

Submission by Annie Marlow-20 August 2025

I strongly object to this proposal; I believe it will stall effective action on dealing with the toxic problem of soft plastic pollution in Australia. Australia is the second-highest user of single-use plastic globally, of which virtually none is recycled. Most of it comes as food packaging from our supermarkets and food takeaway outlets. I spend an inordinate amount of time picking up plastic waste from the large urban area where I live. The coastline here is continually littered with plastic wrappings and throw-away containers, which are then broken up by tides and storms. We are poisoning our natural environment and all the creatures, including humans, that depend on it. The science is out, we are destroying our world with microplastic waste. Effective action on this matter is urgent. Another eight years of potential delay waiting for a recycling solution that, to date, has been nonexistent is intolerable. Retailers of goods packaged in soft plastics and manufacturers of that packaging must be made to take responsibility for the environmental and social damage it causes. Reduction of single-use plastic is the only way forward. Please do not waste time that we cannot afford on this proposal.