



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Your Ref: A699360
Our Ref: CTS09848/21

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15 July 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2021 regarding Parliamentary E-Petition No. 3516-21 and Paper Petition No. 3571-21 concerning plastic waste in landfill.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to taking action to reduce plastic waste and plastic pollution and we are investing a record \$1.4 billion in this year's budget to protect our environment, reduce waste and create jobs.

Released on 7 November 2019, *Tackling Plastic Waste – Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan* (the Plan), identifies and prioritises actions to reduce the environmental and economic impacts of plastic waste. The Plan also contains actions around increasing the uptake of recycled content.

The Queensland Government has already introduced a ban on lightweight single-use plastic shopping bags and the container refund scheme. A ban on the supply of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates, bowls and cutlery, and expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups will also start on 1 September 2021. These initiatives have helped remove commonly littered or wasted items from the environment and, in the case of the container refund scheme, made these containers more readily available for recycling.

In addition, on 13 July 2021 the Deputy Premier and I launched the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF). This \$40 million joint initiative between the Queensland and Australian governments will be used to leverage additional investment into resource recovery infrastructure to boost Queensland's economy, jobs growth and materials recovery sector.

We all have an important contribution to make as we work towards achieving our shared vision of Queensland as a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused, and recycled as much as possible.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
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