

From: Judy Routt <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2019 7:13 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Waste and recycling in Victoria

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hi there. I'm very concerned about the final destination of our waste from the recycling bins. There's only so much we, as householders, can do. We can try to use fewer plastics in favour of glass or metal, but as everything is currently going into the one recycling bin, destined for who knows where, that doesn't seem to be a solution. My suggestions are as follows: householders have more recycling bins that are collected separately. Glass/metal in one. Paper in another, Plastics in a final bin. I know that's more work, more garbos on the road, but I think we need to make it easier for the end recipients of our waste to sort and process. I've just read about our near neighbours in Vietnam and the Phillipines sorting plastics from faeces and diapers. Ugh! We shouldn't be shipping rubbish that isn't as sorted and cleaned as we can make it. We probably need laws in place to prevent that type of thing from recurring if industry isn't taking responsibility. The container deposit scheme in SA seems to work well - money for cleaned containers can come from the manufacturers and would encourage us - or scouts, or penny-pinching pensioners - to clean up our act in return for pocket change. We can decrease the amount of plastics in bins by banning single use plastics, and putting the onus on manufacturers to create packaging that is simple to recycle, with few dyes, easy-remove labels and single-substance. And we should then have our own recycling plants. By cleaning up our rubbish through these various initiatives we should make it more viable for such plants to be sustainable. And that's jobs, right? A final quick note on plastic bags. It's great to use re-usable shopping bags - that seems to be working well as a system for many people. Now what about produce bags? Bags to put your fruit and veg in. Paper isn't the best solution, and those oxy-degradable bags supermarkets are starting to use still break down to become microplastics. What about cornstarch, compostable bags? I'm switching to those, as much as is possible. You could encourage local councils, local markets, supermarkets to do the same. Thanks for reading. I hope you come up with some terrific solutions for us! ^_^

-- Judy Routt

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