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**From:** Rebecca Thompson <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 May 2019 10:17 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Opportunity

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Our city and our state is struggling to cope with our current waste problem. I am extremely concerned that if the right measures are not put in place now, we have no hope of sustaining our rapidly increasing population growth.

We are currently over reliant on other countries to accept our waste. China's sudden restrictions to our waste exports was almost 18 months ago now, yet little has been done to source sustainable recycling options onshore. Instead we have looked to alternative markets. We continue to be reactive to a problem that is only getting worse. With China tightening their standards on waste imports, it is inevitable that alternative markets will soon stop or restrict waste. It is time to be proactive.

Investing in onshore recycling infrastructure presents an opportunity to increase jobs in regional communities, as well as has the potential to open a new industry in Victoria/Australia.

Victorians have shown a change in behavior and now more than ever people are conscious of the waste they are sending to landfill. It is disheartening to see that despite efforts at an individual level, our recycling often ends up in landfill.

It is disappointing that Victoria is now just one of two states in Australia that does not have any sort of collection deposit scheme. Victoria is progressive on many issues yet we are years behind the other states with respect to a collection deposit scheme.

On a recent trip to Adelaide, I was impressed by the clean streets. You can't walk down the street more than 5 meters in Melbourne without seeing a plastic bottle discarded. Bins are overflowing with bottles. As you move out to the suburbs, there are areas with almost 100 bottles discarded in a small space. A collection deposit scheme would be fundamental in fixing this problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to have my say and I hope that it counts.

-- Rebecca Thompson  
[REDACTED]

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