



Dear guest,

Thank you for attending the NSW State of the State 2017.

During her speech, the NSW Premier will outline her Government's ongoing agenda across vital sectors that are central to the state's economic and social prosperity. It is important to keep in mind that our environment also has a financial value and should be protected.

Reducing the volume of litter in NSW by 40% by 2020 is one of the Premier's Priorities. According to the NSW Government itself, "litter has harmful effects. It pollutes ecosystems, waterways and highways. Littering leads to anti-social behaviour and crime, and makes our communities less safe. On top of the environmental and social costs, litter costs us at least \$180 million every year."

The Boomerang Alliance is welcoming the NSW Government decision to implement a container deposit scheme on bottles and cans by the end of the year, but lightweight single use plastic bags is another long standing issue that needs to be addressed by the Government.

A worldwide experts' analysis (Marine Policy 65, 2016) found disposable plastic bags are in the top three entanglement and ingestion threats to marine animals. They also add to the microplastic load in the environment, waste resources and block up recycling equipment

Premier Berejiklian said earlier this week that since Coles and Woolworths are responsible for 80% of bags, the government does not need to act.

A failure by the NSW government to impose a comprehensive ban on plastic bags, after commendable voluntary action by 3 retailers, will mean at least 10 million bags will continue to pollute the state's environment each year.

NSW should avoid being ideological about this essential policy. The facts are – the retailers' actions are voluntary and not enforceable; key business sectors have called for a level playing field; and the community wants a full ban. The state will be an international embarrassment, if it fails to enact a full ban.

Yesterday, the National Retailers Association called on the Berejiklian Government to enact a comprehensive law.

Please tell Premier Berejiklian her excuses for inaction are unsupported and environmentally and politically unwise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Angel".

Jeff Angel

Director of the Boomerang Alliance