

Submission by Vinyl Council of Australia Pty Ltd-3 April 2025

VCA draws attention to the intended disposition of 'high grade (decontaminated, sorted, and washed) material' to Advanced Recycling (a.k.a. Chemical Recycling). Following the principles of the Circular Economy, we believe that this material should be given priority for mechanical recycling. In a Circular Economy, we should be seeking the highest retention of value and lowest energy use, which is achieved by mechanical recycling of the highest grade of recovered/sorted/cleaned waste. Solvent based recycling (purification) is the next best alternative, with Chemical (Advanced) recycling ranked third. Only energy recovery and landfill are worse options. We also have concerns that future development of the scheme may include eco-modulation of fees. This has the potential to disadvantage non-polyolefin soft plastics that provide utility not available in polyolefin alternatives, and will increase wastage of perishable items.