

To the Committee Secretary
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



SUBMISSION

2/07/2017

For the:

Committee inquiry into Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017

Submission from the Surfrider Foundation, Sunshine Coast Branch, of the Australian Division of Surfrider Foundation Australia

Dear Secretary, this submission is from our Foundation, and reflects the opinions of all our members Australia wide, but I am formally writing to represent on of the two Queensland Surfrider Foundation Branches. Ours is located on the Sunshine Coast. We represent at least 10,000 local people who follow us.

This is very brief but basically, as all plastic is accumulating at an horrendous rate, and our planet cannot take any more of it, Surfrider Foundation wants all plastic bags, of any weight, banned. The heavier weight bags that were allowed in Tasmania, after the banning of the lightweight bags, are now the problem.

This includes the bags used for vegetables, meats, fish purchased etc.

Polystyrene has to be banned as well.

Single use plastic bait bags, to be banned please. My father used to buy frozen bait, wrapped in white butcher paper.

We also suggest and recommend, the phasing out of all disposable plastic straws, knives, forks, spoons, cups, plates etc, to be replaced in our society with biodegradable, and worm friendly organic contents. Potato starch, corn starch etc.

We also want The Refund on Returned containers, implemented as soon as possible.

We need education in Schools to help implement this.

There is no need for me to quote the disgusting figures of waste, and the dire effects it has on our planet. Boomerang Alliance and others supply much of these statistics for you, as do your own Scientists and researchers.

Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast Branch, (and our global cousins,) conduct many beach clean-ups, and we see the effects directly on marine life. I don't like having to cut fishing tackle from Pelicans, or releasing small fish trapped inside plastic coca cola bottles. Yes, I have done these things. Each time Surfrider Foundation organises a beach Clean Up on Teewah Beach (Clean Up Double Island) as our twice yearly campaign, we know that we will be removing 2 to 3 tons of rubbish each time, as per usual. It is usually mostly plastic.

Please see next page for a list of our recommendations.

Thankyou for considering our recommendations. We look forward to the result of the inquiry.



ITEM	ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE
Plastic water bottle	Use Reusable bottle/collection through a Container Refund Scheme.
Polystyrene/plastic coffee cup/lid	Ban and use reusable/paper cups/lids
Plastic straw	Ban/use reusable item
Plastic food ware (plate, knife, fork, spoon, cup) products	No single use plastic/ only reusable/compostable
Plastic bags	Total Ban
Plastic Bin Liners	Not used/possible limited use of biodegradable bag Identified
personal care products	No plastic microbeads
Containers	should either be reusable or compostable, made from recycled plastic
Takeaway containers	Not used/only BYO/compostable products/Waxed cardboard wire handle.
Polystyrene packaging	Banned/ use straw/hessian etc.
Plastic film (food packaging)	Avoid/alternative wrap, or container. Glass display lids.
Helium balloons	No mass releases
Bait bags	Use own reusable container/leave bag at bait shop/take back scheme/butchers paper.
Fishing Tackle	Take home/place in dedicated collection bin
Polyester clothing	Avoid/use natural fabrics. Introduce filters in washing machines
Six pack ring pulls	Plastic wrap around products Not to be used/ or use genuinely compostable alternatives
Beverage Containers (glass, aluminium and plastic)	Subject of CRS in QLD Retailer
Plastic Packaging, Including barrier bags, trays, plastic film and bags without handles	Review unnecessary packaging. Not to be used on fruit etc
Food/putrescible and safety requirement	identify alternative practice and product
Retailer Plastic Packaging (nonputrescible)	Eliminate secondary plastic packaging/review health and safety requirements/identify

Yours most sincerely, Christine Glennie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Glennie". Below the signature, the name "C. GLENNIE" is printed in a simple, uppercase font.

Secretary

Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast Branch

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