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Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Submission into Senate Inquiry on the Threat of Marine Plastic Pollution in Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry. The problems and threats posed by marine debris, in particular plastic debris are of great concern to (me/us) and (I/we) urge you to act decisively to recommend urgent action to address these growing problems.

The Commonwealth Government has identified marine debris as a key threatening process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The CSIRO, *Marine Debris: Understanding the Effects of Marine Debris on Wildlife (2014)*, stated:

‘We found that within Australia, approximately three-quarters of the rubbish along the coast is plastic. ‘

Globally it is estimated that 1 million sea birds and over 100,000 mammals die every year as a result of plastic ingestion or entanglement. The CSIRO suggest that by 2050 ‘95% of all sea birds will have plastic in their gut’

In Queensland, over 70% of loggerhead turtles found dead have ingested plastic. 30% of sea turtles deaths in Moreton Bay are attributable to plastic ingestion, with a further 6% due to entanglement

The single largest point of plastic litter and marine debris is beverage sector waste, with plastic bottles, along with lids, straws, cups etc. representing around half of the material (by volume) of the litter stream and some 60% of

all plastic rubbish recovered along our beaches and waterways

Consumption of single use plastic bags is over 5 billion a year and the amount of plastic bags entering the litter stream each year is likely to be as high as 150 million bags every year.

A Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) would reduce beverage litter of the marine environment by 60% and almost triple bottle and cans recycling rates to 85%.

Banning plastic bags and other problematic plastic items would remove about 1 billion bags from circulation in Queensland.

Yours Sincerely

Julie Jackson
Secretary
Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire
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