



Positive environmental actions for everyone

Submission by Planet Ark to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Planet Ark strongly supports the application submitted by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited (SPSA) for interim authorisation AA1000695 under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Planet Ark recognises SPSA's efforts to establish a voluntary, industry-led product stewardship scheme that is essential for addressing Australia's significant soft plastic waste challenges.

As outlined in SPSA's submission, Planet Ark is proud to have played a critical role in the formation of SPSA. This was mainly through our involvement in the Interim Management Group alongside major retailers and manufacturers, guiding the governance framework and stakeholder engagement strategies. Our ongoing participation includes ensuring wide stakeholder input through the creation and operation of a Stakeholder Advisory Council that will provide vital advice essential to the creation of a strong foundation for SPSA's development and operations.

We remain deeply committed to SPSA's mission, providing ongoing advisory support as it seeks to scale the recycling of soft plastics, ensuring environmental sustainability and promoting a robust circular economy in Australia. Planet Ark firmly believes that effective product stewardship, as demonstrated through SPSA's initiative, is pivotal in achieving Circular Economy and National Waste Policy targets and mitigating the environmental impacts associated with soft plastic production and pollution.

Planet Ark commends SPSA's transparent approach in leveraging industry collaboration and existing infrastructure, thereby maximising efficiency and effectiveness in managing soft plastic waste. The proposed levy structure ensures equitable financial responsibility among industry participants and reflects a forward-thinking and sustainable approach to environmental stewardship.

We affirm that SPSA's scheme, including its planned expansion of collection systems and support for processing infrastructure, will significantly enhance Australia's capacity for soft plastics recycling by providing market certainty, thereby generating considerable environmental benefits and job creation within recycling and associated industries.

Planet Ark strongly supports the ACCC providing interim approval of SPSA's authorisation application as it allows SPSA to secure initial levy funding and seek information from the market essential to the rapid development of their scheme.

Please feel free to contact us for clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Gilling".

Rebecca Gilling
CEO, Planet Ark