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Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017

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Birds Queensland congratulates the Government on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. The proposed Bill will make a large difference to plastic pollution in both the land and marine environments. Birds Queensland strongly supports the Bill. There is strong and clear evidence of the detrimental impact plastic debris on wildlife.

Evidence from SA, NT and the ACT show that the bans on plastic bags and container deposit schemes reduce both marine and terrestrial pollution and litter.

Birds Queensland supports the ban on lightweight bags and believe that there should be moves to ban the use of thicker bags with a transition to non-plastic biodegradable bags. The transition to non-plastic bags should be accompanied by public and retailer education and awareness program to explain the reasons for the ban and alternative practices

Birds Queensland strongly supports the Container Refund Scheme. We suggest that wine bottles are included in the scheme. As the scheme is rolled out, we urge that the public has easy access to collection and refund points.

We strongly suggest that the Government work with other States in the development of uniform national plastic and container recycling schemes.

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