

1 March 2018

Manager, Plastic Bag Ban
WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 33
CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850

By email: plasticbagban@dwer.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Feedback on the lightweight single-use plastic bag ban in Western Australia

I am writing to you on behalf of RSPCA WA, to provide our feedback on the lightweight single-use plastic bag ban in Western Australia, as described in the discussion paper *'Implementing a lightweight single-use plastic bag ban in Western Australia'*.

RSPCA WA supports the ban because lightweight single-use plastic bags (and other types of plastic waste) can have a profound negative impact on animal welfare in many different ways including entrapment, entanglement, ingestion, contamination and toxicity. As highlighted by the Minister in the discussion paper, plastic waste can also cause animal mortalities. If the ban is successful in reducing plastic waste, a source of animal fear, discomfort, pain and suffering may be reduced.

RSPCA WA operates seven retail outlets including three 'op-shops', three *Reloved* Fashion stores and an on-site shop at our Malaga headquarters. We do not order lightweight single-use plastic bags to distribute to consumers at any of our retail outlets, but alternatives such as paper bags and reusable fabric bags are available. Customers who bring their own alternatives are always welcome.

In addition, RSPCA WA has started a workplace initiative at the Malaga headquarters, to ensure all teams are actively reducing the use of lightweight single-use plastic bags and other single-use plastic items.

RSPCA WA welcomes the proposed new regulations as a positive step towards addressing the negative impact of plastic pollution on animals.

Thank you for considering our feedback. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

David van Ooran
Chief Executive Officer

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for the Prevention of
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