

For immediate Release

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Queensland LNP Supports Plastic Bag Ban – ‘welcome move’

The Boomerang Alliance of 45 groups has welcomed the announcement that the Queensland LNP will back a phase-out of single use, lightweight plastic bags in Queensland

‘This is a significant and welcomed announcement that will delight the hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders who regularly clean up littered plastic bags from our waterways, parks and streets.’ said Toby Hutcheon, Queensland Manager of the Boomerang Alliance

‘There is now nothing stopping the State Government from introducing a ban on plastic bags.’

The LNP policy calls for a phase-out similar to the successful bans currently in place in South Australia, Northern Territory, ACT and Tasmania. These have demonstrated that plastic bag litter has significantly reduced and that citizens have changed their behaviour and use BYO bags instead.

The LNP have also added so called ‘degradable and biodegradable’ lightweight plastic bags to a phase-out. These are often more dangerous to wildlife. They break up into smaller pieces that resemble food or take too long to decompose.

‘Single use plastic bags are wasteful and deadly to wildlife. Governments have recognised this for years and it’s now time for those States which have failed on plastic bag litter, to act.’ said Jeff Angel, Director of the Boomerang Alliance.

On 25 November Environment Ministers meet in Sydney. On the agenda is plastic bags. Three states, NSW, QLD and Victoria agreed in February to act on plastic bags, in the knowledge other States and Territories have imposed a plastic bag ban.

‘There are plenty of proven alternatives to the single use polluting plastic bags,’ said Angel.

Last week California joined the growing list of over 30 countries and regions to ban (or levy) single use plastic bags.