

From: [Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management](#)
To: [recyclinginquiry](#)
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I write to advocate a much more proactive approach to recycling and waste management that addresses the issue before future waste and recycled materials are stockpiled. The amount of waste and recycled materials that are currently being generated needs to be drastically reduced.

Firstly, the government needs to put pressure on plastics manufacturers to:

- a) reduce plastic production, in particular single use plastic and packaging, but also plastic manufacturing in general; and
- b) look at alternative types of product manufacturing that is quickly biodegradable, compostable in home composts, and derived from sustainable sources (such as food production waste)

Secondly, the government needs to put pressure on large retailers, such as supermarkets, to reduce the amount of plastic packaging and single use plastic used to sell goods. This includes looking at health and safety standards to find realistic ways that food can be sold without plastic packaging. It is worth noting that the health benefits from wrapping food in plastic are offset by the detrimental health impacts of plastic ingestion.

Government can influence decisions of manufacturers and retailers by directing its procurement to companies that reduce plastic production and use, and reward innovation in this area through procurement, contracts and investment.

Incinerating rubbish is not a practical or long-term solution. Plastics are made from a finite resource and are highly detrimental to the environment. Incinerating rubbish will not deal with the amount of rubbish that ends up in our waterways and our soil. Incinerating rubbish also ignores the problem of plastic waste and does not address the dangers of stockpiling.

In the short term, the government may wish to explore opportunities for local recycling plants that will generate some local employment. These can be used to address the current backlog of waste and recycling materials.

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File1:

File2:

File3: