

## Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

**Submission No:** 5  
**Submitted by:** Scouts Queensland  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

## Submission to Queensland Government regarding the *Inquiry into the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*

### Background

Scouts Queensland is the largest non-formal education provider to young people in Queensland with a membership of 13000, comprised of 10000 young people aged 5-25 and 3000 adult volunteer members.

Scouting is represented in 220 communities across Queensland and delivers a program for young people that is Adventurous, Fun, Challenging and Inclusive. Care for the environment is at the heart of all our activities.

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national, and international communities. As such, the importance of developing and promoting in each young person the importance of keeping safe and healthy and supportive of others is fundamental. Further this is premised on being able to live and interact in a clean and safe environment and as such are committed to reducing waste and living in a sustainable environment.

### Our Submission

This submission supports any sensible and researched action that is being proposed regarding the education of waste and the encouragement of more recycling. As such the proposed *Inquiry into the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* is supported.

Within the Scouts Environmental Charter, there are four main environmental principles that reinforce our work with young people and adult volunteers. These are:

- Protecting and Improving Biodiversity  
Scouts protect biodiversity by caring for plants, animals and their habitat. They make sure their adventures in the outdoors only have positive impacts on the variety of ecosystems they visit. Scout campsites and properties are managed so existing wildlife habitat is protected and degraded habitat is restored.
- Learning About the Environment and Inspiring Others  
Scouts join their communities in activities that encourage life-long learning about the environment. Scouts develop innovative education activities and inspire others to be involved with their journey to take care of our environment.
- Enjoying and Connecting  
Scouts take time to enjoy the environment through passive or active pursuits. We develop connections to the environment with its beauty, drama and excitement.
- Living Sustainable Lives by Taking Action to Reduce Negative Impacts  
Scouts aim to reduce their environmental footprint by acting to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and minimise use of energy and water at scouting events and in their daily lives. Scouts support healthy environments by reducing the risk from harmful substances, minimising the use of non-renewable resources, embrace sustainable energy technologies and protecting our clean air and water.
- Thinking Global Acting Local



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Scouts adapt their activities at a local level to minimise impacts that change the Earth's natural processes. Scouts are creating a better world through activities that tackle our environmental, social and economic challenges. We will develop strategies to be prepared for changes in weather conditions that will occur due to climate change.



It is noted that the proposed *Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* redefines the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Further it redefines waste and the circular economy principle and circular economy; redefines what could comprise a state management policy, enables the amendment or suspension of resource recovery area by chief executive.

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The specific conditions relating to the Release of lighter-than-air balloons is supported.

It is accepted that balloon litter is a major threat to the environment as balloon litter is being ingested by animals causing death. (1)

Balloons are the biggest plastic killers of Australian seabirds, and one of the most lethal types of debris for ocean animals. (2)

From 2013–2016, beach clean-ups removed 22,504 balloons (whole, burst and remnant) from Australian beaches. (3)

A recent Australian study in August 2020 has shown that after 16 weeks in freshwater, saltwater and industrial compost conditions, latex balloons did not degrade, despite manufacturers assuring the public that balloons are '100% biodegradable'. (4)

Scouts also support proposed changes to clean earth exemption

Clean fill is in demand in Queensland and therefore should not have a levy exemption. (5,6)

Scouts support changes to banning single-use plastics in shelf-ready products after 2025 but also include items that are an integral part of a shelf-ready product e.g

- a straw attached to a juice box
- a fork included in a pre-packed salad
- a spoon attached to a yoghurt container
- a plate forming part of a frozen meal

It is considered that retailers should be encouraged to find environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic in the above exemptions (7) and should be encouraged to explore eco-friendly products. (8)

### Summary

As such please accept this submission in support for the proposed Inquiry into the *Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*.



**GEOFF DOO**  
**CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF QUEENSLAND**



## References

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