

Boomerang Alliance Policy Recommendations for Queensland Election 2020 (Waste and Plastic Pollution)

Waste

- Implement policy actions to achieve landfill reductions (2030) targets of 70-80% by setting a minimum milestone target of 50% reduction in waste to landfill by 2025 (across all sectors)
- Remove the waste levy exemption for local government
- Ban Waste to Energy facilities for mixed wastes in Queensland
- Introduce Government procurement policies and incentive for business to achieve a minimum 30% recycled content in identified products by 2025
- Prioritise organic waste reduction to landfill and support the introduction of FOGO (Food Organics/Garden Organics) commercial and municipal collection services by Councils/other providers
- Build business opportunities and investment in resource recovery and job creation, taking advantage of the Commonwealth waste export ban, procurement policy and new organics collections
- Fund the promotion of waste avoidance in the community through home composting and community gardens and financial support for initiatives such as neighbourhood equipment sharing, tool /equipment lending services and toy libraries.

Reducing Single Use Plastics

- Maintain progress on the Plastic Pollution Reduction Strategy through introduced policy measures to reduce single use plastics in the home, away from home, in agriculture, in business and industry and the marine environment
- Commit to introduction of bans on plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and plates by July 2021
- Introduce legislated measures to ban disposable coffee cups/lids, other problem plastic items and heavyweight plastic bags by 2022
- Keep the Container Refund Scheme on track by requiring CoEX to publish an annual investment strategy based upon achieving a container return target of 85% by financial year starting July 2021
- Promote local manufacturing opportunities resulting from plastic bans and CRS collections. Sugar cane, banana offcuts and palm fronds are amongst the sources for compostable packaging
- Introduce mandatory recovery targets and clear labelling for packaging in Queensland (in the absence of mandated targets at a national level)
- Increase funding for community litter clean ups and citizen science projects on plastics and litter
- Make all Government sponsored or associated public events plastic-free through a priority focus on reusable food ware practices
- Formally ban the deliberate release of helium balloons at event or public occasions in Queensland

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