

The Senate

Environment and
Communications Legislation
Committee

Product Stewardship Amendment
(Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019

February 2021

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Contents

Members	iii
Chapter 1—Report	1
Purpose of the bill	1
The Recycling and Waste Reduction Act	2
Administration of the inquiry and acknowledgement.....	3
Issues raised.....	3
Committee view	5
Labor Senators' additional comments.....	9
Australian Greens' additional comments.....	11
Appendix 1—Submissions and additional information	17
Appendix 2—Public hearings and witnesses	21

Chapter 1

Report

- 1.1 On 12 September 2019, the Senate referred the Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019 (the bill) to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (the committee) for inquiry and report by the last sitting day of March 2020.¹
- 1.2 On 16 September 2019, the Senate granted an extension of time to report until 14 May 2020.² A further extension was granted on 26 March 2020 to the second sitting Wednesday of 2021 (17 February 2021).³

Purpose of the bill

- 1.3 The Explanatory Memorandum states that the bill would amend the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (the PSA Act) to establish:

...a mandatory product stewardship scheme for manufacturers, importers and distributors of consumer packaging and certain single-use plastics; and prescribes targets, prohibitions, design requirements, labelling requirements, and financial contributions in relation to packaging and products identified under the scheme.⁴

- 1.4 The bill is a Private Senator's Bill introduced by Senator Peter Whish-Wilson. In his Second Reading Speech, Senator Whish-Wilson outlined what the bill would achieve:

In essence, this Bill does two things: it makes the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's 2025 National Packaging Targets mandatory; and it emulates the European Union's directive that bans and otherwise restricts the most problematic of single-use plastics.⁵

- 1.5 Senator Whish-Wilson argued that the bill would respond to:

...the twin crises that are a result of our current approach to packaging and plastics: a recycling industry that is in disarray; and a torrent of plastic waste that is choking our oceans.

These crises have arisen because the environmental harm caused by end-of-life plastic and packaging is external to the market. Production and

¹ *Journals of the Senate*, No. 15—12 September 2019, p. 463.

² *Journals of the Senate*, No. 16—16 September 2019, p. 492.

³ This extension was granted pursuant to a temporary order passed by the Senate on 23 March 2020, which provides that the time for the presentation of reports could be 'extended by agreement of the committee, duly notified to the President'. See *Journals of the Senate*, No. 47, 23 March 2020, p. 1545.

⁴ Explanatory Memorandum, p. 3.

⁵ *Senate Hansard*, 11 September 2019, p. 1964.

consumption is largely disconnected from disposal. Retail is about selling products, not what happens afterwards.

This Bill tackles these market failures head-on by establishing a mandatory product stewardship scheme that will require manufacturers, importers and distributors of consumer packaging and certain single-use plastics to deal with the problem.⁶

The Recycling and Waste Reduction Act

- 1.6 On 8 December 2020 the Parliament passed a suite of legislation that repealed the PSA Act, and subsumed its provisions and functions in a new Commonwealth Act, the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (RWR Act).⁷ The establishment of this Act, which commenced on 1 January 2021, has effectively superseded the bill currently being examined, as the PSA Act it would amend has been formally repealed and therefore no longer exists.
- 1.7 The RWR Act includes a waste export ban, which prohibits the export of unprocessed waste materials on the following timeline:
 - glass from 1 January 2021;
 - mixed plastics from 1 July 2021;
 - whole used tyres from 1 December 2021;
 - single resin or polymer plastics from 1 July 2022; and
 - mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard from 1 July 2024.⁸
- 1.8 In repealing and subsuming the provisions of the PSA Act, the RWR Act sets out a framework of obligations for manufacturers, importers and distributors of certain products, as well as for the accreditation of voluntary product stewardship arrangements.⁹
- 1.9 The committee considered the provisions of this suite of legislation establishing the RWR Act before it was considered and passed by the Senate.¹⁰
- 1.10 Although the RWR Act has superseded the bill currently being examined, the committee is concluding its inquiry with this report.

⁶ *Senate Hansard*, 11 September 2019, p. 1964.

⁷ Information about the legislation is available here: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r6573.

⁸ The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, *House of Representatives Hansard*, 27 August 2020, p. 5751.

⁹ Explanatory Memorandum, pp. 3–4.

¹⁰ See the committee's report of the inquiry into the Recycling and Waste Reduction Bills 2020, October 2020, which is available at www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/RecyclingandWasteBills.

Administration of the inquiry and acknowledgement

- 1.11 The committee called for submissions on its website in the usual manner and wrote to a number of organisations inviting submissions. The committee received 67 submissions from organisations and individuals, which are available on the inquiry page of the committee's website and listed at Appendix 1.¹¹ The committee also received 4551 form letters from individuals and 1879 short statements for this inquiry in support of the bill. It has published the form letter and some examples of short statements on the committee's website.
- 1.12 The committee held two hearings in Canberra, on 29 July and 24 August 2020. A full list of witnesses that gave evidence at these hearings can be found at Appendix 2 of this report. The Hansard transcripts of evidence from these hearings can be found on the committee's website.
- 1.13 The committee thanks all the organisations and individuals that participated in this inquiry by making submissions and giving evidence at public hearings.

Issues raised

- 1.14 Evidence received by the committee was strongly supportive of the intention of the bill to reduce plastic waste in the environment and drive reform in the waste recycling and manufacturing sectors. This included support from stakeholders from state, territory and local governments, business and industry, environmental organisations, and individuals.¹²
- 1.15 Some stakeholders supported particular provisions of the bill that would:
- make manufacturers responsible for their packaging;
 - reduce the amount of plastics being used and consumed;
 - increase recycled content in packaging; and

¹¹ See the inquiry webpage at www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/PackagingPlastics2019.

¹² For example, see: Northern Territory Government, *Submission 13*, pp. 1–2; Local Government Association of New South Wales, *Submission 14*, p. 1; Beach Patrol 3280-3284 and BetterBuds, *Submission 15*, p. 1; Boomerang Alliance, *Submission 16*, p. 4; Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), *Submission 20*, p. 1; WWF-Australia (WWF), *Submission 23*, p. 1; West Australian Local Government Association, *Submission 24*, p. 5; Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), *Submission 37*, p. 1; IFAW, *Submission 40*, p. 5; Australian Marine Conservation Society, *Submission 40*, p. 1; Environmental Defenders Office Ltd., *Submission 44*, p. 3; Sea Shepherd Australia (Sea Shepherd), *Submission 48*, p. 12; Humane Society International (HSI), *Submission 50*, p. 2; Surfrider Foundation Australia, *Submission 51*, p. 1; Woolworths Group, *Submission 60*, p. 1; as well as a number of submissions made by private individuals. See also Mr Pete Shmigel, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Recycling; Ms Rose Read, Chief Executive Officer, National Waste and Recycling Industry Council; and Ms Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, all at pp. 20–22.

- reduce plastic products in land and marine environment, and in landfill.¹³
- 1.16 Some evidence supported the national approach adopted by the bill, which it was argued would give consistency to the legal requirements and policy initiatives across all jurisdictions.¹⁴
- 1.17 Some submitters also supported the bill's provisions that would make the current voluntary National Packaging Targets mandatory. It was suggested that the current voluntary targets, which are administered by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO), have not been widely adopted or implemented by industry.¹⁵
- 1.18 Some evidence cited the economic benefits of boosting the recyclables sector, which would not only reduce costs for consumers and businesses, but drive employment and positive outcomes for industry.¹⁶
- 1.19 However, there were concerns raised about the bill, including that:
- APCO's established system of voluntary targets provides a flexible and agile approach to managing waste and recycling, which is best-positioned to encourage industry to improve packaging standards and management of recyclables;¹⁷
 - the bill is premature, as a number of relevant Commonwealth-led initiatives and policies have recently been implemented, and these should be given a chance to drive change before further regulatory change is considered;¹⁸
 - there are significant barriers to participation of industry stakeholders in a mandatory scheme, including a 'lack of clean glass from kerbside collections, which limits the recycled content in local bottles, the lack of availability of recycled food grade plastic packaging, a need to review

¹³ For example, see HSI, *Submission 50*, p. 2.

¹⁴ For example, see: Mrs Marina Hansen, National Marine Debris Campaigner, Sea Shepherd; and Ms Katinka Day, No Plastics in Nature Policy Manager, WWF, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, pp. 15 and 35 respectively.

¹⁵ For example, see: Beach Patrol and Better Buds, *Submission 15*, p. 1; and Boomerang Alliance, *Submission 16*, p. 1.

¹⁶ For example, see Ms Katinka Day, No Plastics in Nature Policy Manager, WWF, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, pp. 32 and 37.

¹⁷ Ms Brooke Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation and Mr Jason Mundy, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Environment Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, pp. 7–8 and p. 43 respectively.

¹⁸ Note: some evidence argued this before the introduction of the legislation establishing the RWR Act. See, for instance, Mr Adrian Cullen, Head, Sustainability, Woolworths Group, *Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2020, pp. 2–3.

quality standards of recycled content, ensure traceability around the supply chain, and a general lack of local processing infrastructure’;¹⁹

- the Australian recycling and manufacturing sectors do not yet have the capacity to handle the large volume of recyclates that mandatory targets would generate, without significant government investment;²⁰ and
- the provisions of the bill could lead to perverse outcomes, including a potential increased use of some paper materials by industry and private enterprise, which could in turn increase the total volume of waste generated.²¹

Committee view

1.20 The committee notes that the PSA Act, that this bill aims to amend, has been repealed by the RWR Act (which came into force on 1 January 2021). This means that this bill has been superseded, as the legislation it aims to amend no longer exists in Australian law.

1.21 The RWR Act is landmark legislation for Australia’s waste management system and recycling industry. The Act has initiated an export ban to encourage the management of prominent waste streams within Australia. It also incorporates the scope of former PSA Act, while strengthening the former legislative approach to product stewardship.

1.22 These reforms will encourage industry to be more responsible for the waste it generates, including through improving design standards, and the increased recovery and re-use of recyclables. This will not only deliver positive outcomes for our environment and human health, but also lift employment and drive growth in our recyclables industry and related sectors.

1.23 The committee inquired into the legislation establishing the RWR Act in October 2020. At that time the committee noted that:

Participants in this inquiry consistently told the committee that this legislation is an important and transformative Commonwealth initiative. It was clearly recognised that its implementation would be a significant step forward for Australia’s approach to recycling and waste management and have positive effects on the sustainability of our national product stewardship arrangements.²²

1.24 The government has indicated it may introduce stronger regulatory solutions, should the existing voluntary arrangements in the RWR Act not be successful.

¹⁹ AFGC, *Submission 37*, p. 2.

²⁰ ALGA, *Submission 20*, pp. 3–4.

²¹ Ms Sophi MacMillan, Chief Executive, Vinyl Council of Australia, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, p. 3, as well as Vinyl Council of Australia, *Submission 18*, p. 3.

²² Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee, *Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020 [Provisions] and related bills*, October 2020, p. 28.

For instance, in introducing the RWR bill, the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, stated that the new legislation:

...provides the incentive for industries to act and to demonstrate leadership but it also sends a clear signal that the time to show that leadership is now.

Those industries that do not step up and do not take part can assume that the government will step in for them, and enforce its own regulatory scheme.²³

1.25 To support this legislative reform, the government has developed a range of transformative policy initiatives to Australia's recycling and waste management framework. This includes the initiatives announced on 6 July 2020, including:

- \$190 million for a Recycling Modernisation Fund, which aims to generate \$600 million in private investment in the recycling industry, the creation of 10,000 jobs, and enable the transformation of Australia's capacity to process and recycle waste products;
- \$35 million to implement National Waste Policy Action Plan commitments;
- \$24.6 million to improve data on national waste, to track recycling outcomes and national waste targets.²⁴

1.26 The government has recently reached Recycling Modernisation Fund agreements with Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia, which will jointly fund infrastructure to drive transformation of our waste and recycling capability.²⁵

1.27 The committee recognises that this comprehensive suite of legislative and policy reforms has superseded the bill currently being considered.

²³ The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, *House of Representatives Hansard*, 27 August 2020, p. 5753.

²⁴ The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment and the Hon Trevor Evans MP, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, *Joint Media Release: \$1 billion waste and recycling plan to transform waste industry* (6 July 2020).

²⁵ See the media releases made by Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, the Hon Trevor Evans MP, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction, in conjunction with: the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, Tasmanian Minister for Environment and Parks, *\$16 million to boost Tasmanian recycling infrastructure* (27 November 2020); the Hon Matt Kean, New South Wales Minister for Energy and the Environment, *\$162 million for New South Wales recycling infrastructure* (22 January 2021); and the Hon Stephen Dawson, Western Australian Minister for the Environment, *\$174 million boost for Western Australian recycling* (2 February 2021).

Recommendation 1

1.28 The committee recommends that the Senate not pass the bill.

**Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair**

Labor Senators' additional comments

- 1.1 This inquiry has shone a light on the importance of strong national leadership by the Commonwealth when it comes to waste and recycling. This leadership was present under the former Federal Labor Government that introduced the Product Stewardship Act, which this bill is seeking to amend. Labor established the first co-regulatory scheme for computers and televisions—a scheme that to this day remains extremely successful. At the 2019 election Labor committed to establishing a national container deposit scheme. Since Labor made this announcement, all states and territories have now committed to introducing state-based schemes.
- 1.2 The Coalition have chosen to take a hands-off approach which has resulted in a drop in Australia's plastic recycling rate to a low of 9 per cent for the year 2018-19 and only acknowledged there was a problem after several trading partners decided to ban imports of Australia's waste in 2018.
- 1.3 Labor Senators note the compelling argument for a mandatory product stewardship scheme for plastics and packaging that relate to those objectives contained within Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) 2025 packaging targets. We welcome the commitment made by industry members to take action in reducing the impacts that their products can have on our environment.
- 1.4 According to APCO's submission, the rate of recycling for plastic packaging in 2016-17 was 16 per cent. Since this time APCO have released the 2018-19 data which shows a very small improvement to 18 per cent. In light of the very poor improvement in recycling rates Labor members are concerned as to whether the target that '70% of Australia's plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025' is achievable with the current regulatory settings. If APCO and the Morrison Government are confident these voluntary targets are achievable then they should not have a problem in making these targets mandatory to ensure all participants are accountable for their actions.
- 1.5 Labor Senators acknowledge some single-use disposable plastics are unnecessary and harmful—they should be designed-out and eliminated as soon as possible. We note that some state and territory governments are taking action to ban items like those listed in this Bill.
- 1.6 In the spirit of national leadership, it simply does not make sense to have states and territories tackle such reforms without coordinated support of the Federal Government. Nevertheless, it is not responsible to introduce such a reform through a private Senator's bill without the rigour of a regulatory impact statement and a detailed analysis that can only be delivered by Government.

Senator Nita Green
Committee member
Senator for Queensland

Senator Catryna Bilyk
Committee member
Senator for Tasmania

Australian Greens' additional comments

- 1.1 While the Greens acknowledge that the Committee report concluded that the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (RWR Act) supersedes the Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019 (the bill), we fundamentally disagree with the Committee describing the RWR Act as a 'comprehensive suite of legislative and policy reforms.' This Greens bill would have legislated critical bans on single-use plastics, mandated into law strong targets for reducing plastic packaging waste, and created a circular economy.
- 1.2 The report also stated, 'The RWR Act is landmark legislation for Australia's waste management system and recycling industry.' Such descriptions of this legislation do not acknowledge that the RWR Act barely scraped the surface of a massive problem. It is anything but 'a range of transformative policy initiatives.' We strongly disagree with the characterisation of the RWR Act as comprehensive.
- 1.3 Senator Whish-Wilson, Greens spokesperson for Waste and Healthy Oceans, introduced the bill on 11 September 2019. Elements of the bill were based on years of Senate work including three Senate inquiries:
 - The inquiry into container deposit schemes;¹
 - The inquiry into the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia;² and
 - The inquiry into the waste and recycling industry in Australia.³
- 1.4 The bill was strongly supported by key waste and recycling industry stakeholders, environment and community groups, and local governments.
- 1.5 In the last sitting week of December 2020, Parliament passed a suite of legislation that repealed the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (PSA Act). The provisions and functions of the PSA Act were subsumed into the RWR Act making the Greens' bill legislatively problematic without significant amendments or a complete rewrite of the bill to amend the new RWR Act.
- 1.6 After multiple Senate inquiries investigated waste and plastic pollution in Australia, it is no coincidence that the Government swung into action to reform waste management after the introduction of the Greens' bill a year earlier in 2019. Unfortunately, their legislative reform included no measures to

¹ Senate Environment and Communications References Committee, *Operation of the South Australian and Northern Territory container deposit schemes* (November 2012).

² Senate Environment and Communications References Committee, *Toxic tide: the threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia* (April 2016).

³ Senate Environment and Communications References Committee, *Never waste a crisis: the waste and recycling industry in Australia* (June 2018).

reduce the production or consumption of harmful plastics entering our ocean, arguably one of the fastest-growing pollution issues facing our planet.

- 1.7 At least eight million tonnes of plastic makes its way into the world's oceans every year, totalling 80 per cent of marine debris. Plastic is now found in plankton in the Antarctic. Studies forecast that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.⁴ The World Economic Forum heard that, 'In a business-as-usual scenario, the ocean is expected to contain 1 tonne of plastic for every 3 tonnes of fish by 2025, and by 2050, more plastics than fish (by weight).'⁵
- 1.8 In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2019, Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison MP said, 'Australia is committed to leading urgent action to combat plastic pollution choking our oceans.'⁶
- 1.9 This followed the Prime Minister's own acknowledgment that the need for action on marine plastic debris was due to pressure from kids, including his own: "There are few issues that are raised more with me by kids, than plastics in the ocean," the Prime Minister told reporters in Sydney on Tuesday. "I know mine do, on a daily basis almost."⁷
- 1.10 Had the Government accepted Green amendments, which were in large part based on this private members bill, to the RWR Act when it passed the Senate in December 2020, the Prime Minister could have proudly reported his government had taken action on this pressing and pervasive environmental issue. Instead, the Government voted against any action toward building a circular economy and reducing the toxic tide of plastic pollution choking our ocean, creating a massive missed opportunity for our oceans as well as green jobs and investment in recycling and innovation.
- 1.11 The bill would have limited the production and sale of the most harmful single-use plastics and established a mandatory product stewardship scheme, therefore locking in strong targets for recycling and composting to effectively reduce exactly the kind of harmful plastic packaging we see in our oceans. It would have provided a solid policy framework and legislative backbone for building a true circular economy.

⁴ World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, *The New Plastics Economy – Rethinking the future of plastics*, 2016, p. 29.

⁵ World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, *The New Plastics Economy – Rethinking the future of plastics*, 2016, p. 17.

⁶ The Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, *Media release: National Statement to the United Nations General Assembly*, 25 September 2019.

⁷ 'PM's \$20m plan to boost domestic recycling', *The Canberra Times*, 13 August 2019, www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6324691/pms-20m-plan-to-boost-domestic-recycling/ (accessed 17 February 2021).

- 1.12 Ms Rose Read, CEO of the National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC) has said of these targets: 'Currently, there is no regulation requiring manufacturers or the packaging industry to achieve these targets or penalties if they don't. This is far from equitable.'⁸
- 1.13 During a hearing for this inquiry, these sentiments were echoed by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) when Senator Whish-Wilson questioned them about voluntary targets:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Back in 2005 the 2010 target for all packaging was 65 per cent recycled. What's the current recovery rate for all packaging in Australia?

Ms Donnelly: The recovery rate is 49 per cent.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: So it's fair to say that in 2020, 15 years after these targets were set, the Packaging Covenant has failed to meet even its 2010 targets.

Ms Donnelly: That would be a fair assessment, yes.⁹

- 1.14 Given APCO's voluntary targets have been ineffective for 25 years, making these targets into law is a vital step that the Government again avoided in the RWR Act. Unfortunately, Australia went from legislating the 'biggest reform to waste management in decades' to passing laws that reflected the 'biggest missed opportunity to act in decades.'
- 1.15 The vote to amend the government's own waste legislation was a tied vote, but ultimately failed to pass the Senate by a single vote. Even though these Greens' amendments which underpin this Private Member's Bill failed, they were supported by three of the four key stakeholder groups in this national debate.¹⁰
- 1.16 The Australian Greens will continue to pursue elements of this bill. We believe an independent expert advisory group should be established under legislation to provide advice to the Minister regarding products that should be included on the Minister's priority list. We will continue to prioritise this and stricter controls on single-use plastics.
- 1.17 The best way to reduce the impact of the single-use plastics choking our oceans and killing our marine life is not to produce or consume them in the first place. The European Parliament took the approach of simply banning the

⁸ 'Waste Management Review, Bans at the Border', 19 February 2020, <https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/bans-at-the-border/> (accessed 17 February 2021).

⁹ Ms Brooke Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, *Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2020, p. 7.

¹⁰ *Journals of the Senate*, No. 78—7 December 2020, p. 2755.

10 most common single-use plastics found on their beaches.¹¹ Australia should do the same.

1.18 While many Australian states are following the EU lead, a federal coordinated approach to banning problematic single-use plastics would be much more effective and is supported by stakeholders. Bringing APCO's National Packaging Targets into a mandatory product stewardship scheme would address these problematic single-use plastics.

1.19 WWF-Australia recommends utilising the mandatory product stewardship provisions to phase out the most problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics and says:

While we have seen encouraging progress on single-use plastics from many states and territories, the inconsistencies between regulations and the lagging of some of the most populous states calls for federal direction on single-use plastics.¹²

1.20 Boomerang Alliance said of the RWR Act:

One of the items that should be added to this [RWR] bill, to give effect and reflect what the community wants, rather than the government at a national level falling behind where the community and business are, is to take very strong action on these single-use items and put legislation in or use the bill's provisions to enforce the packaging covenant targets—targets that, really, are only a few years off being implemented. We don't want to get to six or 12 months before the end date when we decide, 'Oh dear, the voluntary program has failed again.' Given the accumulation of plastic in the environment at an increasing level each year, we really need to get on top of this.¹³

1.21 The Greens plan to have this Private Members Bill redrafted and submitted to the Senate again should it become clear that the packaging industry and this Government will not meet their existing voluntary commitments such as 70 per cent of all plastic packaging in Australia being recyclable or compostable by 2025.¹⁴

1.22 The Government and One Nation chose to vote against our amendments of the RWR Act, voting with big corporate interests in the packaging industry instead of with the community. Essentially, they voted against investing in upgraded recycling around the nation, regional jobs, and small business. It is worth

¹¹ European Parliament, *Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment*.

¹² WWF-Australia, *Submission 2*, pp. 1–2, in Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee, *Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020 [Provisions] and related bills*, October 2020.

¹³ Mr Jeff Angel, Director, Boomerang Alliance, *Committee Hansard*, 18 September 2020, p. 17.

¹⁴ APCO, Australia's 2025 National Packaging Targets, <https://apco.org.au/national-packaging-targets> (accessed 17 February 2021).

noting that the second largest donor to the Coalition in the last financial year was packaging and recycling giant Visy.¹⁵

- 1.23 The Greens will continue to try to legislate the establishment of a mandatory product stewardship scheme for packaging and plastics that will achieve the 2025 National Packaging Targets, including the phase-out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics.
- 1.24 Reflecting on this missed opportunity, it is clear to the Greens that new opportunities will emerge in the 46th Parliament. We will continue to fight to fix recycling and prevent harmful single-use plastics entering our oceans.

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
Substitute member
Senator for Tasmania

¹⁵ Senator Larissa Waters, *Media Release: Donations Data Shows Major Parties Working for the Highest Bidder*, (2 February 2021).

Appendix 1

Submissions and additional information

- 1 Mr Mark Shields-Brown
- 2 Ms Kristyn Glanville
- 3 Ms Carrie Waring
- 4 Mr Harry Johnson
- 5 *Name Withheld*
- 6 Dr Tamzyn Davey
- 7 Aust and Asia Plastic Bags
- 8 Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group
- 9 Mrs Pamela Reeves
- 10 Ryde Gladesville Climate Change Action Group
- 11 Recyclable Packaging
- 12 Law Council of Australia
- 13 Northern Territory Government
- 14 Local Government Association of New South Wales (LGNSW)
- 15 Beach Patrol 3280-3284 and BetterBuds
- 16 Boomerang Alliance
 - 16.1 Supplementary to submission 16
- 17 Qenos
- 18 Vinyl Council of Australia
- 19 MidWaste
- 20 Australian Local Government Association
- 21 KeepCup
- 22 Trash Bags On Tour
- 23 WWF
- 24 Western Australian Local Government Association
- 25 Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation
- 26 Zero Waste Victoria
- 27 Closed Loop Environmental Solutions
- 28 Chemistry Australia
- 29 Moreland City Council
- 30 Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) Ltd
- 31 Plastic Free Foundation
- 32 Ryde-Gladesville Climate Change Action Group
- 33 Local Government Association Queensland
- 34 Peel-Harvey City Council
- 35 Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)
- 36 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- 37 Australian Food and Grocery Council

- 38 National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC)
- 39 EY
- 40 IFAW
- 41 Accord Australia
- 42 Australian Marine Conservation Society
- 43 Department of the Environment and Energy
- 44 Environmental Defenders Office Ltd
- 45 Seaside Scavenge
- 46 Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc. (HOPE)
- 47 North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA)
- 48 Sea Shepherd Australia
 - Attachment 1
 - Attachment 2
- 49 Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance
- 50 Humane Society International
- 51 Surfrider Foundation Australia
- 52 Mr Simon Day
- 53 *Name Withheld*
- 54 Dr Eliza Milliken
- 55 Miss Kathy Faulkner
- 56 Ms Keelah Lam
- 57 Mr Patrick Hope
- 58 Mr Kai Brach
- 59 Mr Anthony Smith
- 60 Woolworths Group
- 61 ACT Government
- 62 Government of South Australia
- 63 Ms Isabelle Gagnon
- 64 Mr Jack Ford
- 65 Ms Leonie Stubbs
- 66 Zero Waste International Trust
- 67 Surfrider Foundation Australia, Gold Coast Branch

Answers to Questions on Notice

- 1 Plastic Free Foundation - Answer to question taken on notice at public hearing, 29 July 2020 (received 18 August 2020)
- 2 Sea Shepherd - Answers to questions taken on notice at public hearing, 29 July 2020 (received 18 August 2020)
- 3 Australian Food and Grocery Council - Answers to questions on notice, 24 August 2020 (received 7 September 2020)
- 4 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - Answers to questions on notice at public hearing, 29 July 2020 (received 19 August 2020)

- 5 Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation - Answers to questions on notice at public hearing, 29 July 2020 (received 19 August 2020)
- 6 Vinyl Council of Australia - Answers to questions on notice at public hearing, 29 July 2020 (received 18 August 2020)

Form Letters

- 1 Form letter received from 4551 individuals: example
- 2 Short statements received from 1879 individuals: examples of variations

Appendix 2

Public hearings and witnesses

Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Parliament House
Canberra

Vinyl Council of Australia

- Ms Sophi MacMillan, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Jan van de Graaff, Product Stewardship Manager

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO)

- Ms Brooke Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Peter Brisbane, Government Partnership Manager

Surfrider Foundation Australia

- Ms Susie Crick, Chair

Sea Shepherd Australia

- Ms Marina Hansen, Marine Debris Campaign Coordinator

National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC)

- Ms Rose Read, Chief Executive Officer

Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR)

- Mr Pete Schmigel, Chief Executive Officer

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association (WMRR)

- Ms Gayle Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

WWF Australia

- Ms Katinka Day, No Plastic in Nature Policy Manager

Plastic Free Foundation

- Ms Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, Founder and Executive Director

Boomerang Alliance

- Mr Jeff Angel, Executive Director

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

- Mr Jason Mundy, First Assistant Secretary, Environment Protection Division
- Mr Matthew Ryan, Assistant Secretary, Waste Action Plan & Modernisation Branch

- Ms Rachel Burgess, Assistant Secretary, Waste Policy & Reform Branch

Monday, 24 August 2020

Parliament House

Canberra

Woolworths Group

- Mr Adrian Cullen, Head of Sustainability
- Mr Peter Bruce, Head of Woolworths 360
- Mr Christopher Lane, Manager Government Relations - Sustainability