



Mr Tony Chappel  
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7 February 2024

Dear Mr Chappel

**Re: NSW Plastics: Next Steps**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *NSW Plastics: Next Steps* paper, apologies for the delay in lodging our response. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body representing Australia's \$15.8 billion waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry. With more than 2,200 members from over 400 entities nationwide, we represent the breadth and depth of the sector, including representation from business organisations, the three (3) tiers of government, universities, and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), including research bodies.

Broadly, WMRR supports the NSW government's intent to expand the range of products to come under the single-use plastics ban, however, WMRR reiterates that the government consider how it can also pre-emptively restrict the design, manufacture and production of problematic products. Nationally, WMRR has been advocating for greater emphasis on avoiding the creation of these single use products that are essentially waste, at first instance. In WMRR's view for the strategy to be successful there must be: -

- a stronger focus on design, to eliminate the creation of hard-to recycle and/or single-use materials;
- support and investment in re-use systems; and
- an engagement strategy delivered to empower community and business to avoid purchasing such items.

WMRR recognises that NSW is taking a leading position on bottle lids, cigarette butts and washing machine design. WMRR particularly supports the precautionary approach to harmful chemicals being taken by NSW EPA, and would encourage leadership on this issue nationally. It will not be possible to reach stated recovery targets (in any area) with the ongoing inclusion of chemicals such as PFAS in products sold in Australia and they must be designed out as a matter of priority.

WMRR also reiterates the need to exercise caution in the promotion of alternatives, particularly when they serve to continue to encourage unnecessary consumption, reinforce values of a throw-away society, and create other issues for both the community and environment. Emphasis must be on avoidance, re-design and re-use. The government must continue to engage with community and

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industry through a sustained communications and education program to continue to educate and model waste avoidance and re-use options at all available opportunities.

Please contact the undersigned if you wish to further discuss WMRR's submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gayle Sloan'.

Gayle Sloan

**Chief Executive Officer**

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia