

**INQUIRY INTO WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE  
RECOVERY AMENDMENT (PLASTICS REDUCTION)  
BILL 2021**

**Name:** Mr Rod McKellar

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## **Submission to Parliamentary Bill Committee**

### **Legislation to BAN Single-Use Plastics - Plastic Takeaway DOME Drink Lids**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In addition to plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic food containers and so on, I submit that you will agree the horror of the prolonged suffering & death dome drink lids cause to wildlife and ask you include them in the first tranche of bans for New South Wales.

This upsetting photo was taken by [redacted] in her garden in their home suburb of Deception Bay, Queensland. We have been working tirelessly on this campaign to BAN unnecessary and lethal Plastic Takeaway Dome Drink Lids and Plastic Ring Seals for two years. We have sent hundreds of emails to Local, State and Federal Governments, Media (both Print and Television) and Environment and Wildlife Groups and have failed to gain consistent momentum. It's heartbreaking how human convenience is devastating wildlife. This critical issue must not be ignored any longer, please help.

What keeps us going is that we cannot unsee the dire predicament this innocent little Corella found himself in, and we think of all those other creatures in the same terrifying situation that we don't see. The scent of something sweet probably attracted this little bird to the discarded drink, he would have taken a sip and got his head caught in the Lid. Imagine the absolute terror of that moment!

Dome Lids are rife in the Fast-food, Takeaway and Cafe Industries. We find them discarded everywhere. Every day we pick up Dome Lids, Ring Seals and other dangerous items off the beach, in community playgrounds, parks, roads, shopping centre car parks, etc. We take them home and cut them in half before responsible disposal. We don't do it for the litterbugs, or for ourselves, we do it for our vulnerable wildlife. Sadly we can't change some people's abhorrent behaviour, but if these dangerous items didn't exist, they can't be littered.

The NSW Government must act now to ban these unnecessary and lethal Dome Lids. I recognise that Plastic Ring Seals (also deadly) will take a much longer timeframe to BAN as they are found under an incredible array of products, but I see no reason to delay BANNING Dome Lids.

We (myself and my 3500+ Petition Supporters to date) state that Dome Shaped Lids 100% fit the criteria to ban now.

That is:

1. Readily available alternatives to deadly Plastic Dome Lids are existing Plastic Flat Lids, which at least, being made of flexible plastic, can be torn with hands (giving wildlife a chance of escape after entrapment).
2. Dome Lids use can be totally avoided in the first place as they are superfluous and completely unnecessary to drink a drink. If toppings eg cream and sprinkles are requested, a deeper cup can be used to accommodate this and a flat lid be used.
3. Dome Lids can only be cut with scissors and as such are a cruel death sentence to wildlife.
4. Ultimately our goal is a total ban. In the meantime, education is essential. My message is: Say "No Lid, Thanks". If you must use one, or see one littered, cut it in half with scissors and dispose of it responsibly (Dome Lids rigid plastic and sharp inner edge cannot be torn with hands. If a bird or small animal is caught, it's guaranteed a slow and painful death sentence either through strangulation or starvation).

5. Until people are made aware, they have never considered the dangers of entrapment to wildlife from Plastic Dome Drink Lids, Plastic Ring Seals, Rubber Bands, Hair Ties, etc and now Face Mask loops are also in the mix. This is about a kinder planet for all living things on land, sea & sky. We must be their voice.

Your New South Wales Government is now calling for submissions, and while we welcome and support a ban on any Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene, in our opinion, Plastic Dome Shaped Lids and Ring Seals are far more fatally detrimental to wildlife than other items. Queensland chose to ban first, e.g. plates and bowls. I don't understand why Dome Lids weren't banned alongside these items at the very least.

Please BAN Dome Lids alongside Straws, Stirrers, Cutlery and Plates now. Any further delay means certain suffering and cruel deaths to more innocent wildlife.

We invite you to please read the Petition, all Updates and read our suggestions for alternatives to Lids and Ring Seals at <http://chnng.it/w82TGW9TDp>

We encourage you to also visit Australian Wildlife Society's "Snip Rings for Wildlife" Campaign which deserves considerably more attention <https://www.aws.org.au/snip-rings-for-wildlife/>

If just one State bans these lethal & totally unnecessary Dome Drink Lids, surely the rest of Australia, and the world, will follow.

Kind regards

Rod McKellar