

**From:** Margaret Green <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 May 2019 9:22 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Adopt the Municipal Association of Australia Action Plan

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Dear Minister D'Ambrosio,

My name is Sophie Green and I'm gravely concerned about the impact the current system of overconsumption and waste management is having on the environment and community. I'm writing today to urge the Victorian Government to transition our state to a new waste and resource recovery model that builds local markets and industry, engages the community and promotes sustainable consumption.

The overall goal is to move Victoria to a circular economy and the action plan below provides detail on how this can be achieved. This is aligned to the Municipal Association of Victoria's Action Plan Rescue our Recycling.

**Action 1: Invest in recycling infrastructure** Commit greater quantities of Sustainability Fund money to bolster sorting and processing capability in Victoria. We urgently need more capacity in our materials recovery facilities across the state.

**Action 2: Fund and support market development** Commit greater quantities of Sustainability Fund money to drive demand for recycled content. Support research and development to increase uptake of new uses for recycled materials. Set mandatory procurement targets for Australian recycled material by government agencies. Incentivise procurement of Australian recycled content by others. Support the MAV to develop procurement options for councils.

**Action 3: Introduce a container deposit scheme** Commit to introducing container deposit legislation into parliament this year and work with the MAV and councils to ensure it achieves the best outcomes for the community. Victoria and Tasmania are the only Australian states yet to commit to a scheme.

**Action 4: Bolster community education**

Commit greater quantities of Sustainability Fund money to develop and deliver a consistent state-wide community education campaign focused on:

- making waste-wise decisions
- putting pressure on producers to reduce waste
- what can and can't go into recycling and the costs of getting it wrong.

The education campaign should use the channels that most effectively reach the community and apply learnings from other successful government campaigns.

**Action 5: Strengthen industry oversight / regulation** Recycling is considered an essential service by most, yet the few large operators we have in Victoria operate under a veil of secrecy. The State must improve transparency and accountability within the industry. Access to robust and credible data on market conditions, and costs and revenue within the recycling sector is essential to achieve best value for the community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my say and I look forward to receiving information on the outcomes of the inquiry.

Cheers Sophie

-- Margaret Green  
[REDACTED]



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