

13th January 2021

Chair
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

ABN: 68 098 814 310

PO Box 2222
Fortitude Valley
QLD 4006
Phone 07 3554 0115

Email: qld@eh.org.au
Web: www.ehaql.org.au

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020* and the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020*. Environmental Health Australia (Queensland) Incorporated [EHA (QLD) INC] has the following comments for consideration by the Health and Environment Committee.

Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020

EHA (QLD) INC supports the extension of the expiry dates of the provisions outlined in the above-mentioned Amendment Bill 2020 for a further six months until the end of September 2021. EHA (QLD) INC also supports the alignment of the expiry dates for all the amendments made to Health portfolio legislation.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

EHA (QLD) INC supports the abovementioned Amendment Bill 2020 to reduce plastic waste and the environmental and economic impacts of plastic pollution. EHA (QLD) INC supports the introduction of legislation to limit and reduce the supply of single-use plastic items, such as straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery.

Furthermore, EHA (QLD) INC supports the encouragement of manufacturers to identify innovative product designs for sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic items.

It is suggested that an education campaign accompany this Amendment Bill to inform the community of nonrecyclable and recyclable items to reduce the contamination of recycling streams and thereby potentially reducing the creation of more waste that requires disposal.

It is noted that this Bill provides flexibility for the start date of the provisions to ensure there is not undue impost on businesses that may be recovering from COVID-19 restrictions.

Yours faithfully,



Wendy Gambley
President
EHA (QLD) INC

Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future www.eh.org.au