Dear Cittaslow committee,

 First of all, congratulations to all who were involved in gaining the Cittaslow status for the Goolwa region.  It is a wonderful initiative and I am exceptionally motivated to support it in any way I can.  Also thanks for thinking about such a important component to our community to support climate change mitigation, recycling and a clean future.

 I do have a degree in Natural Resource Management and a Graduate Diploma in Agriculture, combined with working in the space of climate variability and change as an applied agricultural and natural resource researcher for 20 years.  I currently work with our local land managers on the Fleurieu and in the SAMDB as a consultant to support them to become more sustainable and prosperous. I currently sit on 7 local groups and boards and have gained a good understanding of current local sustainability issues and am particularly focused on improving soil health and using my knowledge of who does what with our water resources to secure more of our river water for the sustainability of this region.  Please go to my link to check out the many groups and boards I am involved with <https://climateagriculturalsupport.com/campaign-for-alexandrina-council-melissa-rebbeck/>  and you can also go to my linked in page to find out about my qualifications and activities. https://www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-rebbeck-7229676a/?originalSubdomain=au

I currently do and can continue to use my connections to support the focus of ‘*caring for and educating the community about ways in which to improve all of our lives while taking responsibility for protecting our heritage and natural environment’*.  If I am elected or not, I would be very keen to work with you collaboratively on this further.

On the topic of waste recycling here are my responses to your questions;

***As a prospective elected member, what strategies regarding recycling in public places would you like to see supported and implemented in the Alexandrina Council area during your first year in the role?***

We could review how other cities and towns do waste recycling and how their facilities are structured to cope with various forms of rubbish and  then come up with a suitable recommendation to improve our recycling.  I suggest it would look like the following;

***Aim to have various coloured bin such as;***

Using a yellow bin to put in:

* Glass bottles and jars
* Cans
* Hard plastic tubs, bottles and containers
* Cardboard, paper, newspapers, magazines (not shredded).

Rinse empty containers, remove lids.  Do not bag items - place them directly in the bin.

Then the contents of this bin could be sent to a place that can separate, bale and sent to be recycled.

However we need to identify a facility that can do this or modify ours.

Then have a green section waste bin;

* With just food scraps, leftovers.  There are many innovative things we can do with food scraps from making compost to biochar. (I am currently involved in a number of biochar projects and biochar manufacturing) So we would need to identify a company to deal with the scraps.

Then have another bin for:

* Non-recyclable general waste
* Nappies, dirty tissues
* Any items contaminated with food

The contents of this bin can be send to waste recovery place and processes with innovative methods where possible to reduce landfill.

***What other recycling strategies would you like to see considered in Alexandrina in the future?***

Other recycling strategies would be to provide better instructions for home rubbish separation, separate out food scraps and use them for compost or biochar manufacturing (I am involved in supporting biochar production in our local region).

 Of course for any of the above to happen we need to identify where to send the rubbish or modify our current systems.

Please understand that I support improved public and home waste recycling but to come up with a comprehensive project it needs facilitated discussion and pulling together of interested stakeholders. Also it needs investment (potentially from the state and federal government) as well as our local government.  I am experienced with project writing, planning and implementation and I am happy to support such a great initiative to make a project that would work for our region to improve waste recycling.

All the very best

Melissa Rebbeck

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