

Mrs. Carolyn Bussey  
[REDACTED]

July 2, 2017.

Committee Secretary  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament

Dear Committee,

Submission on Waster Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this subject since over the past seven years I have been campaigning to stop plastic pollution as a member of the Fraser Coast Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. As member of a coastal community I am all too aware of the amount of plastic debris in the sea and the danger it represents to marine wildlife and to seabirds.

#### Plastic Bags

I support a ban on the issue of “free single use plastic bags” to shoppers by grocery and other stores.

A voluntary retailer scheme to phase out thicker bags has been suggested. Many stores such as Kathmandu already provide heavy duty paper bags. The stores should be given a reasonable time to replace heavy plastic bags with heavy paper bags.

Stores should be encouraged to keep biodegradable plastic bags on hand to sell to customers who forget their shopping bags.

The biggest hurdle, even amongst educated and generally environmentally conscious people, is that they reuse the bags in their homes. I find this strange when we live in an area with a population of endangered green and loggerhead turtles and where seabirds are always in danger from fishing line. These people need to be educated to accept the idea that although they may be responsible, it is impossible to discriminate between them and people who are careless with plastic.

#### Other forms of disposable plastic:

The litter caused at cricket and football fixtures by promoters (eg “big hands” and other paraphernalia) is totally wasteful. After the game is finished thousands of these useless products litter the now vacant stadiums. It is my experience that the vast majority of children are aware that plastic causes turtle deaths. It should be to the companies advantage (I think Nestle was one of them?) to reduce plastic waste if they want to score points with kids.

A lot of the plastic in the sea is generated by fishers. All boat ramps should be equipped with containers for tangled line. Bait bags should be made of material that biodegrades to common sugars and starches that can be metabolised.

#### Container Refund Scheme

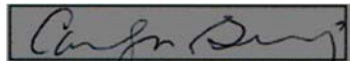
I applaud the introduction of a container deposit scheme. Our group drew up a petition (unfortunately we were not advised of the correct legal procedure and could not table the submission) and we fairly quickly got 500 signatures from the general public calling for a container deposit scheme. This is an excellent way to rid the road verges of a large percentage of rubbish.

The recycle scheme should be based on a per item deposit and when the container is returned the person/group returning it should get the same value eg 10 cents per container.

When I was a child the vendor of the drink was responsible for refunding the deposit. In areas where the reverse vending machines are not available, the vendor who sold the drink should be responsible for refunding the deposit and then collecting the deposit from the drink manufacturer.

Yours truly,

Carolyn Bussey  
July 2, 2017.

A rectangular box containing a scanned image of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Carolyn Bussey".

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If this signature is insufficient, please inform me how I can do it satisfactorily.

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