

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

asked on Tuesday, 14 February 2017

MS D FARMER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the State Government's plastic bag ban initiative, when is it expected to be rolled out and what are the projected outcomes?

ANSWER:

The Government will ban the supply of single use lightweight plastic shopping bags to help reduce the amount of plastic litter in the environment. The ban will commence on 1 July 2018.

Plastic bags are an entanglement and choking hazard for sea birds, turtles and other marine and terrestrial wildlife and have a significant visual impact on the environment.

The ban will significantly reduce the approximately 900 million plastic bags currently used every year in Queensland and will also help raise consumer awareness of the issues associated with plastic litter.

There is widespread support for this initiative with over 26,000 submissions received on the recent lightweight plastic bag ban discussion paper. Over 95% of submissions support the introduction of the ban.

This initiative, along with a Queensland container refund scheme, form part of the Government's ongoing plastic pollution reduction strategy.

The Government will work closely with retailers and community groups leading up to and following the ban to make sure there is widespread awareness about the ban and what it means for Queenslanders.

The ban will not apply to plastic bags such as fruit and vegetable and deli/produce bags or bin liners.

At the same time, the Government wants to progress discussions with retailers and other jurisdictions on voluntary actions to phase out the use of the heavier department store style bags.