

[REDACTED]

From: EMERY Sonia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 March 2018 4:35 PM
To: Plastic Bag Ban
Subject: submission to plastic ban discussion paper
Attachments: Plastic bag ban.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please find attached, my submission on the subject.

Kind Regards,
Sonia Emery,

[REDACTED]

Submission for
The Plastic Bag Ban discussion paper

Due 9 March 2018

This submission will address the following matters:

1. Provide feedback on how the government can reduce the impact of lightweight 'single use' plastic bags;
2. Provide an opinion on the impact of the government's preferred approach being the state-wide ban;
3. Discuss what other plastic pollution the government, business and communities should work together on; and
4. Discuss other strategies to address other plastic pollution that would be most effective.

I. Provide feedback on how the government can reduce the impact of lightweight 'single use' plastic bags;

The proposed banning of lightweight 'single use' plastic bags with handles is a welcome step in the attempt to address the problem of plastic bag waste.

To have a greater impact the government should widen the variety of lightweight 'single use' plastic bags that are banned. Lightweight plastic bags without handles such as the ones used to carry fruit and vegetables. These should be replaced with re-useable produce bags, (preferably not plastic) at a cost.

Stores should not be permitted to provide heavier plastic bags free of charge. Heavy duty grade long lasting plastic bags should be only available at a minimum cost of \$1. Otherwise it could result in single -use heavier plastic bags replacing lightweight bags.

In the transition period of the single use plastic bag ban:

- store owners should provide and encourage the re-use of cardboard boxes.
- stores should be encouraged to give out re-useable cloth shopping bags free of charge or a minimal charge. Perhaps some government incentives could be provided.

II. Provide an opinion on the impact of the government's preferred approach being the state-wide ban;

The government's approach to this issue appears to be based on the ease of take up by industry and their willingness to comply with the ban. As to how much real impact on plastic waste reduction the ban will result in is questionable.

The world, especially Australia as the biggest per capita producer of plastic waste, needs to seriously reduce or eradicate plastic waste. In this sense the government's preferred

approach is a drop in the ocean and should only be the starting point for a longer term strategy to eliminate all disposal plastic from our lives.

III. Discuss what other plastic pollution the government, business and communities should work together on.

All throw away plastic wrapping and packaging, should be banned. This includes wrappings magazines, newspapers, appliances, toys, timber, building products and plastic food packaging – biscuits, bread , chips, cheese. etc

Takeaway food and drink utensils and containers, such as disposable coffee cups, plastic fuel and chemical containers should be banned.

IV. Discus other strategies to address other plastic pollution that would be most effective.

In the short to medium term before the elimination of disposable plastic) a refund on plastic drink containers and other plastic containers.

The real cost of handling plastic waste and the real cost of its impact on the environment needs to be calculated and added onto plastic products before it enters the market. The cost should be borne by the producers.

New plastic products should be made from used plastic products to deal with the plastic that is on the planet already.

The definition of hygiene needs to be re-examined. Wrapping everything in glad wrap and plastic does not equate to good hygiene. In fact there are associated health problems in doing so. Sustainable alternatives for hygienic wrapping if needed ought to be developed and encouraged.

Public education of the harmful effects of plastic on the environment and should be widespread and universal.