

Dear Mr Morrison,

Since the Australian government committed to the Natural Packaging targets in 2018, and judging from the progress so far, we are very concerned how far away we are from meeting these ambitious targets by 2025 without stronger legislation.

Targets	Progress so far
100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	currently 89%, but over 50% disposed to landfill (2018-19), which reveals the lack of a link to actual action on recycling or composting.
70% of plastic packaging goes on to be recycled or composted	Our recycling rate has only improved by 1.3% a year. At a recycling rate of 13%, we are a long way from the ambitious target of 70% by 2025.
20% average recycled content within packaging	Only 4% recycled content in packaging

Around the world, developed nations have made significant positive progress. For example, Germany has the highest recycling rate in the world at 56.1% and this is largely due to policymakers making producers responsible for the packaging waste they create.

A recent study shows Australia is the most wasteful nation in the developed world with less than 13% recycling rate. We generate more single-use plastic waste on a per capita basis.

Underlying the plastic pollution crisis, there exists a more serious one. Plastics are made of 99% fossil fuels and the 2nd biggest factor contributing to climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions from plastic will jeopardize our ability to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5C.

Currently, the Australian government response to the plastic problem is dependent on meeting the targets set out in the National Packaging Targets established in 2018. However, there are no binding requirements for the industry to take any of these actions, and no financial consequences for non-compliance and failure to meet targets.

**We call on you and your government to facilitate real change by making a commitment to a more robust policy that ensures the plastic targets are met.**

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We respectfully ask for a response to the [Boomerang Alliance's Plan B](#) proposal calling for interim targets to be met by June 2022.

In summary, the proposed interim targets are:

1. All manufacturers/suppliers of packaging into the Australian market must
  - a. be members of APCO and
  - b. endorse the Plastic Pact goals and commit to changing their practices
2. All manufacturers/suppliers of packaging must report on how they plan to meet and comply with the Pact goals
3. All manufacturers /suppliers must be ready to comply with packaging design standards for products entering the Australian market (certifications/agreed standards for reusable/compostable/recyclable)

If all above necessary measures are not in place by mid-2022 then all targets should be mandatory by the start of 2023. This gives three years to achieve the targets - that is change product design and content; invest in new processing; and place on the market.

Do not resign yourself to thinking nothing can be done. With what we know today, meeting this challenge is physically and scientifically possible. Australians want and deserve clean, healthy oceans full of life.

Please use your influence to champion change, leave behind a legacy that will create a positive outcome for this country, and our planet.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pearl Chan', with a date '14/12' written below it.

Pearl Chan (Founder, Resparkle)  
On behalf of XXX Australians who have signed this petition.