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### **Plastic Pollution: Pacific neighbour help vital**

The Boomerang Alliance has welcomed commitments made by all the key political parties at this federal election to invest and support efforts to reduce plastic litter and increase recycling by our Pacific neighbours.

“The Coalition has promised \$16M and Labor \$15M – an essential contribution by our wealthy country into a massive problem for a shared environment that will require ongoing help over coming years,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Boomerang Alliance of 48 member groups.

“Higher income countries like Australia have the highest per capita use of disposable plastics but many Asian countries are amongst the major ocean plastic polluters.”

“Nations such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Sri Lanka rank in the top 10 for plastic pollution and they all have a strong commitment to adopting solutions. Although some have implemented bans on certain items, they also need collection services and processing infrastructure to recycle plastics.”

“Australian Foreign Aid funding can now be devoted to helping communities clean up their waterways and beaches, with essential investment in community-based recycling operations included.”

“The funding will help clean up the environment and create new economic opportunities from recycling waste plastic, something that hardly exists in many countries,” said Angel.

“There is no point in cleaning up if there is no option to collect and recycle plastics.”