



30 June 2017

Committee Secretary
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000.

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Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 which was introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 14 June 2017.

I wish to advise that Council supports this Bill with respect to the introduction of a ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags as well as the commencement of a container refund scheme for Queensland.

Both initiatives support the goals of Council's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan by reducing the volume of waste generated per person which then in turn reduces the volume of waste which needs to be disposed of in landfill.

Council would however request that a review be undertaken on the type of containers that are proposed to be excluded initially from the scheme. There is concern that if not all containers are captured from the outset of the scheme, which will result in confusion with customers as to what are eligible containers and what are not.

Whether it is Council and/or community organisations across the Southern Downs, there will be capital costs associated with establishing infrastructure required to participate in the scheme. As such, Council would encourage the Committee to consider establishing a financial assistance package prior to the commencement of the scheme to assist with these capital costs. By providing this financial support, it will ensure the successful implementation of the scheme from its commencement across the Southern Downs.

Council looks forward to receiving additional information on the roll out of both of the initiatives across Queensland, especially the container refund scheme. Council requests that this information is communicated in a timely manner so we, in consultation with community groups, can best determine the most appropriate way to implement the scheme across the Southern Downs.

Council would like to also take this opportunity to encourage the Committee to investigate and implement other product stewardship schemes for other waste streams (eg tyres, batteries, whitegoods etc) as this is a highly

effective way of managing the item when it goes from a resource to a waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend and participate in a public hearing on this Bill, however Council considers that this submission will suffice at this time.

Should you have any questions in relation to this submission please contact Council's Manager Environmental Services, [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



David Keenan
Chief Executive Officer