ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PHOTOS to 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 work part-time for Capricorn Coast Landcare group, managing the Envirolink Centre, and act as 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 cups, 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 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.

- I would like to see stronger regulation on take-away food packaging, namely McDonald’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 with evidence on my original submission, and from the vicinity of Yeppoon McDonalds, which is besides the urban Fig Tree Creek which runs into waters of the Southern Great Barrier Reef.
**Alternatives to Single-Use Plastic**

May 2019: Compostable palm leaf catering platters supplied by Whisk to Lendlease Springboard event in Yeppoon.

July 2017: Rockhampton River Festival - food van with biodegradable timber utensils & mostly paper straws.

Sep 2018: Compostable plates & cutlery received from a wedding in Yeppoon through ShareWaste ap.

Aug 2017: CQU Village Festival Yeppoon - Lions Cabaret event compostable plates & cutlery, taken home by coordinators of Capricorn Coast Landcare & Minimal Waste CQ to compost.
EVIDENCE OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC IN THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND ENVIRONMENT

Aug 2020: Livingstone Shire Council Community Centre Yeppoon, 5 minute perimeter walk.

Sep 2018: Thin single-use water cups disintegrating into bushland (St Brendan’s College cross country track).

Aug 2017: Short 45 minute flight to Brisbane, one passengers’ ‘snack’ waste (less disposable water or coffee cups).

Nov 2017: Fig Tree Creek mangroves, Morris Street, flows into Keppel Bay.

March 2018: Mangroves below Yeppoon Central shopping centre - Fig Tree Creek flows into Keppel Bay.