

Submission by Rachel Unicomb-24 August 2025

It is absolutely true that we need to be able to recycle soft plastics, but it's even more true that we need to stop producing so much in the first place! Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia (SPSA) sounds good in theory, but REDcycle collapsed because the system couldn't cope. It doesn't appear that we have addressed this in any way. Without a new innovation or solution, this looks rather like greenwashing, with the major supermarkets wanting to look as though they are doing something, when they are part of the problem. Money should go to recycling and recovery, not supermarket subsidies. If they want a subsidy, it should be for using less packaging in the first place, not a levy on the public for what they already use, which serves no purpose except private gain. It doesn't appear to deliver environmental outcomes. Innovation is clearly required, without it, this scheme just repeats old failures, and SPSA's board is dominated by the same companies creating the problem. Independent voices are required. The ACCC should only consider approving the scheme with strong conditions such as independent governance and meaningful targets.