

12 March 2019

Jacqueline Ong
Manager, Policy and Secretariat
Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association of Australia

Sent via: jacqueline@wmrr.asn.au

Dear Ms Ong

I refer to your request for support in improving resource recovery in New South Wales.

Our disposable society is putting us on a path to a waste crisis and I agree there is an urgent need to make this state a circular economy, where we significantly reduce the amount we generate and then reuse and recycle the vast majority of remaining waste.

Addressing waste is a major concern for me and I support a number of approaches. I have long supported container depositions and called for a ban on plastic bags, procurement rules that require recycled and recyclable goods, and minimum recycled content in packaging. I have asked the government to ensure kerbside recycling is not scaled back and landfill and incineration of waste does not increase as a result of China's decision to refuse to recycle our goods and for the waste levy to be used for new recycling processing plants.

I agree with most of the priorities set out by the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia but I do not support a separate state environmental planning policy (SEPP) for waste infrastructure. I will always support strong oversight, environmental assessment and community consultation of all development, even if precincts are designated and buffer zones implemented. I believe that the waste recovery sector can grow within an environmentally responsible planning system.

China's decision to refuse our recycling is an opportunity to further develop our recycling industry but the government has failed to grasp it, leaving councils, the community and the environment to pay the high cost of disposal. If re-elected, I hope to work with you in achieving this outcome.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney



