

27 September 2019

To the Committee,

Please consider my submission on *The Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019*.

I am a 26 year old Land-Use/Development Planner living in regional NSW. In short, I am passionate about promoting equitable opportunities for access to scarce resources and minimising the impacts that we humans have on the planet.

I support the Bill and the aspirations of the Bill; however, it would be good to see a codified requirement for "returns" i.e. mass deposit schemes which connect directly to major corporations (such as Johnson & Johnson) where people can deposit plastic bottles and the like so that these materials make their way back to the manufacturer. This "return-to-sender" scheme would enable key manufacturers to reuse or repurpose materials that are returned to them.

A "return-to-sender" scheme would alleviate part of the recycling strain on municipal facilities, so as to close the loop on negative externalities. The scheme would also be a catalyst for innovation in production processes, as manufacturers would only want good quality materials returned for reuse and repurpose. The scheme should also levy postal and carbon offsetting fees on target manufacturers. This added layer in a "return-to-sender" scheme may also incidentally grow the manufacturer out-posts industry within Australia as manufacturers would be encouraged to provide product refills onshore rather than wearing the cost of having to pay carbon offsets for receiving containers that have had to travel globally (from Australia back to the country production of origin).

I apologise that I do not have the time nor resources to research case studies for global examples of where such a scheme may already exist. I trust, however, that the Committee will give due consideration to all submissions received from the public on the proposed Bill.

Kind regards,

Name withheld