and a compost bin for the majority of our food waste and we try to reduce our other waste as much as we can. We are continually looking at ways to further reduce and even eliminate waste as well.

Everyone needs to do their part. If everyone saw that they have a role in keeping our planet safe for future generations, we would see the sun rise of this amazing place we all call home for many, many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Maung

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