**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?**

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

I would like to congratulate Goolwa on being the first Cittaslow Community in Australia (one of only two in our nation and one of 230 globally). Cittaslow’s philosophy of working towards sustainability, protecting the environment, and reducing excessive environmental impact, amongst other things, encourage our local community to harness our resources through recycling and reuse, and to apply principles that see the community protecting the environment and creation, along with our unique heritage in Alexandrina (as is our God given mandate and responsibility).

I would like to thank Cittaslow for the education sessions they have already facilitated for our Community in relation to a number of relevant issues including: The benefits of recycling and composting; what happens to your waste, recycling and organics after it leaves the kerb, material recycling facilities, landfills; and composting facilities. Cittaslow is to be commended on their initiative.

Cittaslow works in conjuction with the Alexandrina Council and its Mayor. I look forward to developing that relationship further if elected as a Councillor.

According to Recycling Australia, in 2014-2015, 58% of all waste produced in Australia was recycled or recovered. This leaves a significant 42% of waste unaccounted for. The Australian Government, recognizing this issue was of concern, conducted an inquiry into the waste and recycling industry in Australia in order to provide a coherent approach to the management of solid waste. This inquiry was undertaken by the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications over the 2017 and 2018 years.

The Report considered the following topics: Waste Management and recycling in Australia; Landfill; Waste Levies; Key Challenges and Opportunities for Australia’s recycling effort; Issues facing the recycling Industry; National Leadership and of course the Committees view and Recommendations on an industry in crisis.

The Senate Standing Committee tabled this Report in June 2018 and that report ‘The Environment and Communications References Committee, Never waste a crisis: the waste and recycling industry in Australia, June 2018’, lists 18 Recommendations in our nations approach to dealing with waste and recycling in Australia in the future.

I have included those recommendations for the interest of all readers who consider recycling and waste management to be a priority for our nation of Australia.

*“Recommendation 1*

*8.18 The committee recommends that the Australian Government prioritise*

*the establishment of a circular economy in which materials are used, collected,*

*recovered, and re-used, including within Australia.*

*Recommendation 2*

*8.19 The committee recommends that the Australian Government show*

*leadership through the urgent implementation of the 16 strategies established*

*under the National Waste Policy.*

*Recommendation 3*

*8.20 The committee recommends that the Australian Government prioritise*

*waste reduction and recycling above waste-to-energy, and seek a commitment*

*through the Meeting of Environment Ministers of all levels of government to the*

*waste hierarchy.*

*Recommendation 4*

*8.24 The committee recommends that the Australian and state and territory*

*governments agree to a phase out of petroleum-based single-use plastics by 2023.*

*The scope of this commitment would require careful consideration and should be*

*developed through the Meeting of Environment Ministers.*

*Recommendation 5*

*8.25 The committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a*

*Plastics Co-Operative Research Centre (CRC) to lead Australia's research*

*efforts into reducing plastic waste, cleaning up our oceans and finding end markets for recovered plastic.*

*Recommendation 6*

*8.26 The committee recommends that the Australian Government commit to*

*implementing the recommendations of the Senate Environment and*

*Communications References Committee inquiry into the threat of marine plastic*

*pollution in Australia, particularly in light of the need to improve plastic*

*resource recovery.*

*Recommendation 7*

*8.31 The committee recommends that the Australian Government work with*

*state and territory and local governments to assist recyclers to increase the*

*diversion of material from landfill; improve the quality of materials recovered*

*through collection programs; improve the sorting of materials at recycling*

*facilities; and assist manufacturers to increase the amount of recycled material*

*used in production.*

*Recommendation 8*

*8.36 The committee recommends the Australian Government set mandatory*

*targets for all government departments in relation to the recycled content of*

*materials bought directly or provided by private contractors.*

*8.37 The committee recommends that state and territory and local*

*governments also pursue sustainable procurement policies to ensure strong*

*domestic markets for recycled material.*

*Recommendation 9*

*8.44 The committee recommends that the Australian Government implement*

*the 65 agreed improvements to the National Waste Report, and the data*

*collection and analysis practices, as established by Blue Environment's Improving*

*national waste data and reporting report.*

*8.45 Further, the committee recommends that the National Waste Report be*

*published at least biennially.*

*Recommendation 10*

*8.53 The committee recommends that the Australian Government support*

*state and territory, and local governments in ensuring effective education*

*programs are available to assist the public in understanding how best to*

*undertake recycling.*

*Recommendation 11*

*8.59 The committee recommends that the Australian Government implement*

*a national container deposit scheme.*

*Recommendation 12*

*8.66 The committee recommends that product stewardship schemes*

*established under the Product Stewardship Act 2011 be mandatory schemes.*

*Recommendation 13*

*8.67 The committee recommends that mandatory product stewardship*

*schemes be established for tyres, mattresses, e-waste, and photovoltaic panels.*

*Recommendation 14*

*8.68 The committee recommends that the Australian Government extend*

*producer responsibility under product stewardship schemes to ensure better*

*environmental and social outcomes through improved design.*

*Recommendation 15*

*8.69 The committee recommends that the Product Stewardship Advisory*

*Committee be re-established and that they be tasked with recommending*

*products for listing under the Product Stewardship Act.*

*Recommendation 16*

*8.75 The committee recommends that the Australian Government assist state*

*and territory governments to ensure that landfill levies in proximate jurisdictions*

*are such that there is a no incentive to transport waste for levy avoidance*

*purposes.*

*Recommendation 17*

*8.76 The committee recommends that the Australian Government support*

*state and territory governments fully hypothecating landfill levies towards*

*measures that reduce the creation of consumption and waste, and that increase*

*the recycling of waste materials.*

*Recommendation 18*

*8.81 The committee recommends that the Australian Government work with*

*state and territory governments to ensure the implementation of harmonised,*

*best-practice landfill standards.”*

As a previous Candidate for Federal Government, I have a strong understanding and knowledge of the fact that it is imperative that any new Strategy Alexandrina Council developed, or that I developed for them, should feed into the Nations recommendations for best practice of Waste Management and Recycling and the 16 strategies established under the National Waste Policy.

Currently the Alexandrina Council utilise the services of the formed Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA). The Authority is responsible for Councils waste operations including the collection of kerbside waste.

As you would be aware, as of 1 July 2016, a fortnightly Kerbside Waste Collection Policy was implemented by Council. This includes domestic general waste, recyclables and green organics, along with initiatives aimed to meet the needs of large households. (Those with 5 person plus families, medical needs, and children in nappies may apply to Council for an additional waste bin to be collected fortnightly at no charge.)

It seems SA and Alexandrina are indeed leading our nation in this important issue of waste management and recycling. It has been about 42 years since the Container Deposit Scheme (for refunds on bottles and cans) came into effect in South Australia. SA was the only state or territory with such a scheme for 35 years. Throughout our Council area there are already collection depots in place under this scheme.

Currently however, research shows that often paper, glass and hard plastic all go into the same bin. In the next 12 months, I would encourage Council to provide Public Bins throughout Alexandrina where they do not exist, which provide for collection of separated waste contents of this manner. This public service would also aid in educating people to recycle in a similar manner at home. In the future recycle bins provided to residences in this State may contain separate compartments for glass and plastics and education must begin now. I see no reason why this could not commence locally as part of the Goolwa Wharf upgrade, which Government funds have already been allocated for. In time, with appropriate funding, inserts could also be provided for residential bins, to provide for separate recycle compartments, that would feed in to upgraded collection vehicles in an appropriate manner.

Electronic waste collection services (e.g. old TV’s) were mandated under The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme established in 2011 and the new Bunnings store in Victor Harbor now provides a collection point for these items. However, Australia does not currently have a national scheme for battery recycling, which feeds into a plant such as that of South African recycling plant. I would like to see a Strategy in place for the development of specific publicized collection points in Alexandrina for battery recycling, in order to ensure hazardous materials were not combined amongst general garbage. Collection of such waste would encourage State and Federal Government to make provision for disposal accordingly.

Council also has a reticulated Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) which provides for the collection and carriage of septic tank effluent or sewerage and reuse solutions are already in place for the utilisation and reuse of treated effluent water. Further Community Gardens aiding Cittaslows ‘Grow Free’ initiative could benefit from this recycled water.

Amongst other things, I would also advocate at the local and national level to encourage the use of recovered recycled materials for infrastructure projects, rather than raw materials where possible, providing the purity of those products was ensured.

Time does not permit me to add further, but I hope this provides at least some indication of my understanding and commitment to the issue of Waste Management and Recycling in Alexandrina. I look forward to working with you on this important issue in the future and to serving the Community if elected.

In service to the Community,

**Tracey-Lee Cane**

**Tracey-Lee Cane (TLC)**

**Candidate**

**Alexandrina Council,**

**Goolwa Hindmarsh Island Ward**

**Local Council Election 2018**