



For Immediate release

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Boomerang Alliance Welcomes Queensland Ban on Plastic Bags

Boomerang Alliance has welcomed the announcement by the Queensland Government (Sydney 25 November 2016) on the introduction of a ban on single use, lightweight plastic bags in Queensland.

'This is a significant step forward in reducing plastic litter and its impact upon native and marine wildlife.' said Toby Hutcheon, QLD Manager of the Boomerang Alliance

'Plastic bags in particular are a problem for birds and marine animals that often mistake these for food or get entangled in them'

The proposed ban will follow similar bans already in place in South Australia, ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania. These schemes have proven to be effective in reducing plastic bag litter and changing consumer behaviour where most shoppers now use BYO bags. The bans remain popular with consumers.

'The significant difference contained in the Queensland plan is the inclusion of degradable and biodegradable plastic bags in the ban. These tend to degrade into small pieces or take too long to disintegrate in the marine environment, making them even more dangerous for wildlife.'

Whilst the State Government has been working and consulting with stakeholders for some time on this ban, Boomerang Alliance would like to acknowledge the contribution of the QLD LNP who announced their support for a plastic bag ban on 21 November 2016. Bi-partisan support for a plastic bag ban has made this positive decision possible.

'Banning plastic bags is a big step but only a first step in eliminating problematic plastics packaging. We recommend that other items such as helium balloons, plastic straws and polystyrene cups and food ware be considered for inclusion through the consultation process.'

'The Boomerang Alliance has suggested an on-going government taskforce to examine other problematic plastics for future consideration. A continuous improvement process makes sense in addressing the growing problems associated with plastic pollution of the environment. Plastic bags are just the start'

'We look forward to the QLD Parliament acting together to reduce plastics in the environment and creating a cleaner Queensland.'

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