

From: [Lan Tran](#)
To: [Committee, IISR \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Inquiry into Australia's Waste Management and Recycling Industries
Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2020 11:22:40 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please see below for notes on Federal Government's inquiry into Waste and Recycling:

- Australia should have a national container deposit scheme
- There needs to be extended producer responsibility where retailers and manufacturers are accountable for the waste created from the products they sell, there should be a tax for this and the carbon emission that are produced. Packaging should only be allowable if there is a local facility to recycle it and/or a return/recycling scheme should be set up for their products at their expense.
- Balloon releases and helium use for balloons ought to be banned. They are guaranteed pollution, becoming litter in waterways, oceans and land and helium is a non-renewable resource that should be reserved for necessary use such as in medical situations
- Plastic bags should not be given out for free, and nor should a retailer profit the regulatory sale of thick plastic bags. A levy from the sale of plastic bags should be allocated to an Environment fund. This funding should be distributed to support litter clean ups, reforestation, community groups reducing waste, education, and innovative measures to reduce and better manage waste.
- Plastic single use items such as plastic cutlery, straws, bowls, cups and lids should be banned
- All new domestic and commercial builds should have certain environmental standards that they must comply to. Eg. Solar panels, Rain water storage or grey water systems and double glazing
- All councils should provide several bins for recycling, glass, paper/cardboard, green/food waste, landfill and soft plastics
- Polystyrene packaging should be banned
- The government should not allow private enterprise to lock local councils (i.e. the community) into contracts to guarantee them a supply of waste for feedstock, in any waste to energy facilities that incinerate or gasify waste. This will potentially detract from efforts to appropriately divert organics, recyclables and initiatives to reduce waste.
- Have a greater emphasis on diverting all organic and recyclable materials from landfill waste (This will reduce landfill by more than half)
- Public awareness and transparency – the public want to know what happens to waste that they dispose of and how they can dispose/recycle it responsibly
- Food stores such as supermarkets should have a section for bulk shopping or where customers can discard of packaging from their products either immediately (by transferring into their own reusable containers) after paying for their goods or upon return to the store.

Regards,
Lan Tran

