

[REDACTED]

From: Susan Langridge <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Saturday, 4 May 2019 9:37 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Recycling Matters

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

I can understand why the Chinese no longer want our contaminated recyclables. I was annoyed that the architects of the contract, seemed to think that Australians would be too lazy to wash their containers, thus making the recovery of the plastic undesirable and posing a health hazard for the Chinese workers. I have stopped buying certain products because I can't be sure the plastic packaging won't end up in landfill.

To solve this crisis we must stop expecting we can export our rubbish elsewhere and deal with it in Australia. 1. We must put the onus on supermarkets to stop providing produce in convenient plastic packaging. Perhaps they can pay a tax to assist with recycling? I know they package their food in these containers because it makes it easy to transport, but the consumer is left with having to deal with plastic which probably ends up in a local landfill!
2. The plastic tax should then be diverted to building, supporting a local recycling plant. I understand there is existing technology that allows for plastic to be used as a road surface. Why aren't we doing this here?
3. Why don't we have a container tax in Victoria? I grew up in Adelaide in the 70's and remember having eyes peeled for a discarded can or a bottle that I could take to my local shop, to exchange for 5 cents. The bottles were hard to find. Contrast that with our rivers lined with bobbing bottles.

Why can't we be innovative? I'm sick of hearing stories of how the Dutch or the Japanese have excellent recycling programs. We are portrayed as being too stupid and lazy to be innovative in this area, but it is our leaders who let us down. Please Stop thinking our big beautiful country is so big we can keep dumping. We should be acting as if we have limited space and start recycling it here. But better still don't buy it in the first place.

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