

**Agriculture and Environment Committee**

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**From:** summerdot summerdot [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** Agriculture and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017

**Categories:** submission

Committee Secretary

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Members,

We have read the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 and would like to congratulate you on this positive step forward towards reducing the threat posed by light-weight plastic, bio-degradable and degradable bags to the environment.

However, we believe that some additional points need to be taken into serious consideration to avoid repeating mistakes made in other states.

The Bill should be extended to include bags up to 70 microns in thickness. The ban of thicker plastic bags should not be left to a voluntary scheme or postponed to a later amendment.

We are very supportive of an imminent and wide-reaching public and retailer (all levels) education and awareness program to explain the reasons for the ban and for the inclusion of degradable and biodegradable bags. Such education program should also promote alternative practices and substitute materials, and should encourage retail outlets to providing alternative bags on request.

Living in a coastal township, we frequently find and collect discarded bait bags and helium balloons on our local beaches. We, therefore, encourage you to include the replacement of bait bags with reusable containers or a take-back scheme into this bill and also to make it an offence to deliberately release helium balloons.

During our regular beach walks and clean-ups, and while driving along our local roads, we encounter a variety of discarded plastic, glass and aluminium drinking containers (with many sharp glass fragments posing

additional significant health and safety issues). We propose the inclusion of all types of alcoholic beverages containers between 150 ml and 3 litres into the Container Refund Scheme apart those containing milk, fruit juice and health tonics (for hygienic reasons).

Yours sincerely,

Rolf Schlagloth and Dr. Flavia Santamaria

