

TRANSCRIPT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Melbourne—Wednesday, 2 October 2019

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WITNESS

Mr Keith Chessell, Sustainable Packaging Design, Australian Institute of Packaging.

The CHAIR: Welcome, Mr Chessell. It is your second time. I think last time it was the plastic bag inquiry.

Mr CHESSELL: 2017 on plastics. I think you were the chairman of that as well.

The CHAIR: You are back again to discuss similar issues. We appreciate that you are making time available to actually share your knowledge. We are looking forward to your contribution in relation to this particular Inquiry. I just want to go through some formal stuff which you have been through before.

All evidence taken at this hearing is protected by parliamentary privilege as provided by the *Constitution Act 1975* and further subject to the provisions of the Legislative Council standing orders. Therefore the information you give today is protected by law. However, any comments repeated outside this hearing may not be protected. Any deliberately false or misleading evidence to the Committee may be considered a contempt of Parliament. All evidence is being recorded, and you will be provided with a proof version of the transcript in the next few days. You know the drill: you have got 5 or 10 minutes and then we will ask questions.

Mr CHESSELL: I have provided you with a written copy. I have some extra copies if anyone needs them.

The CHAIR: No, we have got it. Thank you.

Mr CHESSELL: Thank you for the opportunity of behalf of the Australian Institute of Packaging. A brief background on the Australian Institute of Packaging: it is a professional body really designed to educate and train packaging professionals. It is one of the few bodies that does do that in Australia. We have a wide range of both packaging technologists and senior business managers involved as part of our association, so it is an individual person association rather than a company association. We see our role as really to educate, and I am part of the educational team. I spend a fair bit of my time and I have spent the last probably 15 years in sustainable packaging design. I do have a consultancy. I do not earn much money from that; I do most of it voluntarily in terms of sharing my 50-odd years in the food, beverage and confectionery industry helping to design packaging that is recyclable and does not end up in landfill.

In the document I have provided for you I have highlighted some of the recommendations there which probably can stimulate some of the questions. I do not know whether you would like me to go through those now or take you through some of the areas. I have particularly looked at item 4, which was on the Inquiry agenda, which looked at the product stewardship; then banning of single-use materials, I have some comments on that for you.

The CHAIR: Do you want to take us through that because I think that product stewardship is an important item. We were talking earlier to one of our witnesses about the system in New Zealand, for example. If you want to expand on that, that would be great.

Mr CHESSELL: Let me read it to you. I have written it as my words. So rather than waffle on, let me be as concise as I can.

The CHAIR: That would be great.

Mr CHESSELL: It is recognised that product stewardship, or as I like to call it extended producer responsibility, has lost its focus in the past 15 years, with manufacturers, brand owners, retailers and governments taking advantage of the economic opportunities available by exporting the bulk of their packaging materials offshore. That was an economic way to do it. We lost a lot of our infrastructure for processing in Australia. Prior to this, 15 years ago, we had lots of facilities for reprocessing recycled materials. It became more economic to ship that off to overseas countries.

Even more important environmental losses occurred through the consumer demand for convenience. The lack of focus on sustainable packaging design in the development of these convenience products with disposable packaging, combined with poor consumer habits, has resulted in an increase in single-use, non-recyclable packaging and lots of litter concerns—what we are all concerned about. In the past 20 months the urgent

challenge to address these environmental issues has left packaging manufacturers, brand owners, retailers, and in particular many small manufacturing enterprises struggling to understand what they need to do to fill their EPR.

In the training courses that I have been involved in so many of them say, ‘Why have I got to pay to join an Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation? Why have I got to do this?’. My nice way of saying it is, ‘This is your extended producer responsibility. You produce it, you are responsible for what happens to it’. That is the story, the education process part of the Australian Institute of Packaging courses, helping particularly small enterprises recognise that they have a responsibility for what they are producing. Not having had to do that for the last 15 years is challenging their balance sheets in terms of cost, challenging their directions, and in a lot of cases—that was mentioned by the previous presenter—there is great ignorance. So the education side of what we are doing at the Australian Institute of Packaging is a major part. We have done now probably about six or seven courses, probably covered 200 people. We are talking thousands of people that need to hear this information.

So part of that recommendation down there is that we seek State Government support in emphasising to industry—helping industry to step up—that they need to recognise their extended producer responsibility. It is in their court to do. Encouraging them to be trained, learning what sustainable packaging is. So that is what I would cover under the product steward area.

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation is the organisation that has been charged by the Federal Government to look at the whole 2025 targets of reuse, recycle and compostable. I play a part in APCO. I am on the board of APCO, but I am also part of what they call their technical advisory committee, which is a committee that really sets up what products are recyclable and what products are not recyclable. So I am happy to answer some of those questions that you were asking in a previous discussion.

Container deposit legislation. Other than to say that Victoria and Tasmania are the two states that do not have container deposit legislation, I cannot say all of our companies that are involved with the AIP would be happy with container deposit legislation, but we would certainly see that it is an important step. Although three states have only been going now for six months and are starting to get some data coming through, it seems to be a very good way to help clean up the kerbside recycling. It means you are getting pure streams of glass, aluminium, plastic and in some cases poly-coated paper board.

The CHAIR: Just on that, we heard this morning from O-I Glass, for example, that that could potentially undermine the kerbside if we separate glass, for example, where 40 per cent in, I think, New South Wales and Queensland is, through the container deposit scheme, being collected and 60 per cent is still kerbside. Have you got any view on that, whether that could undermine the kerbside recycling?

Mr CHESSELL: Certainly that was the biggest concern from the kerbside collecting—that most of their economics in kerbside collecting was aluminium cans, glass and some of the plastics, PET in particular. That is where they got their high value in returns, and that was paying for it. And now we have got New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia starting up, it would be interesting to get their feedback from those schemes of how it has affected kerbside collection. I have heard some anecdotal information from New South Wales that for kerbside collection, because only about 30 per cent of people are using the CDS scheme, there are still a lot of aluminium cans and there is still a lot of plastic, and the kerbside recyclers are now collecting that and getting 10 cents back for that. So they are making more money by putting it through to the CDS system. So that is interesting—whether that is true—but that is certainly one comment I have had fed back.

The CHAIR: The business model? No, I have got a person shaking his head. That is not the case.

Mr HAYES: But they were saying also that that is in the absence of a separate glass recycling bin—

The CHAIR: Yes, that is right.

Mr HAYES: that solves that problem.

Mr CHESSELL: The key issue that was certainly highlighted too by Lee before is that we need to clean up our recycle bin. We need to get rid of the contamination in that, and we need to be able to provide not only to

the MRFs but to the reprocessors clean material. So it has got to be good glass, good aluminium, good PET, good HDPE—the valuable materials. If that can be separated well, the CDS system enables that to be done as long as they do that well. It is being separated at each of those CDS situations. It needs to be kept separate, not bailed and mixed up again and sent to processors. But if they can keep it clean, it means the processors are getting very good quality material.

The CHAIR: Excellent.

Mr CHESSELL: South Australia have been operating their container deposit scheme now for 25 years, and every MRF I have ever been to—and I have been to quite a few—has always said, ‘We love South Australian material because it means we get virtually very good quality, separated PET, HDPE material’.

The CHAIR: And they still have the kerbside collection as well in South Australia?

Mr CHESSELL: I am not sure how well that works; that is not my expertise. But it is still going and it is still happening. So that is part of what I believe would be useful to the Government. There is a big waste session coming up on 23 October, where they are talking CDSs, and I think they have got each state coming in to talk about their CDS system. It may be worth attending the dinner to hear the information on that.

Mr HAYES: I would like to ask just a couple of things, Keith. On product stewardship, you talk about trying to make members responsible and recognise where their plastics will end up, but what action can they actually take? How do we really address what I was talking about before—wrappers on cheese and the multiple packaging of kids toys and that sort of waste that is produced? How can we make manufacturers or retailers more responsible for the separation and collection of that material?

Mr CHESSELL: The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation—it is not mandated; it is a voluntary system—has members signing up to that covenant. So they commit to a range of environment issues, sustainable package design. By signing up to that they complete an annual review, and so those companies are held accountable for that. Now, at the moment APCO have got about 1500 members. If we had a lot more, we should probably have 6500 members. That is because it is a co-regulatory body; we cannot force.

Mr HAYES: Enforce it.

Mr CHESSELL: I know APCO, with the Government council groups, have been working very well the last 12 months in terms of getting all parties working together. Getting companies to sign up to be members of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation is a key way of helping them. We do the education, so (a) I have been to the education on behalf of APCO and these areas.

Mr HAYES: Keith, further to that, would you be concerned or would you think it would be helpful if the Government made this a mandatory requirement?

Mr CHESSELL: It would probably be helpful but I could not comment on that.

Ms CROZIER: Probably because it is very difficult to do.

Mr CHESSELL: It is very difficult to do. But it has certainly been a very good pick-up. Certainly we have—

Mr HAYES: I mean, I know it has been done in European countries.

Mr CHESSELL: It is starting to come through. As I said, a lot of the small manufacturing enterprises I talk to say, ‘Why have I got to join this for?’, and I say, ‘Because they are providing tools’. So there are two tools that were made available to members of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation. What they call the PREP tool mimics what happens in a MRF. So you put your material into this online tool and it says it is not recyclable or it is recyclable or it is recyclable with lost value. It is a tool there that helps, which has never been available before to know what material is recyclable. It was a guess. I have worked in it for 15, 20 years, and I would spend a lot of time with the recycler saying, ‘If I go to a polypropylene bottle, will it be recyclable?’. ‘I can’t tell you’.

Mr HAYES: You might find that it is not recyclable, but you could still go ahead and do it anyway, couldn't you?

Mr CHESSELL: The other part of their covenant commitment to ensure companies undertake sustainable packaging design and that they do design recyclable materials. The other part that goes with that, the other tool that has been made available, is called the Australasian Recycling Label. We have got about 233 companies now starting to put this label on every pack. If you have got a multiple item, it says, 'The carton can be recycled, the lid should go into the rubbish bin and the wrapper can go to the store return'—back to the Coles, Woollies REDcycle program.

Mr HAYES: Government could ask for that to be done possibly, couldn't it?

Mr CHESSELL: I certainly see that as being clearly done on every label, because that is the big confusion, as you have talked about, I am sure, on many occasions.

Mr HAYES: Absolutely. I get confused.

Mr CHESSELL: The consumer gets a package and does not know what to do with it. The Australasian Recycling logo tells them exactly what to do.

Mr HAYES: Could I also ask you about compostable packaging? Now, I have been told by someone in the Government that this is not very desirable because it breaks down to microplastics that get into the watertable. Is that correct?

Mr CHESSELL: It is oxodegradable: degradable plastics. I have got a mound of documents that says it is good and I have got a mound of documents that says it is bad. Certainly Europeans have now banned oxodegradable materials and it is certainly on the list of the TAC team to ban those. It leads to microplastics. To a number of companies who have said, 'Can we go oxodegradable?', I have said, 'Yeah, but you're expecting people to throw that into the ocean because it will break up'. It causes microplastics, so I am saying it should not be used.

Mr HAYES: Just one more if I could, Chair, and then I am finished.

The CHAIR: He said his last one.

Mr HAYES: Pyrolysis versus energy to waste: do you have an opinion on which is more environmentally desirable?

Mr CHESSELL: Certainly pyrolysis is higher up the waste hierarchy that Lee talked about, in that whole chemical recycling area. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation circular economy allows that to scrape in where waste to energy does not make it in terms of a circular economy. At least pyrolysis is turning plastic back into oils and into other materials again it is a circular economy where the incineration areas—

The CHAIR: Energy? Electricity?

Mr CHESSELL: Energy is a recoverable item. It is in one respect. They do not see it purely as that, and I personally believe incineration should be in the scope because there are levels of materials that you were talking about a few moments ago that really cannot be economically separated. I think I have got a recommendation you should be considering waste to energy—where it is and where it is placed. No-one wants it in their backyard.

Mr HAYES: Pyrolysis and waste to energy have both got a place you think?

Mr CHESSELL: I believe so, yes. Pyrolysis, definitely—very expensive. But again, where do we locate it? You would not build one in every state. It is a big expense, but it is a great facility and it would be a good way to remove problem plastics.

Ms CROZIER: Thank you very much, Mr Chessell. I am interested in your comments in relation to the consumer demand for convenience and the increasing trend towards takeaway foods and the huge amounts that are being utilised by the latest generation, if I can call it that, in terms of Uber Eats and—

Mr CHESSELL: And us, the older generation.

Ms CROZIER: Well, indeed, because we did not grow up with that convenience. The demand that is there is just extraordinary, and out of that there is this enormous waste that comes from this convenience. I am interested in your thoughts in relation to that. I think it is a waste issue from a food point of view as well as a product container point of view. It just seems to me that this is going to be an increasing problem in this very argument that we are having if this demand keeps going the way it is going, and I am just wondering if you have got a view on how we manage that.

Mr CHESSELL: A lot of it is being driven by the consumer themselves—

Ms CROZIER: Indeed it is.

Mr CHESSELL: Certainly with the whole of the ocean waste issues and the plastic litter issues, the consumer is driving a lot of this change to the extent that they want to see—but it is a matter of them also then changing their habits, but part of that comes down to the industries that are producing those products providing ways of either close-looping, as I would call it—so in terms of being able to recover the materials within that—

Ms CROZIER: Well, I think that is my point because, as you say, it is the generation who are very concerned about this issue who are in some instances the highest consumers of plastic products because of their demands for convenience. Are any companies putting packaging in a biodegradable form? Are they leading the way in relation to that, and should others be doing the same sort of thing?

Mr CHESSELL: I have put a section in there on my concerns with biodegradables or—I would call them—compostables. The issue is the confusion between what is biodegradable and what is compostable. They are two different items.

Ms CROZIER: Which I have probably just confused, have I, in my interpretation?

Mr CHESSELL: That is true if they are compostable items, but at the moment—and Veolia might be able to add more to it—my understanding is that most composters do not want compostable packaging within their composting systems. You do not want to get a load of compost and pull a plastic cap out of your compost. So until composters are comfortable with receiving what I would call Australian-certified compostable products—and they are products that are tested and approved for composting within industrial composting situations. The Australasian Bioplastics Association have set up an Australian standard for that, but until composters are prepared to accept packaging, my recommendation to any company that talks to me about it is do not do it. My view is it will be about eight years before the whole lot, the FOGO—food organics, garden organics—is established and working well. You talked about burning your rubbish bin before. Well, you have got to get the garden or the food organics out of the rubbish bin before you do that, so there is another system that is being talked about. I believe there are about 250 councils, which quite astounded me, around Australia that were doing FOGO collections.

Ms CROZIER: And just on this consumer demand for convenience issue, have you got any figures on what the trend is or what the figures are within Victoria?

Mr CHESSELL: No. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation have been undertaking 21 projects this year, which are due to be released by the end of this year, which will give a lot of data, but there is nothing on that convenience in that research. We have been researching and getting data on a range of materials and on composting. There will hopefully be some very good, helpful data that will be available to state governments and councils on various materials and how to best handle those materials—recommendations on composting, on problematic materials, that will hopefully lay some good groundwork that has been undertaken in research this year.

Mr LIMBRICK: Thanks, Mr Chessell. I wanted to touch on the single-use plastics and the possibility of banning those. I know it is a reflex of people in government when they see something they do not like—Oh well, we'll just ban it', right? But of course there are always trade-offs with doing that. One of the trade-offs—recently we had the plastic bag ban legislation go through, which I know you are familiar with. One of the things that I was reading through my research was that when they did it in California, the research from that was that it actually increased carbon emissions in California because they switched to paper, which has higher energy use, especially for takeaway food. So it increased their energy consumption and water consumption. What are some of the possible unintended consequences of banning single-use plastic items that you might see? I think you made a good distinction: rather than banning all single-use plastics, trying to identify problematic single-use plastics, but of course there are trade-offs with that. So what are some of those unintended consequences that might happen by doing that, do you think?

Mr CHESSELL: Well, certainly you are correct in terms of what they call the life-cycle analysis. If you look at various items—I know I presented in 2017 when we were looking at banning the lightweight single-use plastic bag. They said you have got to use a green bag at least 52 times to have the same life-cycle results as a single-use plastic bag. So a single-use plastic bag, I presented, should not have been banned; we should have been recycling it.

Mr LIMBRICK: I was one of the few that voted against it, I would say.

Mr CHESSELL: The single-use plastic bag was a very environmentally conservative use of resources, but the issue was it was a litter item, and that is what needed to be controlled. My recommendation there was to let us start providing opportunity to collect it. Coles and Woolies with the REDcycle program have done that but have not got a lot of support at this stage to make that grow. I have made recommendations in here today saying that we should be mandating that council, State Government and Federal Government buy recycled plastic materials as part of their procurement policy. That will stimulate—use some of the moneys that you have got stored up from waste levies to help purchasing policies, because driving the value of recycled plastics means industry can invest or want to invest. It really helps that whole recycling program. We need to build infrastructure. We have got to get infrastructure back in Australia for recycling and reprocessing plastics so we can re-use them—

Mr HAYES: Could I ask you how that would work? The Government buys, say, plastic bags back?

Mr CHESSELL: No. So the REDcycle program, through a company called Replas, produced a whole range of bollards, seats and furniture. So when you go to refurbish parkland, instead of buying a timber bench, you buy a plastic bench, which will last 50 years longer than a timber bench. It will not white-ant, but it may cost another 10 per cent more than a timber bench. That is the sort of funding to provide to councils, because if we had councils and State Government buying that material, the market would be huge and this would just stimulate investment to say, 'We can supply that, because that's all you're going to buy'. And the other part is Close the Loop and Downer Group with resurfacing roads. They have now done I think about 100 kilometres of road around Australia, which they are testing now, giving a 65 per cent better road surface. So, again, saying to VicRoads to only use this material, to work with Downer Group and Close the Loop. It uses up 168 000 glass bottles, 530 000 plastic bags and 12 500 ink toners for every kilometre of two-lane highway. It is a great re-use, getting rid of all those problematic glass issues—the small glass issues—they can go into road base. So they are the sorts of demands that you can put onto your councils and state governments to say, 'Do this, and this will help drive industry'.

Mr LIMBRICK: If we ban something—let us take a specific item like single-use cutlery, like plastic cutlery—that will be substituted with something else that will have its own problems, I assume. I have seen it in some shops now. They will have like wooden ones made from bamboo and things like that. They are going to have their own problems, right?

Mr CHESSELL: They do not really provide any benefit, other than one group called BioPak. BioPak have set up a closed-loop with a number of the restaurants and they supply them certified compostable cutlery, plates, cups, and that all goes with the food waste that comes from those foodservice outlets into the one bin and a composter has agreed to handle all that. They have got about 233 outlets I think at last count—I could be wrong on that—that are taking compostable packaging and compostable food organics and getting that

composter to turn it back into resaleable compostable material. Composters want food organics; that is the best material. So they are prepared to take the problematic—not problematic but compostable—packaging in with that because they want the good-value, high-value food organics when they are composting that.

Mr HAYES: When you say that, that is problematic in the long run too, the compostable plastic as it breaks down into microplastics.

Mr CHESSELL: No, it does not. Compostable packaging will break down into carbon dioxide. The difference between biodegradable, you do not know how that will break down, but compostable is certified to break down into carbon—

Mr HAYES: And not leave any plastic residue?

Mr CHESSELL: No, no microplastics.

Mr LIMBRICK: If we are going to ban these single-use plastics, how can we know that we are not creating a bigger, different problem by doing this? Unless the Government directs the market—I am not sure it is such a great idea—if they are saying, ‘All right, you can’t use this anymore’, they are going to come up with a whole bunch of substitutes and we do not really know what the effects of those substitutes are going to be. How can we know that we are not doing more harm than good?

Mr CHESSELL: Certainly some of the items I have listed here—the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation will come out later this year with some lists of items that we believe should be removed. Coles and Woolworths, certainly Coles, have set up a policy within their store now of removing what they would call their problematics, which covers things like straws and sanitary towels that would cause problems, that do not degrade—those sorts of areas. I would hope with the banning of those single-use items, which are problematic, that clever people will come up with re-usable items or in the case of knives and forks let us go back to giving them a stainless steel knife and fork that they can wash, re-use again and return. There is one group in the world called Loop that are now trying to work on a whole range of products—they have set up both in New York and Paris—to allow consumers to order ice cream that they get in a stainless steel container that has got to be returned back to them and get washed. I do not like that idea, but re-usable, recyclable and compostable—how can we go back to re-usable in all of those facilities the way we used to do it when I was a boy.

Mr HAYES: Is it possible to make compostable nappies and sanitary pads?

Ms CROZIER: Bamboo nappies are re-usable.

Mr HAYES: No, I mean stuff that will just, if you put it into a compost heap—used nappies—

Mr CHESSELL: I do not have knowledge on that, but at the moment I think nappies probably do not fit into the compostable area. Unfortunately they end up in recycle bins too.

Ms CROZIER: Oh, that is an issue.

Mr CHESSELL: I do not know the answer to that, sorry. But I am sure there would possibly be ways around getting absorbency and—

Mr HAYES: You would think they would be highly sought after too, wouldn’t you?

Ms CROZIER: There are some good nappies on the market using bamboo-related products which are washable, like the old-fashioned cloth nappies but far more environmentally friendly.

Mr CHESSELL: Go back to nappy wash.

Ms CROZIER: Yes. Old-fashioned.

Ms TAYLOR: I did have a few questions. Just to come back to the CDS issue, I think with the glass recycler and so forth that came in this morning, they were saying the issue they had in New South Wales was finding the glass that was going through the CDS but that did not stop the contamination of the commingled

waste. They still had glass going in there, which meant you could have high-quality glass that is contaminating and so it was not overcoming that issue. That is why they were not fans of the CDS and they preferred a separate bin. I am just putting that to you because that was the key issue. They did not see it as the panacea. So obviously we are really thoroughly examining this, but I am just putting that to you. That was the main issue they had.

Mr CHESSELL: I visited a Visy plant in February this year and was shown all the material coming in from the New South Wales CDS system and it was terrible. It had aluminium cans mixed in with the PET, and I spoke to the Cleanaway manager and he said, 'That can't be happening', but obviously some of the CDS systems are saying, 'I've got to get a truck to come and pick up the glass, I've got to get a truck to come and pick up the cans and a truck to pick up the plastic—let's bundle them all together in one truck'. That was just poor economics, so that needs to be supervised. So they are part of the issues of the CDS system, the economics again of three trucks to pick up three items.

Ms TAYLOR: Coming back to—and I agree with what Ms Crozier said, looking at packaging it is just a perennial issue. I have done Plastic Free July three years in a row and it is a way of testing out, and the only way I can get around the real dense plastic is to go to the market and bring my own bags, which I do, and there are certain butchers who are prepared to use tongs and if you bring your own tub and stuff, they will do it for you, and others just freak out and do not want to do that. That is fine. I respect that they just do not know what to do, and for some of them it would be hygiene issues and they just do not want to change the practice that they have done. So is there innovation? Are they looking at some techniques and ways to get around these issues, to overcome these issues for small businesses and the like, because otherwise I do not expect busy families necessarily can go to the Prahran market or whatever and pedantically go through the way that I would do it, and I cannot always do that. Sometimes I am flat out and you have got to shop at 10 at night, and if you go to the supermarket, you know inevitably you are just going to come home with a bundle of plastic no matter how hard you try. Where is the innovation? Because I just do not see it. You are in the supermarket, I am not seeing it.

Mr CHESSELL: The issue is all plastics are not bad, and that is the problem. Plastics are very important, and fortunately in your plastic ban this year you kept bags available for food produce. I am part of the national food waste strategy and the CRC for food waste, and my prime task in that is packaging's role in reducing food waste. What we do not do is educate, so why do you buy a bag of six apples? Why have I got to buy a bag of six apples? Because you sit there and you go, 'I don't want that one, I don't want that one and I don't want that one', and they end up getting bruised and they end up being thrown away. You buy a bag of six apples, you will take them home and they have got a little spot on it. It will still taste the same.

That is just one simple thing, but also the Australian Fresh Produce Association has launched a booklet, a brochure in terms of if you are buying lettuce wrapped, it is protecting it from being handled and stops contamination. There are lots of benefits, but the idea is the plastics that I will be talking to the fresh produce association about in two weeks time is designing the plastics so it will be a polyolefin, which is an LDPE or a HDPE, that will go into the soft plastics recycling system. So it will be recyclable plastics and you will give instructions to your household, so that piece of plastic you take that back to your store drop-off at Coles and Woolworths or hopefully local councils will provide bags that you can put it into.

We had, I think, about four councils trial it but the SKM scheme failed and it did not happen, but as I presented back in 2017, if every household could put all their plastic bags and put them back into their yellow bin and that be separated out at the MRF—

Mr HAYES: Keith, that would require them being properly labelled so households could go, 'This sort of plastic goes back to the supermarket—

Mr CHESSELL: Australasian Recycling Label on every piece of packaging so they know what to do with it.

Ms TAYLOR: I think there was just one more.

The CHAIR: One last quick one—30 seconds.

Ms TAYLOR: I think I got distracted then. The only other thing—I was going to say, I do not really like the idea of encouraging the single-use packaging. I was getting a bit depressed when you were talking about that, because I make the effort. I bought the cloth bags and I think for consumers, if they are accessible for people, it is possible. So encouraging that did not hit a good note with me personally, I have to say.

Mr CHESSELL: All I was saying was that if you look at the whole environmental footprint of one of those green bags, it is more environmentally friendly for a green bag if you use it more than 52 times, not if you only use it three or four times—heavyweight Coles and Woolworths bags that you are paying 15 cents for.

Ms TAYLOR: But what about even calico, hemp and other sorts of bags?

Mr CHESSELL: Very high energy to make them. But the green bags, if used and re-used—I have got used to putting them into my boot now and going shopping with them—I would agree, that replaces the litter-type issues of the other bags.

Mr HAYES: Yes, you have got to re-use them. You do not just throw them away after two or three—

Mr CHESSELL: I always re-use my single-use plastic bags too—

Mr HAYES: I do now, yes.

Mr CHESSELL: It was my garbage bin. I have got to buy garbage bin liners now where I never used to have to buy garbage bin liners before. A lot of the recyclers—

Mr HAYES: True. You can wash out one of those single-use bags.

Mr CHESSELL: Waste people and garbage bin men are seeing Coles bags used as rubbish bin liners now—very heavy compared to the lightweight bag.

The CHAIR: On that note, Mr Chessell, thank you again.

Mr CHESSELL: I am happy to answer any further questions as well.

The CHAIR: Thank you very much. A copy of the transcript will be sent to you, and thank you for making yourself available for the second time in two years.

Witness withdrew.