

**From:** Simone Pearson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 May 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Recycling inquiry

1. Is it the responsibility of the Victorian government to establish and maintain a coherent, efficient and environmentally responsible approach to solid waste management across the state, including assistance to local councils; Yes
2. Whether the China National Sword policy was anticipated and responded to properly; No- warning was given but little was done in preparation apart from hoping another country would take our rubbish. China or another country taking our rubbish was not and will never be a sustainable solution.
3. Identifying short and long-term solutions to the recycling and waste management system crisis;

-Community education: some of the Sustainability Fund should be used to develop and deliver education campaigns focused on informing waste-wise decisions, reducing waste, reusing, re-purposing, repairing and correct recycling.

-Container deposit scheme- Victoria is 20 years behind SA in this. Victoria could be forerunners in innovation and set it up to include refillable bottles as well as recyclables. But starting with plastic recyclables is a sensible start, and we should stop wasting time thinking about it.

-Use the Sustainability Fund to support businesses to revolutionise reusable packaging eg. refillable bottles – milks (dairy and plant-based), soft drink etc. (30 years ago this was how it was done – it's coming back, but there is a cost to establish the infrastructure)

-Waste to Energy – Don't incinerate our recycling

-Focus on reducing waste – emphasis on reuse and repair before recycling. Use the Sustainability fund to support repair initiatives including training programs for skill development and subsidising repairs to reduce landfill.

-Encourage or subsidise the use of local recycled material – importing recycled resin (because it's cheaper) might make a product sound good because it has recycled material, but it doesn't help our local recycling crisis.

-Support councils, hospitality, schools and community groups to compost and better manage food waste.

-Mandate that all business, schools, organisations etc. are required to have recycling service. The sustainability fund should also support education and implementation of recycling infrastructure in these organisations.

Thank you  
Simone Fitzgerald