

18 December 2003

Mr Harry Johnson
Co-ordinator
Kingfisher Centre
29 Dorville Road
ASPLEY QLD 4034



Queensland
Government

Environmental Protection Agency
Incorporating the
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Dear Mr Johnson

Thank you for your letter of 26 November concerning the current situation of recycling milk cartons, juice containers and PET bottles.

With respect to the origin of liquid paperboard, the material is still imported from Europe and the USA. The Association of Liquid Paperboard states that the paperboard is imported from sustainable plantation forests because the cartons need strong, long fibres, which can only come from slower growing trees grown in colder climates. Most of the recycled paperboard is still

processed at the Shoalhaven Mill with any additional quantities exported, predominantly to Korean mills.

The aseptic packaging used for juice and long life milk typically contains three materials, consisting of 70% paper, 24% polyethylene and 6% aluminium. The product is made from up to six layers of packaging.

In 2002, 7206 tonnes of liquid paperboard was generated in Queensland, while the landfill diversion rate was only 0.58%. Just over 10% of councils recycled the paperboard with the majority of the product collected being hydropulped at the Shoalhaven Mill. The councils collecting the liquid paperboard are Calliope Shire, Gladstone city, Caboolture Shire, Caloundra City, Pine Rivers Shire, Redcliffe City, Balonne Shire, Dalby Town, Jondaryan Shire, Brisbane City, Ipswich City, Logan City and Beaudesert Shire (from *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland, 2002*, EPA).

For information to determine the sustainability of recycling liquid paperboard, I have provided two links. The first is an article written by Peter Hopper, Waste Resource Officer, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW in 1996. The article focuses on the costs associated with recycling liquid paperboard and provides some interesting points of view and economics. The second link is to the Association of Liquid Paperboard Carton Manufacturers website.

<http://greenves.gtm.org/1999b/0523.html>

<http://www.alc.asn.au>

I hope this information is of assistance. [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Samantha Peel'.

Samantha Peel
Project Officer
Sustainable Industries
[REDACTED]