

From: Sandra Hawkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 September 2016 7:52 PM
To: LCLC
Subject: Mrs

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

Mrs

Dear Committee of Inquiry,

I pick up plastic bags and other rubbish every day when I walk around my local streets and parks. I despair at the plastic bags and bottles which are out of my reach in the local lake.

Clean Up Australia research shows that only 3% of plastic bags are recycled.

When I visit the beach nowadays I purposely walk along the tide line and pick up many pieces of plastic or other litter.

On a Queensland holiday a few years ago I watched a turtle that had struggled to shore only to be ignorantly placed back in the sea where it was unable to submerge due to plastic ingestion.

The CSIRO 2014 Marine Debris Report suggested over 124 million pieces of individual plastic littered Australia's shoreline.

This winter and spring have been wet and windy and I have been saddened by the number of plastic bags I have seen caught in trees and high water marks in my local creeks.

Even the blackbird nests in my garden are not plastic free. Every one has plastic bag shreds woven through it.

I attended a tree planting for National Tree Day and was worried by the amount of plastic through the soil of the planting area, exposed and chopped up by the machine removal of gorse and other woody weeds on site.

Plastic pollution, especially of our waterways, is not only causing fatality in water birds, fish, turtles and mammals but also poses a health risk to humans. Plastic particles attract and adhere chemical substances which it has recently been shown are absorbed into fish flesh. Eating fish is now a health risk.

I want action on plastic pollution. We are choking ourselves with it.

Thank you.

-- Sandra Hawkins, [REDACTED]

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