13 December 2019

Michel Masson

Infrastructure Victoria

Level 33/140 William St,

Melbourne VIC 3000

**Sustainablity Victoria. Recycling and resource recovery infrastructure. Evidence based report October 2019**

**Have we identified the right outcomes for Victoria to aim for?**

Yes, through an integrated cyclic approach:

* Avoiding waste – Population education.
* Enabling a system for Victorians to recycle right through enphasis on education programs.
* Diagnosing the weaknesses of the recycling sector
* Analysing the potential of energy creation from waste
* Giving a “home” to recycled by- products by mandating recycled content and taking measures against the use of virgin material.
* Adopt Tri-governmental procurement plans that encourage this market uptake and change specifications to allow use of these recovered/recycled materials.
* Pointing out there is a need for a healthy residue processing industry, far from depending on exports or the one company.
* Introducing a CDS that encompasses all drink containers.

**Have we identified the most effective potential actions for government to take?**

Potentially yes, but there needs to be clear demarcations and definitions of responsibility and accountability within each Government body to create an efficient system, avoid duplicity and confusion

**Which, if any, of the initiatives implemented in Wales would you like to see applied in Victoria?**

* The State-wide approach with a clear Governance structure.
* The establishment of clear recycling quotas and objectives, KPIs.
* Accountability of councils when taking specific measures to solve problems.
* Source separation provides a better outcome that post collection sorting.
* Uniformity of communications, bin colours and accepted materials.
* Higher use of (Victorian) RPC in all new products delivered to maket.

**What do you think of the market design opportunities proposed to improve waste sector outcomes and efficiency?**

As stated on the first question, an integrated approach on all fronts is the only route to succeed. In order to develop markets for recycled material it is essential:

* Clear Governance and regulatory framework.
* Improved waste separation at the source.
* Providing sufficient funding for the phased Introduction of new bins for glass and FOGO across all Victorian Councils, utilising high levels of Victorian recycled content in new bin products, manufactured in Victoria.
* Funding for initiatives that will improve the system in terms of production and R+D.
* “home” recycled material, supporting manufacturers and helping counter act the image recycled material has compared to virgin.
* Specifications to support the introduction of innovaton

**Where do you think government should focus their efforts to increase recycling and resource recovery? (for example, through setting targets, promoting consistency or funding local councils?)**

Incentivate Industry to R + D through grants and funding to reward production efficiencies and improvements into the System.

Local council funding to tackle the problem at its origin (Glass contamination and FOGO), but not before establishing a common specification framework and clear process.

Also, education measures, recycling has to become part of the local culture.

**Which materials or infrastructure types present the most opportunity in your region?**

Proper separation for optimum plastic-based materials recovery. They are usually fully reclyclable at end of life and have more potential of re-use and re-manufacture into other products across different industries.

In the case of many other materials, there is effort put into different blends that will include r- product to solve the problem at a first instance, but in most cases that by product wont be recyclable at the end of its life.

**What is a legislative barrier or enabler that you have encountered when trying to use recycled materials?**

There are no legar requirements for recycled material at the moment, just vague motherhood environmental targets.

In tenders for major public projects, the specifications are designed for traditional materials with little room for innovation. In many cases innovative proposals will come in at a late stage where design is already in process, thus favoring virgin material.

**Mar Poyo-Guerrero Rodriguez**

Product & Service development Specialist.