

Money-bags scandal for NSW Labor

A donations scandal has engulfed NSW Labor, with plastic supermarket bags used to deliver \$100,000 in cash to party headquarters by a foreign billionaire, ICAC has been told this week.

The customary "brown paper bags" were recyclable, and had been replaced in violation of the ALP's formal policy against single-use plastic. The money was plastic as well, but was clearly being recycled according to traditional political practice, said a party source.

Testimony has been leaked before hearings this week at the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, as part of its investigation into allegations that Labor had circumvented donation laws at the 2015 State election.



JUST 'RECYCLING', PARTY SAYS

Labor's "war on waste" included gradually phasing out single-use plastic, initiating a \$140 million "circular economy and job-creation fund", as it had announced in its campaign.

However, a party spokesman argued that the use of plastic to carry the political donations was in line with its policy, since the bags had been actually used once before.

"We need to reduce plastic in our waterways, reduce plastic going to our landfills and make sure we foster an economy that's founded upon renewables and recycling," a spokesman said.

Labor had started an online petition and tried to pass legislation in NSW to ban the bags.

By Don Pagé, 28 Aug 2019

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<https://www.smh.com.au/topic/labor-in-turmoil-1m2h>

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/single-use-plastic-bags-to-be-banned-within-100-days-under-a-nsw-labor-government-20190309-p512y9.html>