



Our Ref: CTS 10271/21
Your Ref: D21/23306

Department of
Environment and Science

24 May 2021

Ms Cate Faehrmann
Portfolio Committee No. 7 -
Planning and Environment
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Faehrmann

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2021 regarding information about Queensland's *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Act 2021* (the Act).

The Act bans the supply of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates, bowls and cutlery, and expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups, starting from 1 September 2021. The Act can be found on the Queensland Government's website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/act-2021-005.

Significant consultation on a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was undertaken between 15 March and 30 April 2020, with approximately 20 000 online and written submissions received. Further consultation specifically seeking views on the inclusion of expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups was undertaken between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021. There were 6800 online submissions received and 413 face-to-face and phone business surveys conducted. The RIS and consultation results are available **on the Queensland Government's website** at www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/waste/recovery/reduction/plastic-pollution/single-use-plastic-products-ban.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) established a Stakeholder Advisory Group to assist with the development and design of the ban, including provisions that recognise **people's disability and healthcare needs**. An assessment of the proposal against the Human Rights principles was undertaken and a Statement of Compatibility prepared. A list of peak bodies represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Group is enclosed for your information.

Following its introduction into Parliament in July 2020, the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 (the Bill) was referred to the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industries Development and Environment Committee for consideration. Information relating to this consideration can be found **on the Queensland Parliament's website** at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/former-committees/NRAIDEC/inquiries/past-inquiries/plasticitems. With the calling of the Queensland election on 6 October 2020, the Bill before the House lapsed and was re-introduced in December 2020, where it was referred to the **Queensland Parliament's Health and Environment Committee**. **The Committee's Report** can be found at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/HEC/inquiries/past-inquiries/PlasticItems2020.

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Should you require any further information, please contact Ms Kylie Hughes, Director – Waste Policy and Legislation, Office of Resource Recovery, Environmental Policy and Programs of the department

Yours sincerely

Jamie Merrick
Director-General

Encl. (1)

Queensland's Single-Use Plastic Items Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Australian Food and Grocery Council
- Boomerang Alliance
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Queensland)
- Council of the Ageing
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Master Grocers Association
- National Retail Association
- Queensland Disability Advisory Council
- Queensland Hotels Association
- Queensland Tourism Industry Council
- Restaurant and Catering Industry Association
- World Wildlife Fund