

**From:** Kate Forster <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 April 2019 4:16 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Parliamentary inquiry into waste and recycling submission

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The message of reduce, reuse, recycle and recover, perhaps 40 years old, has largely been lost and is not being heeded and adopted substantively by many in our Victorian community.
- Looking in household "recycling" bins locally in recent years, as I picked up containers discarded on the roadside and dropped them in, the majority are contaminated with other rubbish, leading to those that are carefully sorted being discarded with the contaminated load. We seem to have little community pride or care when it comes to recycling, and for those that do take the trouble to sort and clean their efforts are discouragingly trashed.
- Now all recycling is going to the tip in my municipality and bad habits will become established.
- We need to take responsibility for our rubbish locally in Victoria, stop producing more pollution by reducing as much as possible its transport, and setting up recycling and reuse industries that Government supports, including using the products produced (such as recycled plastic furniture).
- We need a strong research informed community based cultural change campaign and legislation and enforcement to support a shift in everyone's behaviour. This is definitely possible as the ABC War On Waste TV series demonstrated, and should extend across all home, educational, health, business and tourism settings.
- DELWP and Vic EPA are already investing in BehaviourWorks Australia at Monash University, let's see some RRRR behaviour change guidance using current knowledge from these experts.
- We need legislation and enforcement to ensure we are not wasting so many of our resources and causing so much damage to our environment. Businesses should be required to reduce packaging by charging for it.
- Take away cups should be biodegradable or washable and reused by law.
- The enormous waste generated by cheap clothing and its disposal after little wear should be investigated and change instigated through effective means.
- We need a container deposit system. It is very disappointing that Victoria has relied on insufficient evidence to determine this was "unnecessary", and while increasing damage is being done to our environment we wait for other states to show us the "best options".
- I could have made \$100's through a container deposit scheme from all the containers I have collected on roadsides and in parks. But if there was a scheme most of the containers wouldn't be there.
- The majority of containers I pick up on roadsides are alcohol containers. Breweries sponsoring Keep Australia Beautiful so volunteers can pick these up is not enough. There should be a special brewery funded campaign including required advertising at point of sale (as for cigarettes) providing social pressure and showing the harm caused, e.g. broken glass on roadsides and in playgrounds, animals caught in this litter, beauty spots spoiled, and other effective behaviour change approaches. There must be container deposits on all alcohol bottles and cans.
- I am tired of writing yearly to the Minister and my local members of parliament about a container deposit scheme, and particularly tired of the excuses and fence sitting year after year.
- I am tired of picking up other people's rubbish on roadsides, parks and in our Nature Conservation Reserve, and particularly tired of this mostly being from companies making big money and costing our community and my time dearly.
- The rubbish in the Yarra is an appalling state shame, Our Yarra: Healthy, Protected and Loved (Yarra River Keeper's vision) it is not, there's a long way to go. All parliamentarians should be required to volunteer for a day each year collecting rubbish in the Yarra with the Yarra River Keeper volunteers. Then we might get leadership and meaningful action.

-- Kate Forster

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