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From: Marina Oliphant <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Saturday, 4 May 2019 8:17 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Invest in incentives for businesses and retail suppliers to reduce their plastic use.

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

We need to invest in Australia-based plastics recycling plants. We can no longer expect China to accept our contaminated waste. Recycling is only part of the solution. Production of single-use plastics must be reduced and controlled. We need incentives for businesses and corporations to reduce their reliance on plastic packaging. Incentives for supermarkets to provide bulk-shopping options (large tubs/containers of certain products, for example: vats of commonly used products like dishwashing liquid, shampoo, even milk, the possibilities are endless; for suppliers to fill and customers to bring their own refillable containers to collect, charging the product by weight or poring time). I believe that "refill" supermarkets are the way of the future, and will soon be our only option. Monetary incentives/grants for supermarkets and product suppliers to launch small "re-fill concept stores", or designated areas within stores, with re-fill options for a range of selected commonly-used items , would be a great start, and a way to increase awareness. The big supermarkets could use this as a fantastic marketing opportunity. We also need government advertising/awareness campaigns encouraging consumers to reduce their reliance on plastic packaging (ie, choosing paper-packaged soap bars rather than plastic bottles of body wash, meat wrapped in paper from the butcher, rather than meat in plastic trays from the supermarket). The public need to be re-educated that putting out their recycling bin is no longer helping the environment or cancelling the impact of their plastic use.

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