

From: Inquiry into the Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016 eSubmission Form
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Sent: Monday, 17 October 2016 4:22 PM
To: LCLC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016
Attachments: 5804600bd2fc5-Ararat Rural City Council would like to support the enquiry into the EEPAmendment.docx

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016

Ms Deidre Andrews

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Waste and Sustainability Coordinator
Ararat Rural City Council

[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Ararat Rural City Council's submission includes the following:

- * Support for the enquiry
- * The work ARCC are currently undertaking
- * Community complacency
- * Some materials just need to be disposed of in plastic!
- * State/Federal Government assistance
- * Litter/illegal dumping

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File1: [5804600bd2fc5-Ararat Rural City Council would like to support the enquiry into the EEPAmendment.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Ararat Rural City Council would like to support the enquiry into the EEP Amendment (banning plastic bags, packaging and microbeads), Bill 2016.

These materials prove a potent additive to major harm in Australia's natural environment, which could be so easily removed.

ARCC support a sustainability committee, made up of community members, Council staff and Councillor; this group is currently looking into a project aimed at removing plastic shopping bags from availability in our rural towns; if successful we will then focus on the main towns.

However, it seems Australian's have become complacent, e.g. whilst the use of plastic bags was declining, particularly, around supermarkets, this trend has reversed, well in regional areas anyway with plastic bag use increasing again.

ARCC recognise that plastic bags are, currently, the only option for disposal of some items - medical waste, household garbage, animal waste; this bill understandably must recognise that, but there needs to be a push to the community and manufacturers to produce more biodegradable plastic for these materials.

In order to encourage manufacturers to reduce packaging or to eradicate plastics from packaging state/federal government need to work with them to assist rather than dictate, through a bill, and then expect them to comply. Waste Management Groups exist across Victoria; these organisations could assist with education and the transition with the manufacturing and business sector.

Along highways and main roads a good percentage of litter is from take-away food premises – packaging such as straws, cups, bags – much of this is recyclable; again state/federal government should work with these businesses to manage this waste stream, ie the product packaging itself and the litter issue.

A significant percentage of Local Government resources (financial, human) is spent on clean-up of illegal dumping, this often does not result in prosecution; and is somewhat of a superficial fix rather than educational control.