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**From:** Philippa Harrison <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 May 2019 8:51 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** We can do better with waste

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

I believe that we should be supporting the development of a sustainable waste industry by making sure that government are required in their own procurement to prioritise local recycled products. For example, new road surfacing using recycled products will encourage the adoption of these materials, by local council and Vic Roads contractors.

I cannot understand how Victoria has not yet adopted bottle and glass deposit legislation like other states. These products have become ubiquitous in the litter alongside roads and in waterways and the ocean. Deposit legislation will put a value on the waste and encourage better collection rates. We could learn from the best practices of some European countries where sorting and return are stream-lined.

Maintaining access to potable water in public places would also benefit the environment. Unlike in years past, it is often difficult to find drinking fountains/taps in public places eg train stations and shopping strips or parks. Having better access would reduce the reliance on single use plastic water bottles.

Banning single use plastics and better consumer legislation around wasteful and unnecessary packaging would be a step in the right direction. Styrofoam is a particularly bad packaging as it doesn't recycle and must go to land fill. Subsidies and research grants for developing alternatives, should be prioritised. Alongside the adoption of actual levies on importers/ manufacturers/ retailers who use plastics in packaging. Alternatives exist and it is up to us all to find a better way - to reduce our consumption of plastics, and to ensure there is appropriate local recovery and recycling of the waste stream.

-- Philippa Harrison  
[REDACTED]

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