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2nd July 2017

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

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: [Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017](#)

Gecko Environment Council wishes to advise the Committee that its members fully support and endorse this Bill which will reduce the amount of littering and waste going to landfill, assist in the protection of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife from plastic ingestion and entanglement and reduce pollution of land and waterways.

We are delighted that this Bill has been presented to the Parliament and look forward to bi-partisan support for the Bill.

We support the Bill in that it provides the legal means by which a ban can be introduced on the lightweight plastic shopping bag and we hope that in time this ban will extend to all plastic bags. We hope that it will also encourage research into fully biodegradable alternatives to plastic packaging.

We further support the Bill which establishes the legal means for the introduction of a container refund scheme for Queensland. This will reduce littering, enable more recycling, reduce volume and pollution in land fill and protect wildlife from injury from beverage containers. Gecko looks forward to participating in the collection of the containers so as to provide some small amount of funds towards our activities of environmental education and advocacy for wildlife and native flora protection.

We are pleased to see that the Bill addresses the issue of preventing containers collected ending up in landfill.

We trust that this Bill will proceed to Parliament for a positive vote in the very near future to ensure these measures can be introduced by July 2018.

Yours sincerely

Lois Levy

On behalf of the Management Committee.