

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Canberra ACT 2600

The National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC) is the national peak body representing waste and recycling businesses. We work to improve waste and recycling services for all Australians.

Our national members¹ and state affiliates², service most households and businesses across every State and Territory. The NWRIC's 450 plus members range from small family-owned businesses to multi-billion-dollar global companies. They collectively own and operate nearly every private waste and recycling facility in Australia for collecting, recycling, processing and treating waste.

The NWRIC members work together and cooperatively share a vision for a fair, safe, innovative and sustainable waste and recycling industry. The NWRIC members do this by:

- transforming waste into resources for reuse or energy;
- ensuring the safe handling, disposal and treatment of non-recyclable and hazardous waste; and
- providing a safe and clean environment for the community.

The NWRIC welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback on the draft *Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019*. The NWRIC understands the bill has three objectives;

- Establishing a national container deposit scheme at 20 cents,
- Mandating national packaging targets, and
- Banning problem plastics.

In regard to a national container deposit scheme, this will be a step forward from the current fragmented approach, which adds cost and complexity. Further, Victoria is currently the only jurisdiction without a scheme or a commitment to establish one.

In order to enhance the kerbside material recovery, equitable revenue sharing must be established between MRFs and Local Government. If a national scheme is established, the NWRIC recommends that wine bottles also be included.

Mandating national packaging targets will assist with the sustainability of kerbside recycling. However, these programs must be coupled with programs to reduce contamination to be effective. Further, markets must be established in Australia for recycled products, particularly plastics.

Finally, the NWRIC welcome the banning of problematic plastics. These initiatives will help to protect the environment and ensure unrecycled materials do not end up in waste streams.

¹ Australia's nine largest waste & recycling companies: Alex Fraser Group (Hanson), Cleanaway, J. J. Richards and Sons, Solo Resource Recovery, Sims Metal Management, Suez, Remondis, ResourceCo and Veolia.

² Waste Recycling Industry Association, Queensland (WRIQ), Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA), The Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA), Waste Recycling Industry Association of South Australia, Waste Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia (WRIWA) and the Waste Recycling Industry Northern Territory, WRINT.

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For further information please contact NWRIC Secretary Alex Serpo (secretariat@nwrlic.com.au or 0417 932 303) in the first instance.

Sincerely,



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