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Committee Secretary

Health and Environment Committee

Parliament House

George Street

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Submission to the Health and Environment Committee, Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

99GA(b) of the Bill states that one of the objects of that part is to reduce plastic pollution by reducing the number of single-use plastic items used or sold and that become waste and are littered or disposed of to landfill.

99GC includes a list of items which are defined as banned single-use plastic items. Coffee cup lids are not included on this list.

Coffee and hot drink cups make up a significant portion of polluting litter in the environment and Planet Ark says that about 60,000 kilograms of plastic waste from coffee cups is directed to landfill each year in Australia, where it can take about 50 years to break down.¹ Coffee cups are estimated to be the second-largest contributor to litter waste after plastic bottles.² Last year, France became the first country to ban disposable coffee cups, so precedent exists.³

I submit that plastic coffee cup lids are added to the list of banned single-use plastic items in 99GC considering one of the objects of the bill is to reduce plastic pollution and coffee cups lids are the second-largest contributor to litter waste.

Sincerely,



Blake Young

¹ <https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/drinks/tea-and-coffee/articles/are-takeaway-coffee-cups-recyclable>

² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-03/takeaway-coffee-cups-piling-up-in-landfill/7136926>

³ <https://edition.cnn.com/2016/09/19/europe/france-bans-plastic-cups-plates/index.html>