

Submission by Tim Stevens-19 August 2025

I make this submission as an everyday consumer. The onus on reducing soft plastics entering the waste stream rests on two factors: Minimising their use in the first place; and making recycling soft plastics logistically possible and economically feasible. On the question of who should pay for recycling programs, there is a clear ethical imperative - those who continue to use soft plastics, esp for packaging, where there are alternatives available, are those who should pay. Manufacturers who put the materials into the market place should be obligated to return and recycle them. Asking consumers to pay for recycling soft plastics that in many cases they purchased because there was no alternative is unethical and absurd. There will be circumstances where their use is either unavoidable (for instance, medically necessary) or a choice that best suits the particular consumer. While unfortunate, it is critical that readily available recycling options for all soft plastics waste are available. In many cases, this has been at major supermarkets chains - but should not be limited to that. For example, large hardware retailers also market many thousands of plastic packaged items, and so should also accept soft plastics for recycling. Similarly, council waste transfer stations could easily have skips for depositing soft plastics. This would be particularly useful for consumers (like me) who do not live close to large retail outlets, and so stockpile plastic waste for occasional drop-offs to suitable facilities. I hope this is useful, Regards Tim Stevens