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From: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management [REDACTED]
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To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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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.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has launched a Rescue Our Recycling Action Plan, which sets out five key actions. I recommend that the Victorian Government draw on the actions below to address this issue:

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. Support the MAV to develop procurement options for councils.

Action 3: Introduce a container deposit scheme

Commit to introducing container deposit legislation into parliament this year and work with the MAV and councils to ensure it achieves the best outcomes for the community. Victoria and Tasmania are the only Australian states yet to commit to a scheme.

Action 4: Bolster community education

Commit greater quantities of Sustainability Fund money to develop and deliver a consistent state-wide community education campaign focused on:

- making waste-wise decisions
- putting pressure on producers to reduce waste
- what can and can't go into recycling and the costs of getting it wrong.

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 your consideration.

Haylea

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File1:

File2:

File3: