

For Immediate Release  
25 November 2016

## **NSW and Victoria sit on their hands while 1 billion plastic bags littered**

The Boomerang Alliance of 45 groups has welcomed the announcement by the Queensland Government, at today's meeting of Environment Ministers (Sydney 25 November 2016), on the introduction of a ban on single use, lightweight plastic bags in Queensland.

"We call on NSW and Victoria to join in – already well-over one billion bags have been littered in the last 10 years through their inaction. NSW is the worst laggard," said Jeff Angel, Director of the Boomerang Alliance.

'Queensland's move is a significant step forward in reducing plastic litter and its impact upon native and marine wildlife. Plastic bags in particular are a problem for birds and marine animals that often mistake these for food or get entangled in them. They also break up into microplastics that enter the marine food chain and onto our dinner plates."

"While some smaller states and territories have acted - there's no excuse for delay by NSW and Victoria when you understand that of the 1.5 billion bags littered since all state governments announced in 2005 they would take action - well-over 1 billion have been in NSW and Victoria."

"The proposed Queensland ban will follow similar bans already in place in South Australia, ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania but Queensland has taken it a step further with inclusion of so-called degradable and biodegradable plastic bags in the ban. These also break up into dangerous microplastics that enter the food chain."

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The Boomerang Alliance allies are: • AFROKAB • Australian Conservation Foundation • Australian Marine Conservation Society • Arid Lands Environment Centre • Beach Patrol • Cairns and Far North Coast Environment Centre • Clean Up Australia • Conservation Council ACT Region • Conservation Council of South Australia • Conservation Council of Western Australia • Cooks River Alliance • Environment Centre NT • Environment Tasmania • Environment Victoria • Friends of the Earth • Greenpeace Australia Pacific • LEAD Group • Living Ocean • Local Government NSW • Mineral Policy Institute • Nature Conservation Council of NSW • Project AWARE Foundation • Queensland Conservation Council • Responsible Runners • SEA LIFE Conservation Fund • Surfrider Foundation Australia • Take 3 • Tangaroa Blue Foundation • Tasmanian Conservation Trust • Total Environment Centre • Two Hands Project • Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

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