

Submission by Fiona Warelow-20 August 2025

The evidence on the damage that soft plastic use is doing to our environment has been clear for decades, with organisations such as Clean Up Australia reporting it made up 31.8% of litter collected in 2024, and the Australian Marine Conservation Society suggesting that about 250kgs of plastic leaks into the environment every minute. Despite this, supermarkets continue to promote the use of soft plastics, choosing to sell packaged fruit and vegetables at a lower cost than loose ones, and often choosing to place items wrapped in soft plastics at eye level, over products in more sustainable packaging. We can and should do better. The support for the REDcycle program highlighted the willingness of consumers to embrace recycling, and the active engagement of supermarkets in a soft plastics recycling program, has the potential to drive the change we so desperately need.