

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2016 2:40 PM
To: LCLC
Subject: Submission on the Plastic Bag Bill

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to support the *Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016*.

My reasons may be outlined as follows:-

- Plastic bags are used extensively by consumers in Australia, as they are throughout the world. Australians use 3.92 billion plastic bags a year, with over 10 million new bags being used every day. An estimated 3.76 billion bags or 20,700 tonnes of plastic are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia every year. Australians dump 7,150 recyclable plastic bags into landfills every minute or 429,000 bags every hour.
- These bags represent a huge environmental problem, both in terms of their production and their environmental impacts once used.
- When fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) are used to make plastic bags, they emit greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming and climate change.
- Consumers usually dispose of plastic bags after using them only once. It is estimated that only about 3% of them are recycled, and that around 50 million plastic bags enter the Australian litter stream each year.
- Because they take between around 20 and 1,000 years to break down, they accumulate and cause a range of environmental problems. If they go into landfill, they are held there indefinitely and add to the growing problem of plastic waste for future generations; whereas if they are burnt, they emit toxins and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. On the other hand, if they enter the litter stream, they can cause the killing of animals (such as livestock, birds and marine animals) by ingestion or trapping, a safety hazard for children, blocking of drains, and visual pollution.

Accordingly, I welcome the government's efforts to remedy the plastic bag problem by means of the above Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Cranston
Committee Member, WarrandyteCAN

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]