



Position Statement: New Lightproof Anchor Milk Bottles

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We believe recycling makes sense when the materials collected become high quality feedstock for re-processors.

The new Anchor lightproof bottles illustrate how product design can have negative consequences for the recovery chain and how new products may not fit with existing recovery infrastructure.

With three different layers of HDPE plastic, the new light proof bottles are recyclable, but our members are telling us that the plastic has been downgraded and are worth considerably less than the regular single layer HDPE milk bottles.

When designing packaging, producers should aim to consider and accommodate recovery programmes by:

- Having open communication lines across the supply chain so relevant information is used in decision making about design, procurement, consumption and resource recovery.
- Where possible, avoiding harder to recycle and composite materials.
- Ensuring and/or developing robust markets for the new products/materials.

The new bottles are a good illustration of the benefits of having Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms in place. With its focus on the part the manufacturer plays, we believe EPR encourages environmentally sustainable product design by making the manufacturer responsible for the product at the end of its life. This goes beyond recycling, driving reduction from the design phase right through the system.

The Community Recycling Network (CRN) is a national body that supports and represents community enterprises with a zero waste focus in Aotearoa.

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