

From: [REDACTED] <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 5:51 PM
To: Plastic Action
Subject: Single-Use Plastics in WA Submission

Dear Manager,

We provide this submission urging the Western Australian Government to adopt ambitious directives against single-use plastics that are responsible for polluting our rivers and oceans, impacting marine wildlife, ecosystems and even the food we consume.

I urge you to recommend the following to ensure there is a step change at the State Government level which addresses the prevalence and increasing impacts of single-use plastics in Western Australia.

1. Implement market restrictions (ban) on cigarette smoking on all WA beaches including on the spot fines for offences.
2. Implement market restrictions (ban) on plastic shopping bags, produce / barrier bags (fruit and vegetable bags), including:
 - Increasing the current ban on lightweight plastic bags (HPDE 35 microns thickness) to single-use plastics bags up to 70 microns.
 - Bag bans should apply to all wholesalers, importers, retailers and hospitality outlets who provide these products to their customers both in shop and online, including all small businesses.
3. Implement a ban on intentional and mass helium balloon releases and plastic balloon sticks and clips. Make amendments to the Litter Act 1979 (WA) to reflect that a litter offence occurs from the act of intentionally releasing a balloon (not when it lands), including on the spot fines for offenders.
4. Implement market restrictions (ban) single-use plastic straws, plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons and chopsticks), plastic plates, cotton bud sticks made of plastic, polystyrene food and beverage products and glitter including those labelled biodegradable.
5. Implement market restriction (ban) on the sale and manufacture of microbeads, often found in personal care products.
6. Introduce clear targets for the reduction of the excessive plastic food packaging for fruit and vegetables and convenience foods sold in retail stores and online outlets.
7. Introduce clear, unambiguous and standardised labelling which indicates how waste should be disposed (compostable / recycling and method / landfill), the negative environmental impact of the product, and the presence of any plastics in the products. Such products would include coffee cups, baby/wet wipes, balloons and sanitary napkins. Any changes to labelling should be supported by educational program.
8. Facilitating investment in infrastructure and initiatives to support increasing the number of public water bubbler / water stations to reduce prevalence of single-use plastic water bottles in the environment.
9. Implement market restrictions (ban) on plastic bait bags.
10. Provide educational signage in multiple languages at known recreational fishing hotspots on the environmental impacts of plastic, particularly related to fishing gear.

11. Increase signage at popular beaches highlighting the impacts of plastics in our oceans, encouraging beach-goers to take their rubbish home or face fines.

12. Establish a Ministerial Reference Group on Plastics to identify and provide advice on alternative single-use products, innovation and benchmark practices. Representatives to include community and environmental groups, government, retailers and industry.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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