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**From:** Hannah Castledine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 March 2018 3:22 PM  
**To:** Plastic Bag Ban  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban submission

Hello,

Please see below points of concern and suggestions for the approaching plastic bag ban in WA.

- My greatest concern for the well-intended motion is that people will simply replace use of banned plastic bags with the introduced thicker plastic bags. Use will persist at the same volume contributing even more plastic to the environment due to increased thickness and weight of bags. I understand this is a response to combatting litter as heavier bags are less inclined to blow away, but landfill is an issue of equal priority and these bags will, too, eventually end up as either litter or in landfill. My proposed solution to this is to increase the charge of new bags. Fifteen cents is pittance. Absolutely no one I know will falter at the additional cost of approximately \$1 (if that) to their shopping. Consequently, these bags will likely not be reused and will be consumed at an equally high rate to original bags. We need to make the purchase of these bags difficult and a last resort. I think \$2/bag would be appropriate and still reasonable. This is the kind of deterrence people need to remember to bring reusable bags. A cost of this amount may also promote the value of the bags and encourage people to keep and reuse them. I think it would be much more likely for a bag that cost 15c to be put directly in the bin than a bag that cost \$2.
- I am disappointed that nowhere across the nation have fruit and vegetable produce bags been included in the ban. These are equally as harmful as the banned bags and, I imagine, consumed at an equal volume. Once educated, I imagine people would agree that these are almost entirely unnecessary as alternative reusable bags are readily available or items can just be placed loosely in trolley. I recently heard someone express hygiene concerns around the latter suggestion. Simple - wash at home before storage or consumption! (Which I should hope people do regardless of whether they use a produce bag or not anyway). People are so tragically uneducated on the harmfulness of plastic bags that I regularly see people place single items (one garlic bulb, one chilli, one grapefruit) in these bags which I highly doubt are reused. Education is key but legislation is a quick, population-wide solution. I do acknowledge that these bags will still be necessary for deli purchases (although it is of course a superior option to bring a container from home...) I also think point of use advertising against produce bags would be effective, ie. messages around 'do you really need this?' on or at the reel of bags.
- Finally, a small suggestion for inclusion in advertising campaign. It would be terribly counteractive if people commence purchasing plastic bags for bin liners for domestic use (I understand this is necessary for commercial sized venues). I request that you encourage people to use existing rubbish as bin liners, including bread bags, pasta bags, cereal box liners, flour bags - the list is endless.

The plastic bag ban is an excellent step towards tackling the mammoth problems of landfill and litter. However, it is a small step and much, much, much more needs to be done.

Regards,  
Hannah Castledine