

15 April 2025

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

To whom it may concern

Re: Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited (SPSA) application for authorisation AA1000695.

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) an organisation committed to helping our local community manage their waste and improve recycling practices.

WWCC have started to participate in meetings around the soft plastics pilot program and have been across this regional project for the past few years. Through our observations of the project to date, we have supported this initiative across the councils of Albury, Wodonga, Indigo, and Alpine in our region. The trials have seen strong participation and positive feedback from residents, highlighting the program's potential to reduce landfill waste and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Our observations of the pilot program have seen since 2022, 2,000 households in Albury-Wodonga participating in Phase 1 of the soft plastic kerbside collection pilot. Due to high demand from residents, the program expanded in August 2024 with Phase 2, 12,000 residents, which increased participation across Albury-Wodonga and extended the program to include Indigo and Alpine Councils. The program has been received with overwhelming positivity in our region, particularly regarding the transparency of the recycling process, which has already diverted over 12 tonnes of soft plastics.

Councils' involvement in these trials highlights the active support our community is taking for meaningful environmental action. WWCC have been communicating with our local recycler Kurrajong Recycling who are keen to participate further expanding the program around the Riverina region.

This initiative offers significant environmental, economic, and social benefits. Every year, Australia consumes 538,000 tonnes of soft plastics, with only 6% being recovered. Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia (SPSA) scheme aims to recover much of the 300,000 tonnes of soft plastic that currently ends up in landfill or the environment, creating new economic value while reducing reliance on imported recycled materials. The program also holds the potential to create jobs, boosting local economies by promoting domestic recycling and manufacturing.

We strongly support the SPSA program and urge the ACCC support this program, enabling the expansion of this transformative scheme. The program is a crucial step toward advancing recycling practices and reducing landfill waste, benefiting communities across Australia.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Piltz
Director Economy, Business & Workforce