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Infrastructure Victoria Project Team
Infrastructure Victoria
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Via email: enquiries@infrastructurevictoria.com.au

To the Infrastructure Victoria Project Team

Submission to Infrastructure Victoria's Interim Report on Recycling and Resource Recovery Infrastructure

Bayside City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Infrastructure Victoria's interim report on recycling and resource recovery infrastructure.

Actions that will improve the performance of Victoria's recycling and resource recovery sector are supported. Council has been proactive in this space and recently introduced a food and green waste kerbside collection service, which is already showing great results in terms of diversion of waste from landfill. It is noted that a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is only briefly addressed. As Victoria is the only mainland State without a CDS in place it is disappointing that more attention isn't placed on this. A CDS has already proven successful in other areas and has wide community support.

Please find a response below to your specific questions:

1) *Have we identified the right outcomes for Victoria to aim for?*

The potential outcomes should be simplified to avoid confusion on what is aimed to be achieved.

2) *Have we identified the most effective potential actions for government to take?*

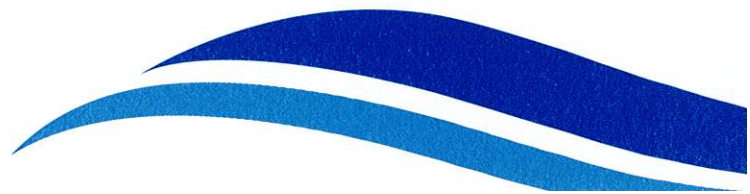
The potential actions mentioned are supported in principle with greater detail needed to understand the implications to Council. As councils are responsible for the kerbside collection of waste and recyclables, significant investment will be required to ensure that any changes to waste and recycling systems are implemented effectively, accompanied with extensive education programs.

One of the actions mentioned is the CDS, with a comment that it requires further analysis. The analysis on this has been completed extensively in other States and the learnings can be derived from this rather than Victoria starting from scratch and delaying the introduction of a CDS.



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3) *Which, if any, of the initiatives implemented in Wales would you like to see applied in Victoria?*

The use of recycling targets is a positive initiative by having a goal for businesses or councils to reach. Targets can assist in creating long-term focus and with future planning.

The adoption of more kerbside bins is not something that is supported by Bayside. Additional bins would add to congestion on the roads and also the amenity of the streetscapes that are battling to find room for the existing kerbside bins. The costs are not limited to the initial capital expenditure on new infrastructure but the ongoing costs associated with collections and behavior change. This would place an additional burden on ratepayers. A CDS negates the need for a separate bin for glass and has proven to be successful in other States.

4) *What do you think of the market design opportunities proposed to improve waste sector outcomes and efficiency?*

The extension of the product stewardship scheme to ensure that manufacturers and sellers are sharing the responsibility of the waste that they create is supported. Bayside supports the exploration and development of product stewardship arrangements for the following product classes:

- single-use plastics;
- expanded polystyrene;
- all e-waste;
- mattresses and mattress bases; and
- disposable coffee cups.

5) *Where do you think government should focus their efforts to increase recycling and resource recovery? (for example, through setting targets, promoting consistency or funding local councils?)*

Focus should be placed on the following:

- a CDS, with deposit locations widely available;
- education program, with an emphasis on waste avoidance;
- advanced waste processing to replace landfill as a means of disposal;
- prioritisation and incentives for recycled material over virgin material;
- expansion of the product stewardship scheme to ensure manufacturers and sellers share the responsibility of the waste that is generated from their products; and
- incentivise the use of recycled materials in manufacturing to create more local end markets, possibly through a levy on virgin materials. The collected levies could be used to support more local recycling infrastructure and research into recycling innovation.

6) *Which materials or infrastructure types present the most opportunity in your region?*

The introduction of a CDS (including wine bottles) presents the greatest opportunity as it has proven to be successful in other States. A CDS will also work in well with many of our community groups who collect litter, most of which consists of items suitable for a CDS, having a positive environmental impact with reduced litter in our streetscapes and waterways.

7) *What is a legislative barrier or enabler that you have encountered when trying to use recycled materials?*

A barrier to the use of recycled material is the cost of recycled versus virgin material. In many instances it is cheaper to use virgin material over recycled. The use of recycled material needs to be incentivised to assist in the creation of a circular economy.

Thank you for your support in this critical area and I look forward to the final advice and recommendations.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kristy Green, Manager Sustainability and Transport on 9599 4609 or via email at kgreen@bayside.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. White', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Steven White

Director Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure

Copy: Kristy Green