



MEDIA RELEASE - 12 August 2015

## 64% of NSW residents want a ban on plastic bags

As the NSW Parliament prepares to debate a ban on single use plastic bags on Thursday 13th August this week, an [Omnipoll survey conducted in July](#) shows 64% of NSW residents support a total ban on single use plastic bags given out at supermarkets and stores. Where a ban is already in place as in SA and NT the support rises to 81%, demonstrating public acceptance once the measure is established.

“Plastic bag litter is implicated in horrible deaths for marine life and birds; it’s ugly; and because they are thrown away very quickly, are a waste of resources. More and more countries and cities are banning the bag,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor and Director of the [Boomerang Alliance of 32 allied groups](#). “We estimate that at least 16.5 million plastic bags enter the litter stream in NSW every year. Just 8.7 plastic checkout bags contain enough embodied energy to drive a car 1 kilometre. We need to stop this waste and environmental damage.”

"According to the CSIRO, [over 95% of seabirds will have ingested some form of plastic by 2050](#). This prediction alone should stir us into immediate full-scale action with regard to fighting plastic pollution on all fronts. A ban of the plastic bag will put every NSW citizen in touch with the question of why plastic is becoming such a permanent problem in our marine environment on a daily basis. The level of convenience we have built into our daily lives has destructive side effects, which include the single use plastic bag," added Sjikr Bangma from [Plastic Bag Free NSW](#).

The NSW Parliament debate was triggered by a petition signed by 12,472 voters and is being presented by MP for Coogee, Bruce Notley-Smith.

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