

[REDACTED]
9 March 2018

Plastic Bag Ban
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 33
Cloisters Square, PERTH WA 6850

Administration Centre

[REDACTED]
PO Box 96
TOODYAY WA 6566

[REDACTED]
F (08) 9574 2158

[REDACTED]
W www.toodyay.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Submission to Implementing a Lightweight single-use Plastic Bag Ban in Western Australia

The Shire of Toodyay welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's discussion paper on "Implementing a Lightweight single-use Plastic Bag Ban in Western Australia" and thus makes the following comments.

The Shire supports the State Government's decision to move to state-wide ban on lightweight single use plastics bags from 1 July 2018 and also appreciates the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) endeavour to include stakeholders' opinions in the review process.

The Shire is however concerned that the bags specified in the proposed state-wide policy ban is limited to only the free plastic bags used by the supermarkets given at the checkout. While banning these free plastics bags is welcomed it is only seen as the tip of the iceberg. The range of plastic bags with similar or more potential to deteriorate the environment outside the perimeter of this policy which is still significant. This raises concerns over whether the State Government has a genuine interest to remove all similar bags out of the environment or is only going to partly address the issue in response to "doing something".

A common issue associated with this ban as identified in other states is that the policy leads to an increased use of the bin liners offsetting any potential to reduce the plastic bag waste. It is very likely that a similar issue will become evident in WA too. Apart from more community education the proposed policy doesn't seem to provide a better solution to deal with this situation.

The Shire is of the opinion that many of the other degradable or biodegradable bags used by supermarkets should also be included in the ban. Even though biodegradable bags break down relatively quicker in the environment they still

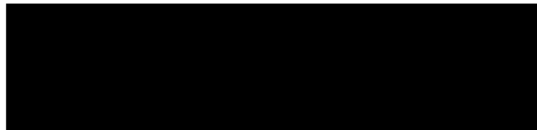
have the potential to persist long enough to do similar damage as caused by the normal synthetic bag.

It is also put that helium filled and water balloons should be considered in the ban. Both are equally harmful to the environment and are difficult to currently control.

The Shire hopes that the proposed state-wide retail ban of the single-use plastic shopping bags is just a first step towards including a greater scope of similar harmful products. It recommends the policy be increased in its application to include the variety of the plastics bags that are currently or will soon be floating in the environment.

Should you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9574 9300.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Graeme Bissett.

Graeme Bissett

MANAGER OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT