

Please ban bags, balloons, straws, and microbeads

LD

liza Dicks [REDACTED]

Thu 18/01, 10:34

Plastic Bag Ban ▾

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In just a few short decades, plastic has found its way into almost every part of our lives and into every corner of the planet. The rising tide of plastic pollution is choking, poisoning, and starving our wildlife – and even polluting the food we eat here in Western Australia.

Unless we take action now, it is estimated that the plastic in our oceans will outweigh our fish by 2050.

Therefore I urge you to recommend the following for Western Australia's plastic bag ban:

- Ban all single use HDPE bags up to 70 microns. This ban should apply to all wholesalers, importers and retailers who provide these products to their customers both in shop and online, including all small business
- Include all identified 'biodegradable and degradable' bags up to 70 microns, as standards used in current laws for biodegradability/compostability do not prevent microplastic pollution
- Provide exemptions for specific purpose bags less than 70 microns such as barrier bags, but only where there is a demonstrated health, food safety or fit-for-purpose reason and where no viable alternative exists. Any such exempted bags should be uncoloured and unbranded to avoid increased ingestion by marine life
- Ensure targeting of bait bags and ice cube bags which are usually used outdoors and represent a particular problem in the litter stream
- Encourage packaging providers and retailers to put forward additional recommendations about other forms of single use plastic packaging that could be replaced or avoided
- Implement an effective penalty and resourced compliance regime
- Establish an expert taskforce to review and report back to government within one year on recommended actions to restrict other forms of single use plastic packaging not included in the immediate policy. This review should include the identification of alternative products and practices to single use plastic packaging

Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags and Other Things) Bill 2017, as all of these products present a continuous threat to our Western Australian wildlife and environment.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely, liza Dicks [REDACTED]

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