

Ian Harvey
Director Strategy and Policy
Green Industries SA (GISA)
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Via email: greenindustries@sa.gov.au

Dear Ian,

The National Waste and Recycling Industry Council ([NWRIC](#)) is the representative body for waste and recycling service providers that operate across most States and Territories. Our primary role is to represent industry's priorities to Federal, State, Territory and Local governments.

The current members of the Council are Alex Fraser, Cleanaway, J. J. Richards and Sons, Solo Resource Recovery, Sims Metal Management, Suez, Remondis, ResourceCo and Veolia and State and Territory affiliates - WRIQ, WCRA, VWMA, WRISA, WRIWA and WRINT¹. Together they represent around 500 businesses with the majority of private capital invested in waste management and recycling assets Australia wide.

Our members collect and process unwanted materials from nearly every household and business across Australia, enabling councils to provide essential services to their communities and helping businesses manage and reduce their waste costs.

Our vision is for a fair, safe and sustainable waste and recycling industry. We work to achieve this by transforming waste into resources for reuse or energy; ensuring the safe handling and disposal and treatment of non-recyclable and hazardous waste, and by providing a safe and clean environment for the community.

The NWRIC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Turning The Tide On Single-use Plastic Products Discussion Paper*.

Turning the tide

In the wake of China's 'National Sword' and 'Blue Sky' policies, the markets for mixed plastics produced from recycling has collapsed and welcomes consideration by State's to ban single-use plastic products.

Specifically, in response to the questions raised in the discussion paper the NWRIC;

1. Agrees that single use plastic products are causing environmental problems as well as causing issues within the recycling processes and many have little value.
2. The most important problem associated with single-use plastic products from an industry perspective is the ability to collect, sort and recycle them, due to material type, contamination and lack of markets.
3. Supports the extension of the ban of light-weight single use shopping bags to include thicker plastic, as it will make recycling easier.

4. All compostable bags must comply with the Australian Standard 4736-2006. Nothing else is acceptable.
5. All compostable bags must comply with the Australian Standard 4736-2006. Nothing else is acceptable.
6. Yes measures should be introduced to keep plastic straws, plastic lined coffee cups and plastic takeaway containers out of the recycling stream.
7. Supports the list of excluded items. There are no additional items we would see need to be excluded.
8. Supports labelling and the Australian Recycling Label being developed by the APCO. We also believe the label should include the percentage of recycled content on it.
9. Not Applicable.
10. Not Applicable.
11. Not Applicable.
12. Not Applicable.
13. Not Applicable.

More broadly the NWRIC supports;

- government procurement of recycled plastics in products and infrastructure (e.g. roads and construction),
- mandating recycled content in plastic products, and
- greater investment in consistent community and business education on recycling, including better product labelling to ensure a clean stream of high quality plastic can be recovered and processed and used locally or overseas.

For further questions, please contact NWRIC Secretary Alex Serpo in the first instance; on 0417 932 303 or secretariat@nwrlic.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Read
CEO, NWRIC

ceo@nwrlic.com.au
0418 216 364