

Submission by Lee Dyson-21 August 2025

While a voluntary scheme is a start, there should be a requirement (mandatory) that these companies which present their product in their preferred way be held responsible for the waste that said product ultimately delivers to the end consumer. There is a great reduction of choice for most consumers as to how they acquire their purchases. Many are hard pushed to just find time to purchase at the most convenient location on the way home. Others purchase online and get what they are given. Not one of these purchasers wants to purchase the packaging and this is why it ends up as waste. Voluntary schemes come and go at the whims of those able to make that decision. They do not guarantee adequate funding and may also lead to stockpiles held out of sight. This is what happened with red kite. While this is a submission for supermarket related packaging waste recycling, it has the potential to be applied right across our retail/wholesale landscape and should be. I did a recent spell in the building industry, the plastic and packaging waste is phenomenal, There were literally skips of plastic waste from a 24 unit complex. The million new dwellings proposed will dwarf the harbour bridge. This is a problem recognised decades ago, it had one voluntary attempt and the two big supermakrets had billion dollar profits in the era which they allowed red kite to die. Funding should have not been an issue. A true commitment to the scheme was not there and likely it still is not.