

**Submission by Louise Noorbergen-22 August 2025**

The time has come to seriously address the problem of soft plastics. They are a resource that should not be sent to landfill or incineration. Responsibility needs to be taken by the whole community - manufacturers, retailers and consumers. There needs to be an independent body to oversee this - one that is transparent and not controlled by business entities. The funding for the process should not be directed to large retailers and multinational brands who will profit but to a whole picture approach. The funds generated by a levy paid on all soft plastic manufacture should be directed to the independent public organization that has transparent governance, authority to ensure mechanisms are in place for mandatory recovery and recycling of soft plastics and accountable to report targets and outcomes - this approach will benefit the whole community and the environment. The funding will necessarily be directed to innovation to ensure that the scheme does not fail as has happened previously. Unless these conditions are met the ACCC should refuse authorization of the proposed scheme.