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Professor Peter Newman,

Thank you for this opportunity to be part of this ever-important issue, crucial to our survival and well being. This submission will look at my ideas regarding *sustainable recycling of packaging*, and *water recycling*. Currently I am studying Land Management at Murdoch Challenger TAFE, and through a module called natural resource management my interest in sustainability has increased.

I believe that if sustainability is to be achieved to any significant level, that at least the majority of the population has to be involved, in the processes which form the strategy.

My interest in sustainable recycling of packaging and water, is due to the amount of waste having such an enormous impact on the world's environment and its biodiversity. Personally, finding out that Western Australians have some of the highest rates of resource consumption in the world, has reinforced my realization that it is quite a sad road crumbling beneath our feet. I believe that the average Australian would be more than happy to take recycling a step further towards sustainability, though it is industry and the relevant government which will have to make the major changes.

## **Make Packaging Recycling Compulsory**

### **GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY**

The following insert is taken from the National Packaging Covenant, Environment Australia:

"It is not prescriptive, does not tell companies how to make their packaging or what type of packaging to use: nor does it implement regulation requiring businesses to take back materials recovered from kerbside recycling collection programs"

This could be seen as a broad summary, for a foot of change for certain strategies. If legislation required companies to use only particular types of packaging, and to take back recovered materials, then this would have an enormous impact on sustainable recycling of packaging.

### **CONSUMERS**

If recycling was cheaper than not recycling, what would you do? One possibility could be to make recycling part of your grocery bill. Perhaps recycling could work on a credit system, where you earn certain amounts of points for each item that you recycle; and in turn these points reduce your grocery bill to the according amount.

Perhaps the recycling truck, equipped with modern day technology, could issue a credit ticket in a locked compartment of the household recycling bin. You then present this ticket at the supermarket checkout prior to paying your bill.

## **Water Recycling**

I have done some work at a production nursery, and the amount of water wasted there is astonishing. On average they use 75 litres per minute from the mains water supply, and a large proportion of this ends up leaching into the ground. Further more the sprinkler system was running for most of the day, and this is done every day of the week.

The only solution I can see to this problem, is to make recycling of water compulsory for industry and businesses to ensure that recycling was taking place, all water usage should be monitored, and perhaps penalties should be put in place for those not abiding to the system. Recycling of water for gardens would probably not be feasible; though households, landscape gardens, golfing turfs and the like, should have their water usage monitored

In conclusion, I would like to say thank you for reading these ideas, and I wish you the best of luck developing the State Sustainability Strategy.

Regards,

Daniel van Mens.