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SA Single Use Ban, Groundbreaking

South Australia's decision to ban single use plastic items that pollute the environment is a massive boost to efforts to protect our oceans, environmental groups said today.

"The science on plastic pollution is in, the alarms are sounding and the community wants action. Just as all states and territories (except Victoria) eventually followed South Australia in implementing drink bottle and can refund schemes, we now urge quick action by other states and the Commonwealth," said Jeff Angel Director of the Boomerang Alliance of 49 groups.

"Bar Northern Australia, the plastic poison in our oceans comes from us. It's been going on for far too long and SA are rightly targeting straws, foodware, drink stirrers and polystyrene. Each one of these items has more acceptable alternatives if consumers can't avoid using them. In particular other countries have developed approaches for access to straws for the disabled."

"In one respect SA is catching up on best practice for plastic bags by banning so-called biodegradable bags as has been done in Qld WA and Victoria. These bags do not degrade but simply breaking up into dangerous microplastic. Governments need to be aware about industry greenwash as they take action on all single use plastic items."

"The Boomerang Alliance looks forward to helping the SA government develop its future law and using it to light the way for other Australian governments. All governments need to act and we challenge the next meeting of Australia's environment ministers in August to make the move," Mr Angel said.