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**From:** Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 May 2019 10:38 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Ms Anne Laver  
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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Dear Committee Members

I wish to make a submission on the Waste Management inquiry

I am a member of the community who has long been concerned about this issue and offer the following statements which I wish you to please consider

The Recycling and Waste Management issue has become a serious problem in Australia including Victoria. This is in part because of China's refusal to take our waste but also

- 1) because manufacturers are increasing packaging and more waste
- 2) Because of the huge increase in tips fees and the waste management levy charged by the Dept of Environment to Council which is passed onto the consumer
- 3) Because of the lack of Container scheme in Victoria
- 4) Because of rogue operators who refuse to dispose of waste and chemicals correctly which in part has been allowed to proliferate because the requirements to register are not mandatory and there is little oversight and enforcement
- 5) The EPA and Dept of Environment lack the drive, skills, accountability and resources to create and state-wide programme . The Dept of Environment have over \$551K in the Sustainability Fund which is largely unallocated . The Auditor General has already investigated the Dept and produced a scathing report on this topic and the Dept's handling of Waste Management in Victoria
- 6) Due to the lack of finances and profitability many businesses are unwilling to create a recycling business - If the technical knowledge and skills were in Australia many more companies would start up
- 7) I feel that indeed the responsibility lies with 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.
- 8) Australia should not merely pass their waste onto other countries and this is merely shifting the problem and causing more world wide climate effects.
- 9) The decision by China was announced a long time ago and no government in Australia has taken no sufficient action to address this and took no major steps when the decision was made except to increase the waste levies

- 10) I believe a plastics /packaging tax should be implemented and a ban on single plastic bags - it is not right that manufacturers produce more waste and pass the cost onto the consumer and councils
- 11) Australia lacks knowledge in recycling, Victoria/Australia would do well to import this knowledge from Germany, Norway and other countries
- 12) The decision to create a waste to energy plant in Victoria may be a good idea but how can one be assured that only recycled materials will be used and not landfill ? Also I am concerned about the number of trucks which will be travelling to the centre - this will cause significant more levels of carbon monoxide and road congestion
- 13) As I have stated in my previous submission to the Dept of Sustainability there should be both a carrot and stick approach for both businesses and consumers in getting rid of waste. I believe there should be financial help to businesses to start up and bonuses for all who recycle or dispose of waste properly . Those who don't should be severely fined or goaled . There should be mandatory targets and timeframes set to recycle ie SKM stored waste for long periods. The Chemical waste operators who illegally stored chemicals are allowed to do so because the licenses are voluntary and there is little oversight . I feel all warehouse owners and leaseholders must be required to pay for a license and be inspected without warning . The owners of the warehouses are equally responsible for not undertaking due diligence and keeping records .
- 14) Most consumers do the right thing and try very hard to recycle well and indeed some councils now offer composting waste management which people welcome. However, some consumers dump rubbish because they have no way of taking rubbish to the tip and because the cost of tip fees is high . Eg: Taking a single mattress to the tip requires a ute or truck and costs in excess of \$30 to dispose of. In this age of more people cycling and owning less cars it is hard to get to the tip and therefore the hard rubbish service offered by many councils is most welcome. However, Some operators who have the contract for disposing of hard waste - send it all straight to land fill when most of it is perfectly fine to recycle. Because of the high waste management levy councils are forced to adopt high prices and are reducing services
- 15) Education of how to recycle needs to be expanded greatly as it is most confusing . I suggest a hotline and website to have queries answered. Many migrant people and those who do not speak English need help with recycling as they do not understand the effects  
Council try to inform but there are still many items which need clarification  
Companies that do sort the rubbish tell us that a lot of items are too small for their machines so cannot be recycled or are bundled with non-recycled items and cannot be separated.  
Perhaps we need more sophisticated machines ?  
I feel we need to import more skills and knowledge from overseas.
- 16) The most important thing is for Waste Management to work is for the State and Federal Govts to be firmly committed - I do not see that commitment and feel they are just holding inquiries to quell community concerns to show they are doing something.  
There needs serious action because as recent events have shown both the community and health of the environment is suffering.

I plead with you to please take this inquiry seriously and make recommendations on all your points  
As stated in your outline the inquiry must address :

All States and the Federal Govt must identifying short and long-term solutions to the recycling and waste management system crisis, taking into account:  
the need to avoid dangerous stockpiling and ensure recyclable waste is actually being recycle  
the cleaning and sorting capabilities and the processing capabilities in Victoria and the potential to expand the local recycling industry  
how to better enable the use of recycled materials in local manufacturing;  
the existing business model and economic challenges facing the existing industry;  
the quantifiable benefits, including job creation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, of pursuing elements of a circular economy in Victoria; and using the existing Sustainability Fund to fund solutions to the waste crisis;

strategies to reduce waste generation and better manage all waste such as soft plastics, compostable paper and pulp, and commercial waste, including, but not limited to:

product stewardship;

container deposit schemes;

banning single-use plastics;

government procurement policies

relevant reviews, inquiries and reports into the waste and recycling industry in other Australian jurisdictions and internationally;

Thank you for allowing me to make a submission

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File1:

File2:

File3: