

Submission by [REDACTED] -21 August 2025

As a small business owner, I find it absolutely ridiculous and unconscionable that the supermarkets and brands involved in this stewardship are requesting for a payout. To find a way to profit off a recycling scheme, instead of pulling their weight to resolve a problem they have a big hand in is the pinnacle of corporate greed and their indifference towards community and the environment. Every cent from this scheme should go to recycling, recovery and, research and development towards the recycling of soft plastics in Australia. As the levy is obtained via public funding, it must, at the end, deliver environmental outcomes that benefits the public and not towards corporate gains. It is only fair that Supermarkets chip in their share like everyone else in the community as they are a major part of the problem. Why should they be given special treatment? We need to channel the \$16 million requested by the supermarkets into research and development towards a solution that can be managed locally; without these innovations, this scheme will be destined to repeat the failings of the past. It is also absolutely ludicrous that the majority of the power on the SPSA board are in the hands of the very companies that are at the root of this problem. Would you entrust a fox to manage a chicken farm? For this to work, real power on the board of SPSA must be given to independent voices to ensure the success and longevity of this scheme. Without changes to the existing proposal this just looks like a greenwashing PR campaign, not the progress we will be investing financially into. The ACCC must only approve this scheme in the condition that there will be no benefits for the members of the board, that there will be independent governance in the board and that there will be foresight and real targets to work towards, or it is doomed to fail.