**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?**

 I see a couple of opportunities but clearly these would have to be costed once I’m across all Council issues.

 One of the things I noticed when I was traveling in China last year was how clean the streets were and how many innovative ways they had bins in high volume areas. I’m afraid I have been know to stop people and make them pick up their rubbish!!!; including outside Signal Point Gallery this year when I noticed some children stuffing their rubbish down by the stairs.

 I believe rubbish collection in high volume tourist area should be attractive and encourage people to do the right thing – I think we have so many iconic features but an idea would be to have a Pelican where children put the rubbish inside it’s mouth. Next to the bins there could be information panels about the local Pelicans (tapping into the Storm Boy tourism expected next year); illustrating how good rubbish disposal is protecting our bird life.

Secondly, we are so smart in SA having a monetary incentive for recycling bottles – let’s use this to the advantage of the not for profits in the area – this could be by application or by location. A great example is the Chiton Rocks Surf Club getting their volunteers to collect the red bins they have created see photo attached. I think this is ingenious! We have bins at the depot, but this way bottle can be collected at the site for the site – for example a couple at Horseshoe Bay could raise funds for the Port Elliot Town and Foreshore Improvement Association, Middleton Foreshore and Basham Beach and so on. This way the spot that raises the rubbish can be enhanced with the recycling and people can see exactly where their ‘donation’ goes.

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

**future?**

I think our recycling plant does well, perhaps a few advertised nights in summer when people can take their rubbish after 4pm, but also with all the items in the ‘dump’ shed a sale a couple of times a year to encourage people to shop there first. Maybe we could have a recycle market?

**My biggest concern is recycling of clothes and fabrics made from manmade fibres.**

Australians buy an average of 27 kilograms of new textiles each year and then discard about 23 kilograms\* into landfill  – and two-thirds of those discards are manmade synthetic/plastic fibres that may never breakdown.([textilebeat.com](http://textilebeat.com)).

This is not a new issue for me; when I was CEO at Think Pink we had a recycle fashion event every few months. Women on breast cancer drugs can either loose weight or gain a lot of weight for a short period of time.  Ladies were encouraged to drop their clothes the day before and would be given buttons for each item (ie one item, one button, two items- two buttons) the next day they could come back and try on clothes in their new size and pay with their buttons. If they wanted more they paid a pink note ($5) per item.  This way we had a fast turn over and many happy customers and we made money for our programs .

So I would be looking at a strategy to enhance our current recycling strategies and minimalizing the amount of landfill from synthetic fibres. On a personal level for the last few years (maybe five) I have given away at least one item if not more every time I purchase something. My clothes now wear out rather than get thrown out.

I have put up my hand for Council to be a voice not to have a rigid agenda. I am passionate about not over developing our beautiful Peninsula and looking at innovate ways to make businesses sustainable and sympathetic to our natural surrounds.

I welcome any questions and I note you have a meeting shortly today which unfortunately I can’t make, but I have put the Smoke Off in my diary and will be there.

If you are coming to any of my ‘chat sessions’ please make yourself known to me so we can discuss in greater detail, in the meantime congratulations on all your hard work and the fantastic honour you bring to Goolwa being part of the Cittislow Movement.

Best wishes

Bron

Bronwyn Lewis

All opinions in this email are written and authorised by

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Candidate for Port Elliot / Middleton Ward

Alexandrina Council Elections 2018

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