



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000

Hon. Andrew McLachlan MLC
Presiding Member
Joint Parliamentary Service Committee
Parliament House
North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

1st March 2019

Dear Andrew,

Re: Recycling at Parliament House

I've been concerned for some time about how Parliament House deals with waste. I recall that when I was first elected, tonnes of newsprint went to landfill from this building every year. Now we do much better with paper and cardboard recycling.

More recently, I have become aware that recyclable items including empty glass bottles, plastic bottles and aluminium cans generated in Parliament House are no longer being recycled but disposed of with the general waste. This includes CDL scheme containers as well as other recyclable material. I understand this applies to waste generated in the Blue Room, Dining Room and at catered events. If this is the case, it is a poor reflection on Parliament, which in my view, should be a leader in modern environmental practice.

I appreciate that there are constraints, particularly in relation to the current building works, but that's no excuse for Parliament not to behave as we expect the rest of the community to behave. As you would appreciate, the Government is currently consulting on proposals to reduce single-use plastic waste and improve recycling through the YourSay website.

I would like JPSC to look into this matter and see what can be done to ensure that all recyclable material is separated from the general waste stream and appropriately recycled.

I also think it would be appropriate for JPSC to engage some outside expertise to look at environmental management generally in Parliament House. I'm sure there are many other initiatives that Parliament House could adopt as an example of best environmental practice.

I would be more than happy to attend a future meeting of JPSC to expand on my concerns and ideas for improvement.

Kind regards



Mark Parnell MLC