



Western Australian Seabird Rescue (Inc.)
PO Box 43
Bayswater, WA 6953
www.wasr.org.au

3 March 2018

I am writing on behalf of the members of Western Australian Seabird Rescue. We are a group of seabird and waterbird rescuers and rehabilitators based in the southwest of WA. Our members are passionate and informed seabird conservationists. Many of our seabird patients traverse the globe every year and we all want to do everything we can to preserve their habitat and health while in Australia.

We applaud and welcome the Western Australian State Labor Government's initiative regarding the banning of light-weight plastic bags. This is an important step towards raising awareness of plastic pollution and of reducing pollution in our oceans.

We strongly urge the government to also consider the problems created by balloons, particularly helium-filled balloons, which are well documented to travel long distances over land into waterways and coastal seas, where they are frequently swallowed by marine turtles and seabirds. An eventual ban on the sale of balloons would be desirable but at the very least the mass release of balloons must be banned urgently and people choosing to deliberately release them, fined. The process of informing the public of this problem could start by notifying schools, clubs, funeral directors and cemeteries of the detrimental effect of released balloons on wildlife.

Finally, the plastic straw is another piece of plastic which has a very short useful life (often only used for a few minutes), blows away easily to end up in waterways, and isn't recycled. Outside of hospitals or nursing homes they are quite useless pieces of plastic pollution.

Thank you for your consideration

Dr Halina Burmej
President
Western Australian Seabird Rescue



[REDACTED]

From: President WASR [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 March 2018 6:05 AM
To: Plastic Bag Ban
Subject: submission
Attachments: Plastic Bag Ban.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please find attached a submission from Western Australian Seabird Rescue in the bulk of the email and also as a Word Doc.

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