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From: Gabrielle Hogan <web@greens.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 11:45 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: an opportunity for innovation

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

While Victoria's recycling system might be a bit broken, with the right policy leadership and investment, it can be saved and even strengthened.

The Victorian government should be using the shift in policy from China as an opportunity to address our own unsustainable level of waste generation and market failure. This is an opportunity to be innovative rather than shifting the problem elsewhere, and creating/supporting a circular economy will go a significant way to achieving that.

Drawing on the MAV's recommendations for recycling, I suggest the Victorian Government should focus its efforts on:

- investing in recycling infrastructure including cleaning, sorting and processing facilities
- funding and supporting market development – including R&D and incentives to procure recycled content.
- Strengthening regulation/oversight of the recycling industry to improve industry transparency and accountability in delivering an essential community service -community education

It's clear that urgent action is needed by all levels of government together with the Waste and Resource Recovery Boards, industry, business and individual consumers. Each partner has a clear role to play. Actions should be prioritised that will reduce the amount of waste generated, strengthen our capacity for onshore processing and create new markets for recycled material. All governments must use their purchasing power to drive demand for recycled content and Victoria has an opportunity to lead the way on many of these fronts.

The strategic recycling industry plan released by the Vic government last year provides a solid foundation for reform, however momentum must continue to ensure a sustainable solution to waste management.

In my house we are trying to do our bit by making significant efforts to reduce our consumption, reuse where possible, and recycle if we have to – I just hope this is not all done in vain and the government provides the appropriate mechanisms and supports so that these individual behaviours are retained.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this really important conversation and I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the Inquiry

-- Gabrielle Hogan
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