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From: Jackie yowell <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Sunday, 5 May 2019 3:13 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Victoria should be a leader, not a lagger, in sustainability of waste disposal

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

My earlier submission today went with only my name and address. I did not realise the space was also for the words of the submission. So I would like to add these now, below.

As a citizen of Australia and a long-term resident of Victoria, while there is much to be admired about living in this state, our governments' lack of serious action on sustainability of waste disposal is hugely disappointing. It has now reached a critical state. Residents have little faith that their efforts at recycling are doing any good, as must even the best councils.

As fast as we recycle, products arrive on the market in more and more packaging, with more confusion for the householder to know how to deal with it responsibly. We read of irresponsible dumping of waste that endangers communities and their health. More and more cheaper goods, and more marketing to consumers leads to them not bothering to repair anything and more waste still.

The most obvious incentives and disincentives not to pollute are not being applied, like deposits on returnables. And as for the so-called Packaging Covenant, use of all plastic, not just single-use bags is rampant in supermarkets, and other stores.

We voters can only conclude the government is in thrall to producers. If we had policies in place on extended producer responsibility, as well as expecting consumers to do their bit responsibly on recycling, and worked towards a circular economy, we would be on the way to a sustainable system, and therefore a fairer future for the environment and the next generation.

Victoria is a progressive state. We should be leading the way, yet we actually lag behind action taken in other states. Not to mention great progress being made in other nations of the OECD, especially on steps towards a circular economy. Let's see what we can all do together - producers, consumers, government on this issue that affects all our lives and the places we live in and love.

Jackie Yowell

-- Jackie yowell
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