

From: Mark Boswell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2016 3:51 PM
To: LCLC
Subject: Submission to Environmental Protection Amendment (Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads) Bill 2016

Mark Anthony Boswell [REDACTED] (Not seeking confidentiality) The
 Secretary, Environment and Planning Committee, Parliament House, Spring St, East Melbourne Vic 3002. Re:
 Anecdotal Evidence of the Effectiveness of the Proposed Bill (referred to above) elsewhere in Australia.

Dear Committee Members, Recently my wife and I spent two weeks travelling, in a hired camper van, throughout Central Australia, particularly in the Northern Territory. As we were purchasing our supplies from a supermarket in Alice Springs before we set off on our journey, we noticed that there were no single-use plastic shopping carry bags (SUPSCBs) available. Asking why not, we were told that they had been banned (apparently throughout the NT). So we purchased several Multiple-use Web Plastic Carry Bags (MUWPCBs) for our supplies at insignificant cost ie \$1 each (as here in Victoria) and thought little of it at the time. Over the ensuing days on our travels, whilst being totally absorbed in the desert landscapes and their monumental and breathtaking features, it sub-consciously occurred to me that there was something missing in that landscape, something we are much more familiar with here in Victoria - something we see every day, every minute along side the roads we travel (and I not talking about hills or buildings).

Then suddenly after travelling about 2,500 kilometres to and from various astonishing and ancient destinations, we both simultaneously spied it for the first time on our journey - a plastic bag caught on some vegetation on the side of the road! It instantly dawned on us that what had been missing, conspicuous by its absence, over our entire journey was plastic rubbish (roadside refuse) - no plastic bags or plastic beverage bottles (or glass or aluminium cans for that matter), in fact no roadside rubbish at all (helped by the fact that the Northern Territory has like South Australia, Beverage Container Deposit Legislation (10c per container). So

my message is this: what we didn't observe is no accident - banning single-use plastic bags is extremely effective if you wish to • reduce litter and • protect terrestrial and aquatic organisms in Victoria, and furthermore, if you wish to make this proposed Bill even more effective please introduce Beverage Container Deposit legislation with it or along side it in tandem in Victoria, because, as we have just observed in the Northern Territory, it really works!!!! Go see for yourselves.

Yours faithfully and gratefully (in anticipation),

Mark Boswell