

Christina Smith

From: Ramona Headifen <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 2:03 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Waste and Recycling

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

As an individual I am very concerned about the plastic that is choking our oceans, our waterways, our planet and the harm being caused to innocent marine life and seabirds. I have been a volunteer with 3207 BeachPatrol since 2011, helping to pick up rubbish from our beaches and with 3207 LoveOurStreet since its inception in 2017 to do same from our roadsides, parks and urban spaces. It is endless work. Plastic pollution is a completely human caused problem; therefore is our responsibility to fix it before it is too late.

Some solutions:

Ban single use plastic (all types). We have become a 'throw away' society, using some items for an average of 10 minutes or less and then 'disposing' of them to landfill to last for hundreds of years or discarding as litter which causes harm to other creatures with whom we share Earth. We lived well without single use /take away plastic items (cutlery, containers, straws etc) and can do so again. Make reusable the new norm/fashion. This would reduce the amount of plastic in the waste/recycle stream.


Establish a CDS, Container Deposit Scheme, a 10c refund on bottles and cans.

The excuse of 'waiting to see how it goes in other states' is getting old. We need action now and we know CDS works. It works in other states and other countries. Victoria is not that unique when it comes to this situation.

Invest in a Victorian recycling industry. This will create jobs! The waste we create in Victoria should stay in Victoria, not be exported offshore for some other country and other people to deal with, often under adverse conditions. Encourage by giving incentives for purchasing recycled content products, creating a circular economy.

Now is our opportunity to reduce our use of plastic, and reshape and grow our recycling industry so the materials we collect here can be remade and resold right here in Victoria.

Thank you

-- Ramona Headifen


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