

Submission by [REDACTED] -17 September 2025

[Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited | ACCC](#)

Hi,

As a Council Waste educator, we continue to lobby the Government through our network for industry stakeholders to provide a responsible use of plastic packaging and the management of a nationwide recovery and recycling program.

Replas were doing their best, but this program was inadequate for the growing use of soft plastics by industry, and for the increase in Australian's participating in the soft plastics recycling program by taking used plastic packaging to their local Coles and Woolworths supermarket.

A mandatory industry stakeholder-funded recovery and recycling program is essential for the (current and future) use of soft plastics as packaging, and extended to include the increasing range of products.

Industry delays, and the expectation of Government management at all levels (national, state and local) increases in our community. Any delay significantly impacts local Councils, who have carried the burden for end-of-life management of soft plastic products. Including the purchase of the recycled Replas infrastructure for parks and Council managed areas to close the loop ie recycled plastic bollards, seating etc.

Our community requires a responsible stakeholder program for all Australians. Their frustration increases our (waste educator) workload in addressing their complaints directly, by correspondence, and through promotions for using bin collection services and waste facilities.

Industry has made no reductions in soft plastic use during the significant increase in household drop offs at local supermarket bins. And have retained the confusing 'Return to store' information on soft plastic packaging since the factory fire and closure of the Recycle program in 2022.

Supermarkets and other industries relying on soft plastics have lost good will with the community, by knowingly participating in soft plastic packaging stockpiling and blaming Redcycle in the media to negate responsibility. Industry have dragged their feet towards responsible action.

Australians will not accept the Australian government funding industry to remediate stockpiles or to develop adequate recycling facilities for an Australia wide program to manage a soft plastic material. Industry greenwashing and manipulation to extort more money from the Australian public and government must not be enabled. Government subsidies have already been paid to the coal and gas industry. Industries who contribute to the generation of plastic by-products, increased soft plastic materials in households and found in scientific studies to contribute to micro plastics inside our bodies.

Thanks