Australia’s intervention on Part II.1 Primary Plastic Polymers

Plastic is, and will remain, an extremely important material in modern society. However, the evidence tells us that we cannot flatten the plastic pollution curve without restraining primary plastic production to sustainable levels. The evidence also tells us we can’t recycle our way out of this problem.

Like others before us (Peru, Cook Islands, UK, Rwanda and others), we consider this provision to be entirely consistent with UNEA 5/14. Australia supports binding provisions in Article 1.

Australia considers actions should be targeted at those products that contribute the most to plastic pollution. These include plastic products that are problematic, avoidable and single-use plastics, and those that are not conducive to a safe circular economy.

Through such sectoral approaches we can target our efforts to where they are needed most, to maximise environment benefits, while minimising economic impacts.