



For Immediate Release

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Parliament Can Act on Solutions to Harmful Plastics and Packaging

Boomerang Alliance has welcomed the introduction of the Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019 by the Australian Greens yesterday as an important contribution to solving the nation's plastic recycling crisis and reducing plastic pollution.

The legislation proposes a mandatory Product Stewardship scheme for packaging and certain single use plastics using reduction targets, design requirements, appropriate labelling and financial contributions from manufacturers to assist collection and litter clean ups.

'Australia does not have a Product Stewardship Scheme for packaging, one reason why we have such a monumental packaging waste and litter problem,' said Jeff Angel, Director of the Boomerang Alliance

'The major problem for plastics recovery is the fact that packaging products are not designed for their post-consumer reuse. This means that consumers, ratepayers (through their local councils) and businesses have to bear additional costs to recover plastics. This bill puts the onus back on manufacturers to design for reuse or recycling and support collection,' said Angel.

'Mandatory reduction targets not only hold the packaging industry to account, ensuring a measurable outcome, it also means that brand manufacturers will reduce their excessive use of plastic packaging.'

'All Australian jurisdictions support a target of having *all plastic packaging reusable, compostable and recyclable by 2025*. This Bill contains the necessary drivers for achieving that target.'

Key components of the bill include:

- A ban of selected single use plastic products
- Consumption targets for food containers and coffee cups
- Clear labelling requirements on products
- Industry responsibility on a range of problematic products through contributing to clean up costs and public awareness
- A Container deposit scheme in all State and Territories