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From: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 May 2019 10:16 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Mr Stephen Koci
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I write as a Victorian citizen, taxpayer and voter to make a submission in response to the inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management. I would like it noted that I don't work in any way in the recycling or waste industry and have no vested interests in the sector in any way.

I make this submission after being shocked, very upset and angry about what has happening and continues to happen with waste, I write to state I now have no faith or trust in this industry and I think what is happening all over Australia and is a total and utter disgrace. The system is a fraud and Australians have been deceived and misled by waste operators, councils and state governments and their bodies.

Regarding the China National Sword policy, I believe Victorian were lied and misled about that our waste even being exported to China, does it not undermine all recycling when what is saved by recycling products in energy and resources is lost in shipping costs and the fuel/greenhouse gases generated to ship this waste?

The real risk is that Victorians will lose all faith in recycling and waste and just put everything in their rubbish bins.

Really from what I see there is no recycling or very limited recycling or that is what it seems to me, it seem to be just smoke and mirrors and a pack of lies, most if not all of it just ends up in landfill, even if the figure of 50% being recycled is correct it is a total and utter disgrace and the industry is guilty of misdealing and deceiving Australians. It also sounds like no glass is being recycled at all? What the hell is that? Why did it take 4 corners/The war of waste to tell us the truth?

We need more than bad environmental/waste plans like allowing Australian Paper to burn our waste as they want to do in Gippsland. This may solve one problem being the waste but it will just generate another being adding to global warming as with shipping recycling to China, one cancels out the other. I call on the inquiry to oppose this stupid idea of burning waste/recycling. I live in Gippsland and we deserve better than being a rubbish dump for Melbourne. China said NO to our waste/recycling and concerned residents in Gippsland like me and my family say No.

Is there not a better way? Like using plastic waste to be turned into furniture and roads?

I note that Redcycle/Replas use soft plastics to make furniture and other products right here in Victoria.

I also note that the Melbourne business, close the lop is using rubbish to build roads.

There is also a company called Fibrecycle that use recycled paper to make cat litter in Queensland, they may set up a factory in Victoria with government assistance/support? Why not ask them?

I would not place Australian Paper in the same boat as they may make recycled paper they also make paper out of old growth and native forest, so what they gain through recycling they lose through native forest logging. If Australian Paper deserve any support they need to make an undertaking that they will transition out of native forests. One of Australian Papers largest customer Officeworks and their owner Wesfarmers are demanding by demanding recycled paper or for VicForests that supply wood to Australian Paper meet the strict FSE certification why can't the state government/this inquiry recommend the government do the same?

Please check out the below link:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-17/vic-forestry-industry-at-risk-of-collapse/10255128?pfmredir=sm>

These are just the companies I know about there may be more and these companies don't need to be set up, they are operating now.

I would request that the inquires members go out and visit these companies and talk to them about what can be done to support these companies to expand and grow.

We use the cat litter at the moment for our cat and plan to buy some benches from Repals and we would not hesitate to pay extra to support Victorian industries and Victorian workers but if they get enough support they may be even cheaper than similar products.

The above business should be supported by strict government procurement policies at a state and local government level to ensure all seating and other products and all roads or made by the above companies or similar business's that are not just based in Victoria but manufacture in Victoria. I would also support low interest or no interest loans or money from the sustainability fund being used to support these companies and other similar companies to expand their products or their factories and generate jobs for Victorians. What a great story that could be?

At the moment, we can only buy Repals products from the factory or on Ebay, what about getting Bunnings/Mite 10 etc to stock the products, more sales = lower costs so the products can begin to match other products on cost etc. We may even be able to export them one day? From my experience Westfarmers is a progressive company that I think would jump at the chance to support Replas for example especially if the Victorian government is supporting these companies in that request. You could even use the sustainability fund to subsidise the cost of these products at Bunnings or similar business like the government does with solar panels to make them more competitive, even just for a couple of years may be enough until they get traction.

We should be able to recycle soft plastics through our recycling bins, make them a one stop shop for recycling.

We need to have better labelling on products so Victorians know what can and can't recycle and we should have big facilities around the state that can recycle all products with State government approved labels on them not just some of the products.

We need strong laws around if a company collects recycling that they actually recycle it, it is basically fraud

for companies to say they recycle when it goes to land fill. This should be backed by strong laws and a properly resourced EPA or similar department that must include unannounced visits to do site inspections including interviewing staff at these sites every very year or more often.

I would like to see prison terms for directors and massive fines for companies that don't do what they say, but rules are only as good as there enforcement, so we need enforcement by the States that is not happening. Fines in themselves is not good enough as companies just go into liquidation they must include jail terms. We as a family we took recycling very seriously and put as much as possible in the bins from the council and recycled our soft plastics and we are so angry and disillusioned in an industry that is rotten to it's core, we are nearly ready give up. Everyone involved in this fraud and deceit should hang their heads in shame. We need more than another inquiry we need actions and long term thinking and we don't just have to expand infrastructure, we need operators to use and pay for the infrastructure and we need a total ban on exporting waste to other countries or interstate where we lose track of what is really going on with it.

Please listen and do something please as Victorians and really all of Australia deserve more and I think the involvement of the Australian government and all the States working on joint ideas and labelling would be great, consistence is the key, as guess what we are one Country.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Koci



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File1:

File2:

File3: