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**From:** Ashleigh Peplow Ball <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 May 2019 1:05 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Introduce a circular economy in Victoria

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Victoria's recycling system is broken but, with the right policy leadership and investment, it can be saved and strengthened. Unsustainable levels of waste generation and market failure must be addressed.

I believe that we require a strategy in Victoria to create a circular economy - it needs to be about a lot more than just recycling - but reducing and reusing as much as we can across the system. Strong recycling processes are apart of allowing the reusing to occur, as it will provide important materials that can be re purposed.

I have drawn upon MAV's recommendations for improved recycling to suggest five actions that the Victorian parliament should consider.

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.

Action 3: Introduce a container deposit scheme - Commit to introducing container deposit legislation into parliament this year. Victoria and Tasmania are the only Australian states yet to commit to a scheme.

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 the consideration of my submission, I look forward to hearing the positive outcome.

-- Ashleigh Peplow Ball  
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I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.