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From: Kai Brach [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 January 2020 7:56 AM
To: Committee, IISR (REPS)
Subject: New packaging and container rules – urging bold action!

To Whom It May Concern

I'm writing to express my urgent concern about the lack of action in regards to reducing waste in Australia. It is time Australia not only catches up to the rest of the developed world, but actually brings in some bold legislation that inspires other countries to follow.

As a Victorian with friends and family in Europe, I'm ashamed of our waste policies whenever they come to visit! The morally right thing to do is to take a bold stand and lead the way for the sake of the environment and future generations! Legislation in other parts of the world has shown that industry will adapt. Their scare campaigns should be dismissed.

Some points I'd like to see you address:

- Create a container deposit scheme that goes further than that of other states
- Ban single use plastic and remove all the loopholes for supermarkets to give out even sturdier bags which are even more destructive to the environment
- Introduce public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the damage that's done by wastage (not just plastics). I think a lot of us would be more willing to make changes if we understood the full extent of the problem! Especially everyday items, such as cigarette butts, baby wipes, balloons, etc.
- Encourage retailers and consumers to foster a circular consumption habit, making reuse of packaging materials
- Introduce larger fines to individuals and corporations (!) who break environmental protection rules
- Bans on specific products known to be especially harmful to the environment, like microbeads, single-use cutlery, utensils, plates and bowls, sticks for balloons, polystyrene containers and cups, single-use straws and stirrers, 6-pack plastic rings, etc.
- Help finance state-of-the-art recycling facilities.

Again, it's shameful that Australia is so far behind the rest of the developed world. We're a rich nation with a big tourism economy, yet we treat our environment like it's worth nothing!

Please take bold action!

Best,

– Kai

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– Kai

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