

Background: Last day submission, having just learnt of this process. Active with Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance, several waterways groups, other local environmental and heritage groups, and technology futures groups. Raised in family plumbing business. First employment with parent company of Australian Glass Manufacturers included IBM training in Systems Analysis and Design. Half a long lifetime focused on Complex Systems from ever more generalist perspective. Once paid work on policy analysis and advice has only increased through eight years of notional retirement. Many lessons in life from spiritual home, Cumberland River on the Great Ocean Road.

Submission: Every stressed system is embedded in too often unquestioned stressor systems.

I'm from an era when even the cardboard cylinders on the inside of toilet rolls were put aside because they had their uses and milk bottles were left out to be collected by the milkman. Occasionally took accumulated paper to public delivery chute at APM's Fairfield premises.

Attention was drawn back to fragility of recycling by fellow Cumbo camper Max who rightly felt that holiday places valued for their environment should be the first places to get the recycling message right, but we soon learnt that the economics of transport encouraged many blind eyes to subterfuge of appearing to provide stream separation but all mixed in same collection truck.

The Wye River fire which led to our evacuation on Christmas Day 2015 exposed otherwise out of sight environmental damage that the lack of a container deposit scheme can cause:



My bigger concern with your report is its ignorance of the amount of another precious resource, potable water, we assume necessary to clean recyclables before putting them in the council bin.

Before the blinkered disruption of our Political Economy and its historic precursors, the natural world had time and again established almost perfect circular systems that we call ecologies and are more intrinsically interesting than anything humans have designed. It took the time it needed, unconstrained by quarterly reporting or election cycles. Wherever your report suggests options may be uneconomic, that must be read as a need to correct the economy, not take short cuts.

The real history of our world is recorded in sedimentary rock, with landfills providing a comparable record of human history, though arguably with an excess of redundancy. There also seems to be few limits to prokaryotes dealing with difficult substances, maybe helped by genetic engineering. So heritage protection needs to be factored into planning for landfills, including, as Major Projects are now seeing, the need for an improving, accessible indexing of historic quarries and landfills.

Victoria must regain the world leadership position we had in environmental protection fifty years ago, building on a long national tradition and in the absence of the demographic stressors of the northern hemisphere. Waste to energy should not even be under consideration.