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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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This is written in the hope and some expectation that the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management will look beyond the solid waste identified in its Terms of Reference to consider recently re-exposed issues with liquid waste storage, transport and fires.

This Inquiry needs to strongly cross reference the Emergency Management Review underway during 2019 because the current regime which flowed directly from the Black Saturday–focused Bushfires Royal Commission has served other kinds of emergency poorly.

If government wishes to regain relevance, it must move from reactive to proactive, from encouraging profit focused business to nudge policy in directions that are mostly to do with their own wish to keep doing and growing what they are already doing, to becoming an active participant in collaboratively developing a fit for purpose model.

That model must impose full accounting of externalities, so that those who have been benefitting from mishandling packaging, single/short lifespan products, and incidental waste are made responsible for their whole of lifecycle costs.

There are clearly technical challenges in resolving conflicting purposes, such as where the fire-retardant benefits of asbestos and PFAS have been obliterated by their carcinogenic risks. Most proximately the reflexive use of as much water as needed to put out chemical fires has had devastating effects on waterways far down stream, especially coming from older roads and industrial premises where no provision has been made for spill and run off containment. An aggressive retrofitting policy is needed for both, and for now well understood stormwater capture and treatment.

We need both proactively and reactively a response capacity to waste transgression with respect to property rights that is at least as strong as the response to hoon and drunk drivers.

And we need the landfill slush fund to be made available both for emergency clean ups of surrendered property and to drive the development of a fit for purpose recycling and waste management industry.

Yes, there are still responsible commercial players in the industry despite the damage done by ruthless undercutting, and these good people need to be brought to the table along with wholesale and retail waste generators and environmental advocates in a strongly collaborative process to develop better ways.

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File1:

File2:

File3: