



**CAPRICORN
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

A voice for the environment

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

13 January 2021

Email: hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Re: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

Dear Secretary,

Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) supports the introduction of this legislation and urges its implementation as soon as practical.

More specifically, CCC is supportive of introducing this legislation to ban the supply of single-use plastics products starting with plastic straws (taking into account the disability needs of people), stirrers, plates/bowls and cutlery. This legislation is a positive step forward in reducing waste and litter, and will assist in protecting our marine environment. We would be very supportive of this ban being extended to include expanded polystyrene cups and containers which can readily be replaced by biodegradable alternatives.

CCC believe that the commencement date for the ban on these first tranche products should be during the third quarter of 2021. This will provide a sufficient transition period for the retail, food services and hospitality sectors, many of which have already moved to alternative options.

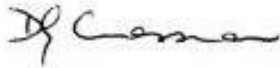
CCC also supports the inclusion of coffee cups, other plastics cups and heavyweight plastic shopping bags. We understand that the ban on these additional products will be introduced in a second tranche and would encourage this to occur within 12 months of the enabling legislation being passed. We also recommend that a specific list of products be identified for this second phase-out which includes coffee cups lids, other problematic packaging used in takeaway or away from home (e.g., plastic wrappers), plastic bags provided in the fruit and vegetable section of supermarkets, plastic balloon sticks and helium balloon releases.

Exemptions for those who demonstrate a need for these items are only supported for products that meet the Australian Compost Standards (AS 5810/AS 4736).

Conversely, CCC is concerned that the Bill provides an exemption for plastic straws, stirrers or cutlery in shelf-ready products (e.g., a straw with a mixed drink or fork with a pre-packaged salad). This is inconsistent with the legislation and will add to public confusion. Under this exemption, these plastic items will still end up as waste or litter. There are viable non-plastic alternatives available that should and could be used now.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020.

Yours sincerely

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

Doug Crossman
Secretary
