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**From:** Wendy brand <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 May 2019 7:27 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** A golden opportunity to begin to manage our responsibilities properly

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

I believe we live in a time of great transition and therefore great opportunity. It is very difficult for individuals to act in a way that can have as dramatic an impact as governments can achieve by introducing systematic best practice change. It is the appropriate time for us to step up and engage the leading thinkers and researchers in the fields of recycling and waste. It is a time for big ideas and bold solutions.

Now is the time to dramatically reshape and grow our recycling industry so the materials we collect here can be remade and resold right here in Victoria.

We need to look at our use of disposable plastics, most of which doesn't get recycled and ends up as landfill in our waterways and oceans.

We can introduce 10c refunds on bottles and cans and large-scale composting to divert food waste from landfill.

We need to use the concept of cradle to cradle product design. The concept has been around now for decades. It is timeless, it is imperative, and it's time now that we act on it. It is just common sense, and we have, as they say, no Planet B. Let's not be the lesser narcissistic selves we have been. Let's be the best we can be, that is the only way that our beautiful Planet A will continue to reciprocate and be there for us too with equally healthy support. The systems need to be put in place, and the incredibly strong groundswell of public support will rapidly fall in behind it.

-- Wendy brand

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