

Ref 838747

06 May 2019

Samantha Ratnam
Member for Northern Metropolitan Region
Suite G01, 60 Leicester Street
Carlton
Vic 3053

Dear Dr Ratnam

Submission to the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the crisis in Victoria's recycling and waste management system. We support this inquiry and the terms of reference (ToR).

A key strategy to reduce waste as outlined in item four of the ToR could include a compulsory education program in primary schools to change behaviours in order to avoid waste generation.

Product Stewardship is a priority to outline minimum requirements for the manufacturing and packaging industry, such as recycled content in products. A circular economy should be created whereby material recovery/recycling is costed and accounted for.

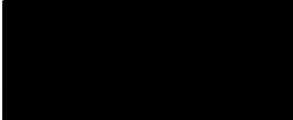
The use of silage wrap is an issue in the Moyne Shire who, similar to other rural councils with large-scale dairy farms, produce high volumes of the waste material. Large quantities of silage wrap are currently unable to be collected by processors for recycling. The exact extent of the silage wrap problem is unknown as it is regularly burned or buried on private land, or taken to landfill to be buried. It is a large quantity of plastic that requires careful consideration in this inquiry.

As outlined in item three of the terms of reference, there has been a lack of identification of short and long-term solutions to enable the opening up of markets for the end product. Local, small scale reuse programs require greater government support, for example the Schulz Organic Dairy in Timboon who wish to provide milk in reusable glass bottles.



This is a national crisis and strategies to improve federal government involvement should be considered.

Yours Sincerely,



Ebony Perrin
Environment Services Team Leader