

Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

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10th March 2023

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee

HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Dear Committee Secretary,

No More Butts appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the Committee as part of the consideration of the proposed Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.

No More Butts is an Australian charity, formed in 2020 to tackle Australia's most littered item: cigarette butts. Having been entered onto the Register of Environmental Organisations in Australia, No More Butts' vision is for a 'butt free environment'. For more than a year, we have also been leading the conversation on the environmental impacts caused by the e-waste creation as a result of the increase in vaping.

We appreciate that the topic of cigarette butts and vaping were not directly in scope for this committee, however we believe that these topics are relevant when considering this Bill. As such, we have provided two documents to the committee for consideration:

- Briefing note prepared in February 2022 to highlight the impact of cigarette butts in Qld
- A 2022 application for tobacco filters to be considered in future Qld single-use plastic bans

This covering letter may help to connect the relevance of providing these documents for the purpose of this submission. We have outlined these relevant areas below.

Section 9A

The introduction of this section gives the opportunity for action to be taken on tobacco filters through various means, including:

- Design for environment (removal of plastic filters)
- New business models to deal with research into circular initiatives of this potential resource
- Resource recovery facilities designed to deal with items that would otherwise be considered waste

Amendment of s 99GC

This is the perfect vehicle to demonstrate the definition of tobacco filters as a single use plastic. Implementing an end date for other plastic products that are used to consume products, but are deemed problematic and unnecessary is encouraging.

Including plastic tobacco filters in this section as a banned single-use plastic item (now, or in the future) would be the desired outcome.

There have been earlier discussions where it has been highlighted that because the tobacco filter is seen as a part of the product, it may be considered out of scope for any single-use plastic bans. The introduction of this clause could see a parallel drawn between a straw being sold as part of a juice box to a plastic filter being sold as part of a cigarette.

It is important to note that a cigarette still performs its function without a plastic filter. In fact, the filter is actually designed for the consumer's comfort and is not actually required, nor does it provide any health benefit to the user.

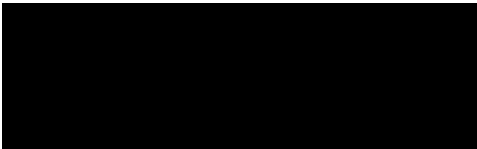
Section 99GJ

We are encouraged by this section, as it provides an opportunity for specific actions to be listed for specific items that cause damage to the environment.

We would see an opportunity for the inclusion of actions around both cigarette butts and vaping device disposal.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of the comments in this letter, the attached documents, or have any further questions about our submission.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Shannon Mead
Founder / Executive Director
No More Butts Ltd

