

# Australian Veterinary Conservation Biology

A Special Interest Group of the  
Australian Veterinary Association



26/6/2017

Submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill, Queensland

Committee Secretary  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House, George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000, Email: [aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
Closing date Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our understanding that the intent, in part, of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill is to permit the implementation of a ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags and to permit a container refund scheme for Queensland.

Australian Veterinary Conservation Biology is a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association and is concerned with all matters relating to wildlife (both terrestrial and aquatic) including the environments in which they live and all matters affecting their health and welfare.

Waste products of human activity represent a major cause of environmental degradation and contribute directly and indirectly to reduced abundance of wildlife. Many suffer agonising and prolonged suffering as a result of plastic waste by ingestion and entanglement. These matters are widely recognised by ecologists, veterinarians, marine biologists and other professionals and organisations concerned with conservation.

Increasingly legislatures are recognising this as a major issue and are responding accordingly. Other Australian states and territories with such bans include ACT, Tasmania, SA & NT. It should be noted that this legislation only affects thin plastic bags and further measures are required to eradicate plastic waste from our environments.

Some examples include:

European Commission [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic\\_waste.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm) had in place measures to require 55-80% by weight of packaging materials to be recycled by 31 December 2008 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legissum:l21207>

California has ratified a state law banning single-use plastic shopping bags passing Proposition 67 <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-beyond-bag-ban-20161121-story.html>

Australian Veterinary Conservation Biology supports any legislative actions that seek to reduce the quantity of plastic and other wastes that contaminate our environment as a part of a broad program which eliminates uncontained waste in our environment.

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President

## CONTACT DETAILS

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