

**From:** Gabrielle Gautier <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 May 2019 8:56 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Sustainable Future

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

With regard to Victoria's waste crisis the following should be adopted as a matter of urgency:

1. Create the means for all households and commercial businesses , supermarkets and restaurants to separate organic/compostables from the rest of their waste. Ie households could use their garden waste bins, commercial businesses could be supplied with compost bins, small compost bins for apartments with a main collection bin for each apartment block. The resultant compost should then be used in the most cost effective way ie used on all parks and gardens, schools, and given back to the public (byo containers).
2. All unnecessary single use plastic should be banned - including plastics bags (both thin and thick), packaging on fruit and veg. Disposable cutlery and plates. Balloons.
3. All manufacturers and importers of goods wrapped in plastic should be charged a tax to cover the cost of the plastic disposal/recycling. This includes companies like Amazon who provide goods wrapped in layers of additional packaging.
4. Introduce a container deposit scheme for all plastic & glass bottles and cans.
5. Households should further separate their recyclables to improve recycling capabilities ie paper from plastics and glass.
6. The recycling number system needs to be standardised across all products and be made more prominent - by law in order to make it easier to identify what can and cannot be recycled.
7. Producers should be encouraged to standardise and simplify their packaging.
8. Ban plastic stickers on fruit and veg.
9. Ban wrapping of bags in plastic at airports.
10. Increase tax on plastic products like plastic wrap, containers
11. Phase out single use plastic water bottles - only reusable plastic bottles are acceptable.
12. Introduce water fountains into metro shopping areas and parks - to refill water bottles.
13. Some waste collectors are extremely sloppy with the transfer of recyclables into their trucks. They should be made accountable for the waste they leave scattered along curb sides.

For the past 2 years I have been composting - thereby reducing my waste bin by more than 50%. In addition I avoid using plastics - preferring to buy in bulk through stores which offer refill facilities (eg the Source). I use reusable bags for fruit and veg, and take containers to the butchers to purchase meat. I use beeswax wraps rather than plastic wrap, and bar soap rather than shampoo or soap in bottles. This process was very easy and no hardship to achieve. An educational program encouraging and advising all Victorians of sustainable options - and how to avoid purchasing over packaged products would be an excellent idea. An advertising drive aimed at making people feel encouraged to reduce waste and responsible for their waste.

Rather than spending millions in recycling we should be investing in ways to reduce packaging. Stopping the unsustainable consumption of useless plastics.

It is heartbreaking to witness on a daily basis our streets, parks, beaches and waterways littered with plastic waste.

-- Gabrielle Gautier

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