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**From:** Ross Headifen <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 May 2019 8:20 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Waste and Recycling Inquiry

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The failing of the Waste and Recycling management in Victoria is astonishing to say the least. To say that the Chinese sword was not anticipated is misleading the public. It was known about well in advance. They gave quite a long warning time. Yet the, manufacturing sector, waste industry and successive governments did very little about it. This would be classed as gross incompetence on a state wide scale. To simply let our waste be exported to developing nations and let the public believe Australia was recycling it waste is a terrible cover up that has been portrayed for years. We have been supporting some extremely appalling working conditions in those countries. Conditions that no one in Australia, would ever work in. Australia should have been working on it own waste and recycling systems with in the country to produce goods and services rather than put it on a boat and turn a blind eye. The state and Fed government (s) have been negligent in their responsibility to stop this and should have been providing incentives years ago for industry here to deal with our own waste. Had that been done, industry would have adapted to manage our waste here. Not only would this have generated jobs and infrastructure with in Australia, but we would be operating at a more sustainable level now with using products made from recycled plastic content. It would have also resulted in less pollution of this material ending up in rivers and waters around Australia.

Therefore now we have this huge problem and are sending tons and tons of what we call 'waste' to landfills in order to not stock pile it. This is not a solution and govts should be ashamed of themselves for letting this happen. Now we will have this problem for several more years till a true recycling or remanufacturing industry can be created and now it will cost the tax payers a lot more due to the urgency to solve this problem. The importing and manufacturing industries have to be involved to get them to partially pay the price to get the waste from their products dealt with in a responsible manner. They have had a free ride for far too long. It is their waste that is causing this problem.

Plastic waste is a very difficult particular problem and industry needs to be incentivised to seek using alternate materials where possible or pay a 'plastics tax' fee to help manage the waste from these products.

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