

3 May 2017

### WA Closer to Banning Plastic Bags

The Boomerang Alliance of 47 groups has welcomed the statement by WA's new Environment Minister, Stephen Dawson, about the dangers of plastic bags and investigating a ban in Western Australia.

'We think given the urgent need to stem the tide of plastic pollution, ban actions by other states and the obvious beneficial impact of a ban that the WA government should be able to come to a quick decision. Australia's environment ministers are meeting at the end of June to discuss the issue and it would be great to see WA announcing a ban before that date,' said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance.

'Previous experience shows that dangerous litter is reduced; threats to wildlife are prevented; and stores and consumers easily change their behaviour.'

"WA would also show up the two other States who have failed to act on plastic bags - NSW and Victoria. Over the last 10 years since all states said they would act (and only 3 did) – these two eastern states have been responsible for almost one billion bags being littered."

"If NSW, Victoria and WA join the ban it will mean that the lightweight single use plastic bag will be banned in Australia. That meeting could reach an historic decision to make a major contribution to cleaning up our environment,' he said.

A current petition by the Channel 10 program, The Project and Clean Up Australia has already been signed by over 125,000 people. Also once put into place, surveys show a large majority of the public support the ban.

Further information: Jeff Angel 02 9211 5022, 0418 273773