

14th January 2020

Submission for the Inquiry into Australia's Waste Management and Recycling Industries

A few ideas for solving our disgusting habits of 'throwing things away' (of which I am guilty).

This idea comes from working in my industry - Horticulture:

- *Trade and Service Companies should be limited to the amount of waste they can send to landfill each year. I'm a Gardener, and the company culture where I work is pretty lazy when it comes to recycling. I divert as much as I can from landfill, but I can't keep up with it on my own, and the switch to an eco-regenerative company culture is taking aaaaaaaages. If the company was limited or heavily taxed for the waste sent to landfill, then I'm sure the company owner and employees would find alternate routes for the items that can be re-purposed. A phone App would greatly help this initiative, one that connects the waste items with people who can re-purpose them.*
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These ideas come from me trying to make eco-regenerative choices, and discovering how expensive it can be to do the right thing:

- *Bulk food places where customers bring their own containers should be subsidised to encourage use.*
 - *Organic food should be subsidised as herbicides and pesticides are causing incredible damage to our land and animals, and us.*
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This idea comes from seeing plastic in our rivers, in our forests, on our roads, on the white sand of Australia's beaches.

- *Companies should not be able to sell anything in single use packaging. At a government level, all single use items should be banned. Companies should use refillable packaging eg. Beverages companies should use glass bottles that can be sterilised and refilled.*
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These ideas come from living in a sharehouse, and working with people from various backgrounds.

- *There needs to be a lot more education about recycle, like a looooooooooooooooooot. This would include advertising companies like Terracycle and Redcycle, who recycle products that would otherwise be sent to landfill.*
 - *Primary to Secondary Schools need mandatory recycling education, including 6 months work experience at a recycling centre. All schools.*
 - *TAFE's need to include a recycling module in each industry's teaching program.*
 - *Home owners should have different bins (made from recycled plastic) to sort their own recycling eg. metal, hard plastic, paper and cardboard.*
 - *A national 10c return program for plastic and glass bottles. This has been noticeably effective in Queensland at cleaning up the streets from these recyclable items, preventing them washing into our waterways.*
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This idea came from me reading 'Climate: A New Story' by Charles Eisenstein:

- *I'm not familiar with newstart programs, but if not already happening, this program could be used to clean up waste from our waterways, oceans and forests. This program could also be used to help farmers transition to regenerative agriculture and natural sequence waterways. (I don't know what the effect of transitioning to regenerative agriculture would have on waste, but something tells me it would help somewhere along the line.)*
- *Products for sale should be made to repair and last, not just throw away and get a new one.*