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**From:** Karen Coles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 March 2018 3:02 PM  
**To:** Plastic Bag Ban  
**Subject:** Plastic Ban WA Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Manager,

I've witnessed first-hand the detestable effects that plastic has on the environment. I was recently holidaying on Nusa Penida, a beautiful island just off Bali. My husband and I took our snorkelling gear and went in search of manta rays. When we jumped off the boat, totally excited to see these wonderful creatures in the wild, we entered an ocean polluted with plastic of all shapes and sizes. The rays were gliding past, feeding but every so often we would see one 'spit out' a plastic bag or a piece of plastic wrapping. How often are they unable to eject it? What damage does it do?

When we returned to the boat, we asked the captain about the pollution and he told us that, because of the heavy rains over the last few days, the rubbish had been washed into the ocean. The whole experience was bitter-sweet: we swam with the most majestic, elegant manta rays but also witnessed the shocking level of pollution caused entirely by humans.

At totally the opposite end of the spectrum, we visited Iceland last March; a country with near enough zero pollution thanks to its thermal energy and its policies to keep the country pristine. We shopped at local grocery stores where, at the entrance, they have a basket full of material re-usable shopping bags so that if you forget to bring your own bags, you can borrow some and return them next time you shop. How simple and how effective.

My plea is to firstly ban single-use plastic bags – it's a no-brainer! Secondly, ban any unnecessary plastic wrapping (fruit and veg in supermarkets, meat products etc). Thirdly, ban the use of plastic throw-away cups, straws, balloons. Finally and possibly most importantly, EDUCATE people. If people understand the impact of their purchases on their environment then they will be in a position to make informed decisions about what they buy. If we stop/reduce the purchase of badly packaged goods and items that are damaging our world then the shops will be forced do something about it.

It would be wonderful if the major supermarkets would give free, re-usable bags – say 1 bag for every \$50 spent – just to get people in the habit of using re-usable bags. They would only need to give them away for a short time, just so people build up a stock of them for future use.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Karen Coles [REDACTED]

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Please reply to Karen Coles at [REDACTED]

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