

From: Tony Buckle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 September 2016 10:35 AM
To: LCLC
Subject: Get plastics out of our environment

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AMENDMENT (BANNING PLASTIC BAGS, PACKAGING AND MICROBEADS) BILL 2016

Get plastics out of our environment

As the Zone Manager of Mordialloc BeachPatrol, 1 of 21 groups around the Port Philip Bay with over 1500 volunteers, we are very aware of the sheer volume of plastic in our environment. This year to date, we have collectively removed over 9.5 tonnes of litter from our Parks, Reserves and Beaches with the biggest volume being that of plastics.

As a G20 member we are an embarrassment when it comes environmental and climate change action and it is time that the outdoor/beach loving image we portray is backed up by some real action. With all the alternatives already in play such as reusable shopping bags and initiatives like the Boomerang bags, why can't we just stop using plastic bags?

Nurdles are another source of plastic pollution and a recent survey of one square metre of high tide mark in Mordialloc uncovered around 1000 plastic Nurdles in one man-hour. Multiply that to cover the high tide mark around the Bay and you will discover the extent of this problem too.

Plastic bags, Nurdles, Cigarette butts and food packaging are being washed down our gutters and into our waterways. This plastics are not only harming and killing hundreds of species but are also entering our food chain and science has yet to determine what toxic consequences this may have on us.

If our society is to ever move away from fossil fuels and their bi-products, we have to rethink how and why we use plastics. Let's start by banning plastic bags.

-- Tony Buckle, [REDACTED]

I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.