



## ***Fraser Island Defenders Organisation***

*FIDO — The Watchdog of Fraser Island*

c/- John Sinclair, 1/32 Weston Street, COORPAROO Q 4151

Phone : John Sinclair: (07) 3397 5889 or [REDACTED]

[www.fido.org.au](http://www.fido.org.au) — Email: [john@fido.org.au](mailto:john@fido.org.au)

**Aim:** *To ensure the wisest use of the natural resources of Fraser Island*

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Committee Secretary  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
[aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### **Re: Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017**

Dear Secretary,

On behalf of the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation I would like to make a submission supporting the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 that proposes to

- provide a head of power for the introduction of a:
  - lightweight plastic shopping bag ban;
  - container refund scheme for Queensland; and
- amend provisions in relation to End of Waste Codes to:
  - enable greater control on the use of end of waste resources, when necessary, to reduce the potential for environmental harm; and
  - streamline and clarify administrative arrangements for end of waste approvals.

This organization has become increasingly alarmed at the plastic litter and discarded containers on Fraser Island (K'gari). Our concern about plastic in all of its forms is set out in the attached Backgrounder on *Marine Debris on Fraser Island* (No 70) published as a supplement to our Newsletter MOONBI in March 2015. However that only addresses marine debris washed up on Fraser Island shores and focuses more on the ocean shore. FIDO is also most concerned at the inaccessible plastic debris washed down the Mary River and deposited on the shores of Great Sandy Strait. So far we have no means of quantifying this, nor the principal components of the marine debris entering the estuary. However we believe that the proposed ban on plastic shopping bags and a container refund scheme will make a significant contribution to addressing this problem.

Our support for the container refund scheme is justified by the problems encountered in a waste recycling scheme that had operated on Fraser Island (K'gari) for some years. The bulk of waste and rubbish is left at waste transfer stations from where the rubbish is removed for mainland disposal. The substantial costs of this waste management strategy are shared between the Fraser Coast Regional Council and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Last year the recycling component of the scheme was abandoned

because there was so much extraneous rubbish mixed with the beverage containers. Continuation with this scheme couldn't be justified. Now all unseparated rubbish including recyclable beverage containers are all dumped in the same bulk-bins and delivered to a mainland landfill.

Many beverage containers are taken to Fraser Island (K'gari) especially by fishers and campers. It is this organization's opinion that with the incentive for beverage container refunds at least some Fraser Island visitors, campers and residents would have an incentive to return as many containers as they could these to the mainland to cash in, retrieve their deposits and offset some of the costs of their island holiday. This could significantly reduce the bulk deposited at Fraser Island's waste transfer stations on thus reducing the cost of waste removal.

Whilst litter from discarded containers into the bush on Fraser Island isn't as serious a problem as occurs elsewhere it does exist. This organization is constantly picking up improperly disposed containers while working on weed management. We believe that container refund scheme would reduce this.

This organization congratulates the government on this initiative in presenting this Bill which we fully support.

Your sincerely,

John Sinclair AO  
Honorary Project Officer and Honorary Secretary