

From: Alexandria Marsh <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 8:14 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Reduce then recycle

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

We need to act now and to drastically change our behaviour. First and foremost we should reduce the packaging and items that we can and then, for those that we absolutely "need" we should have stronger recycling policies and programs. I believe that we should:

Regulate / ban production and importation of hard-to-recycle materials, including single use plastics.

Strengthen the National Waste Policy

In partnership with state and territory ministers, adopt an action plan for the National Waste Policy that includes firm and ambitious targets and timelines that fast-track our transition to a circular economy.

Tackle consumer packaging

In partnership with state and territory ministers, review the National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011 to impose mandatory participation and binding obligations across the consumer packaging chain. As an interim measure, clarify obligations on industry so that it's easier to hold them to account.

Mandate product stewardship

Introduce mandatory product stewardship for all products that generate waste. Put clear and binding targets within the Product Stewardship Act to drive action by industry. This approach would align with the polluter-pays principle, incentivising designers and producers to take responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products.

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.

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.

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.

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.

-- Alexandria Marsh

I wish to remain confidential.