



April 11, 2025.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

GPO Box 3131

Canberra ACT 2601

To whom it may concern

**RE: Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited (SPSA) application for
authorisation AA1000695.**

Federation Council has a joint contract for waste services with four other nearby councils with service provider Cleanaway. This collaborative contract is valued at some \$300 million over the next 10 years. The contract allows for the inclusion of new enhancements to increase recovery rates. You will be aware that for the five councils to tender together, we sought and received a previous ACCC approval for that joint tender and this project of soft plastics collection is quite similar.

Over the past few years, we have as a group discussed and then introduced a trial soft plastics collection scheme that most councils were party to, except Federation Council, partly due to the large and very rural nature of our municipality. More recently, Council and our community have moved to more electronic communication, so our educational and promotional activities required for this new initiative can now be well publicised.

Being adjacent to councils that have the soft plastics trial, a number of community members and ultimately some councillors, became aware of the program and wanted to become involved. We are particularly keen to be involved in recycling soft plastics and thus support any expansion plans.

We know that there have been good results for the local trial as to date over 11 tonnes of residential soft plastic has been diverted from landfill.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the full support of Federation Council towards the continuation of the existing soft plastics pilot and also to permit an expanded geographical area, including the LGA of Federation. This is in line with Councils Waste Management Strategy 2024-2030 which is all aimed at reducing waste to landfill.

Yours faithfully

Mark Verbaken

Coordinator waste and resources