

**From:** Nicole Foote-Lenoir <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 May 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** We must take responsibility for the mess we make. We can do it.

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

How the waste and recycling crisis has impacted me is that I don't feel confident in any of our waste or recycling systems. It depresses me that the work I do to make sure I to collect and separate recyclables doesn't translate to real sustainable outcomes.

This in turn depresses me that there is no infrastructure to deal with our own waste. It frustrates me that we have no state controlled systems to take responsibility of the waste we create. It depresses me there is nothing I can do on a practical day to day level to help make our state more sustainable for my children. Melbourne has a vibrant cafe and restaurant scene and I live near some of them. I see the large amount of waste and recycling that needs to be processed from them. We have great sporting events - this also produces a lot of waste that needs to be collected and could be recycled.

I believe that we should be responsible for the mess we make. We need a system that sustainably deals with our own waste. I am 100% behind

- Investing in a Victorian recycling industry
  - Establishing a 10c refund on bottles and cans
  - Banning unnecessary single-use plastics
- We need to start making these changes. Setting up sustainable waste systems is paramount for everyone's future.

There are also new industries that can be created. There are new processes and technology that can create new products out of recycled plastics. We need Policy at the top to create these systems for a more sustainable, cleaner Victoria. Investment in new industries that can create products out of our waste. Policy, infrastructure, investment in new sustainable systems and industries. This can only enhance Victoria's reputation as worlds most liveable city - this could create jobs and state productivity. This would make me feel more hopeful for our future, less depressed, less frustrated and more committed to our future and hopeful for our children.

The Northern Territory has successfully banned plastic bags and introduced refunds on cans and bottles .

South Australia has a very successful bottle and can recycling system.

Why can't Victoria?

-- Nicole Foote-Lenoir

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