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3 July 2017

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

Dear Secretariat

Central Highlands Regional Council Submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017

Central Highlands Regional Council offers support for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill) and the objective of the Bill to amend the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

The objectives of the Bill are to:

- provide a head of power for the introduction of a:
 - lightweight plastic shopping bag ban;
 - container refund scheme for Queensland; and
- amend provisions in relation to End of Waste Codes to:
 - enable greater control on the use of end of waste resources, when necessary, to reduce the potential for environmental harm; and
 - streamline and clarify administrative arrangements for end of waste approvals.

Council recognises the extent of public consultation that has been completed in the development of the Bill through the Advisory Groups and discussion papers "Implementing a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban in Queensland" and "Implementing Queensland's Container Refund Scheme". The support during these periods demonstrates that the public are willing to develop consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions with four other states and territories having a plastic shopping ban in place covering single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags. CHRC is supportive that the proposed ban is applicable to biodegradable bags which is an extension of what other State legislation stipulates.

Currently, South Australia and the Northern Territory are the only Australian jurisdictions with established container refund schemes. The proposed objectives within the Bill will allow for consistency between the schemes with NSW to commence on 1 December 2017 and the ACT and Western Australia shortly after.

The proposed amendments to the End of Waste framework will address some of the concerns of the current beneficial use approval framework and will allow greater flexibility and control of the end use of resources when necessary to encourage more innovative uses of waste materials. Council is supportive of the end of waste framework.



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As a regional Council, we recognise that there are no other viable alternatives to achieve the policy objectives other than through the proposed Bill and we support proposed objectives of the Bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kirstin Byrne, Manager – Planning and Environment on [REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss this submission.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Fletcher', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Fletcher
General Manager Communities