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- MEDIA RELEASE -

GO PLASTIC FREE THIS JULY

I welcome the support for *Plastic Free July* by Sutherland Shire Council, Cronulla Chamber of Commerce and the Surfrider Foundation Cronulla Branch and I encourage all Cronulla electorate constituents and organisations to join the challenge.

Plastic Free July is an initiative to raise awareness about the amount of plastic we use in our daily lives and how we can take action to reduce our consumption of single-use plastic.

Single-use plastic is anything that is intended to be used once then thrown away, for example, plastic drink containers, plastic shopping bags, plastic coffee cups and plastic straws.

At least 10,000 tonnes of plastic, and possibly far more, enters the Australian marine environment every year. Much of this entangles, or is ingested by, marine life and other wild life. It is widely expected that plastic rubbish will outweigh fish in the world's oceans by 2050 without drastic action.

By taking the challenge we can all play a small role in being part of the solution. The *Plastic Free July* challenge is easy – undertaking either to avoid single-use plastic packaging; to target takeaway items (the top 4: bottles, bags, coffee cups and straws); or to go completely plastic-free. You can sign up for just a day, a week, the month, or permanently.

To register or for further information go to <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

The NSW government's container deposit scheme starts 1 December and targets drink containers, which represent over 40% of litter by volume in NSW. One of the Premier's 12 priorities is to reduce litter by 40% by 2020.

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