

Media Release, 4 March 2021

### **Commonwealth Plastic Plan will move nation forward on plastic pollution**

The Commonwealth National Plastics Plan is a substantial effort with some new stand out actions, the Boomerang Alliance of 53 NGO said today.

“Significant new moves include the banning of polystyrene packaging around white goods by July 2022; microfibre filters on new washing machines; and joining the push for a global agreement to remove plastic pollution from the environment,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance.

“The Commonwealth also plans to ban polystyrene food and beverage containers by December 2022, ahead of most state schedules.”

“The Boomerang Alliance welcomes support for a Plastic Free Beaches program based on our successful Plastic Free Places program which has already eliminated over 7 million plastic items through encouraging practice change in cafes. It’s a key transitional program accompanying state bans on single use items like straws, foodware and cups.”

“With only 13% of plastic recycled, we dump most of the 2.5m tonnes used each year into landfill or the oceans. To ensure that 100% of packaging is reusable, compostable or recyclable by the 2025 target and achieve 50% recycled content in plastic packaging means government has to keep the pressure up on industry. Labels saying something is recyclable are meaningless if that does not happen in practice. We believe regulation will be necessary.”

“Cigarette Butts are the most littered item in Australia. The announced taskforce has to find solutions, including a proposal to remove butts from cigarettes.”