

Submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

By Sabrina Burke - Coordinator of Minimal Waste Central Queensland (unpaid) and Capricorn Coast Landcare Group.

Community & business educator on waste reduction & plastic-free living. I also work part-time for Capricorn Coast Landcare group, the on-ground partner with Fitzroy Basin Association to roll out community education regarding the 'What's Down Our Drains' Drain Buddies project, funded by Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and rolled out simultaneously in Livingstone Shire Council, Rockhampton Regional Council and Gladstone Regional Council.

Email: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/minimalwastecq/>
<https://www.instagram.com/minimalwastecq/>
<https://www.facebook.com/capricorncoastlandcare/posts/>

- I support the banning of the following single-use plastic items which feature regularly in our weekly Landcare clean-ups, annual mangrove/ beach clean-ups and Drain Buddies project: plastic plates, bowls, cutlery, straws, stirrers (see supporting photos below)
- I would also like to see non-recyclable polystyrene cups and food containers (e.g. burger clam-style boxes) also considered for future bans.
- I support regulation which makes it easier for the public to understand what exactly is 'home compostable', 'industrially compostable', and which is not actually compostable e.g. 'oxo-degradable' polypropylene. There is too much confusion and I'm often asked questions on the topic at community presentations in regional Queensland where we do not even have facilities for industrial composting (yet).
- I would like to see stronger regulation on take-away food packaging, namely MacDonald's non-recyclable plastic-lined cardboard drink/coffee/ice-cream cups, plastic straws and the clear plastic lids which shatter into a multitude of small pieces in the environment. See images below for weekly clean-up evidence from the vicinity of Yeppoon McDonalds, which is besides the urban Fig Tree Creek which runs into waters of the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

6 NEWS

capcoastmirror.com.au Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Drain Buddies for research

Reducing waterway waste

Trish Bowman
trish.bowman@capnews.com.au

NEWLY installed Drain Buddies in Yeppoon are about to revolutionise the way we deal with waste that is washed into our waterways and creates marine debris.

Research tells us humans are responsible for 100 per cent of marine debris.

The nine new Drain Buddies will provide a better insight into the waste habits of our region, thanks to a Local Action Community Reef Protection grant.

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. is working in partnership with Cleanwater Group, the Local Marine Advisory Committee, local Reef Guardian Councils and the community on the initiative, which will provide vital data about our waste production and its source.

The Drain Buddy is a heavy-duty basket that allows only water to pass through. It collects all other matter including litter, organic debris and sediment.

Fitzroy Basin Association's community partnerships coordinator Holly Lambert said matter that is collected will be emptied quarterly, then sorted, analysed and

recorded in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database.

"The data collected from these sites will provide unrivalled insight into what we are throwing away and where it comes from, and will also lay strong foundations for the subsequent success of source reduction campaigns on the Capricorn Coast for years to come," Ms Lambert said.

"This project demonstrates an upstream solution to a downstream problem.

"This project is exciting for us, as it signals the beginning of a better understanding of human behaviour when it comes to waste in our local communities.

"From this point forward we can verify the biggest types of litter and begin targeting ways to reduce their presence.

"Ultimately reducing marine debris from reaching the Great Barrier Reef is the aim but we need to examine why, where and how litter is created to effectively change behaviour."

The "local action" grants funded by the partnership between the Australian



WAR ON WASTE: One of nine Drain Buddies is installed at Yeppoon.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation are designed to strengthen community reef protection actions by promoting stewardship of local issues by local people.

Cleanwater Group has installed nine Drain Buddies at key locations throughout Yeppoon in the last week and more in Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Development manager Aaron Horsey said the

instruments are a cost-effective, innovative and simple solution. He said the same systems have been installed at thousands of locations across Australia.

"These systems are simple in design and simple in principle and the data that will be collected from this point forward is going to change the way the Capricorn Coast examines its litter forever," he said.

Capricorn Coast Local

Marine Advisory Committee chairman Bret Heath said the project holds the potential to change the way marine debris in waterways is managed.

"The data we collect holds so many possibilities for litter reduction in our region and for the Great Barrier Reef," Mr Heath said.

"Marine debris is one of the five key threats to the health of the reef, so it's critical to continue building

SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR WASTE

- Remove single-use plastic from your everyday life
- Reuse and recycle durable items such as kids' toys and clothes
- Support venues that are waste conscious and refuse to offer patronage to venues and premises that aren't
- Compost – keep organic matter out of landfill
- Clean up – take 3 for the sea
- Be organised – remember to bring reusable shopping bags, a reusable drink bottle and reusable coffee cup each time you leave the house

community mindfulness around waste and consumption habits."

The project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and is being delivered by the Fitzroy Basin Association with support from the Capricorn Coast and Gladstone Local Marine Advisory Committees.

Media releases from the "What's Down Our Drains" project our Landcare group has been involved with: straws and other single-use plastics easily visible in Yeppoon drains when opened for clean-out and auditing.

This litter data is available for 3 local

Governments should it be useful for the Bill.



ABC Capricornia

9 April · 0

WHO YOU GONNA CALL? DRAIN BUSTER! 🗑️🌊

A new gadget could turn out to be the Great Barrier Reef's best friend.

It's called a Drain Buddy and it's a trap that sits in storm water drains to collect large pieces of rubbish and debris.

The Fitzroy Basin Association picked up some funding from the Community Reef Protection Grant Stage 1 to install these rubbish busters.

"We can easily remove and count the debris in it and look at what's washing into that drain from from the local area," says the FBA's Community Partnership Coordinator Holly Lambert.

The Drain Buddies will be placed in Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon.

"It's working towards finding those rubbish hotspots and the public can see what's flowing into those storm drains."



Sammy Hall, Elyse Riethmuller and 47 others

5 comments 8 shares

I have concerns about polypropylene 'oxo-degradable' plastic straws being sold by distributors to local businesses as an eco-friendly option when indeed they are not. The number of these straws found in Yeppoon's CBD drains, far outweigh regular plastic and paper straws.



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc

Published by Sabrina Fraser [?] · 10 March ·

Who saw ABC Landline's story about the enterprising young couple behind Mister RYE turning certified organic rye stalks into biodegradable drinking straws? (Video here: <https://www.abc.net.au/.../clutching-rye-straws:-an-.../12036594>).

Through the Drain Buddy project, Capricorn Coast Landcare group supplied biodegradable wheat straws to some Yeppoon businesses last year in an effort to reduce the amount of plastic straws entering drains and Keppel Bay.

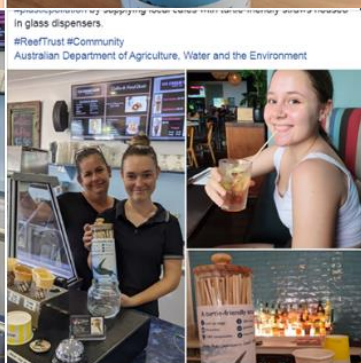
We still have a straw litter problem on the coast: look at last month's collection of 50 straws from just a few town drain interceptors. All those black oxo-degradable polypropylene straws are sold by local suppliers as an environmentally-friendly option, but they are just plastic with an additive to break them into microplastics quicker.

We'd like to see plastic straws phased out entirely and the Drain Buddy mesh interceptors continue to be maintained in Livingstone Shire past this pilot trial.

Keppel Bay Ice Cream Cafe, Food For Thought, The Strand Hotel, The Citrus Club.

A massive thanks to FBA (I believe in a sustainable CQ), Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Livingstone Shire Council, Cleanwater Group and numerous partners (members of Greening Australia, Surfrider Foundation, Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee & Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority staff).

#yeppoon #drainbuddiesyeppoon #keppelbay #drainbuddies



4,626

People reached

511

Engagements

Boost post

29

6 comments 5 shares



Empty straw wrappers and plastic straws (including black 'oxo-degradable' straws) collected from Yeppoon Drain Buddies. Short cocktail straws & large milkshake straws from ice cream café.



eco-straw.com.au

HOME

COMPARISON CHART

OXO-BIODEGRADABLE

PLA

PAPER

BUY NOW

THE ECO-STRAW RANGE

SUITABLE FOR		OXO-BIO PP WITH OXO-BIO ADDITIVE	PAPER FOOD GRADE 3 PLY KRAFT PAPER	PLA POLYLACTIC ACID VEG STARCH
INDUSTRIAL COMPOST		✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
BIODEGRADABLE		✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
BETTER FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT		✗	✓✓✓	✓
HIGH ACIDIC JUICE AND SMOOTHIES		✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
SHELF LIFE 12+ MONTHS		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
FOOD GRADE CERTIFIED		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
KEY	EXCELLENT	GOOD	OK	NOT SUITABLE
	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✗

Single-use takeaway food packaging littering our town in Livingstone Shire Council, ending up in Fig Tree Creek.



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc is with Leanne Lancaster.

Published by Janet Schipke [?] · 25 October 2016 ·

The Great Northern Cleanup around Yeppoon streets and Fig Tree Creek removed 20 bags of rubbish on Sunday. Terrific effort from an enthusiastic group of 20 volunteers who braved grey skies and only got a little bit wet towards the end. Big thanks from Alby and Janet, but a bigger thankyou from our waterways and riparian areas which are so close to the Great Barrier Reef.

Everyone commented about how much McDonald's takeaway rubbish there was due to the close proximity of the store.... what can be done? We'll be endeavouring to have a conversation with them about greater litter awareness of patrons.



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc

Published by Malcolm Wells [?] · 19 May 2018 ·



Malcolm Wells
19 May 2018

If anyone had any doubts over who was the biggest contributor to trash along our Landcare Fig Tree Creek site, here is the evidence. I collected this in just a 10 minute walk along the creek area, just after the morning parade of schoolkids heading from the Yeppoon Central McDonalds to their school. I'll be including this photo in a letter to McDonalds and all the schools within walking distance; and send a copy to the Cap Mirror to see if they're interested in posting a piece on it.



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc is at Alby Wooler Park Yeppoon.

Published by Sabrina Fraser [?] · 7 January ·

Litter, mostly McDonald's food packaging, removed from Fig Tree Creek by a Capricorn Coast Landcare volunteer.



3,648

People reached

317

Engagements

Boost post