

From: Charlene Sohn <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2019 2:15 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: We must take action NOW

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

I am gravely concerned about the future of the planet and quality of life for future generations.

My five year old daughter cannot understand why there is so much litter everywhere and is genuinely concerned about it harming the wildlife. I have no good answer for her as it is all so unnecessary.

We often pick up rubbish we find and have even conducted a street clean up with our neighbours, but there is just too much! Within five minutes of collecting litter on our street all of our containers were full. We ended up filling two rubbish bins from just our street. Sadly, it was only a matter of days before the rubbish had returned to the street as people continue to litter and waste blows out of rubbish bins.

The waste crisis is having a devastating impact, not just locally but on the entire planet.

It is heartbreaking to see the mountains of rubbish in landfills. Animals dying because their stomachs are so full of plastic they cannot eat. The enormous amount of plastic that pollutes the oceans. The microplastics we are now consuming as they have become part of the food chain.

We must take action now!

I urge Victoria to take action and become the leader in waste reduction.

Specifically, I would like to see the Victorian Government institute the following:

- 1) A complete ban on single use plastics. They are just not necessary, there are so many alternatives to single use plastics.
- 2) Large-scale composting. Up to 50% (or more) of household waste is compostable. When this is dumped into the landfill it does not get enough air and therefore decomposes anaerobically producing methane. Properly composting this waste will greatly reduce methane emissions. Many cities around the world are now doing this.
- 3) A container deposit scheme. This will encourage recycling and reduce litter. With the exception of Tasmania, every other state and territory have or will soon have a container deposit scheme. South Australia implemented this in 1977! Why is Victoria lagging behind?
- 4) Invest in a Victorian recycling industry. Offer grants and tax breaks for the recycling industry. Recycling and reselling products here in Victoria will create jobs, have a positive impact on the environment, and reduce the need to have it shipped elsewhere.

Let's implement change and put an end to this devastating crisis that is wreaking havoc on the environment as well as our health and well-being. Let's improve the future for our children and generations to come.

-- Charlene Sohn

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