



Implementing a lightweight plastic bag ban in Western Australia

Consultation summary







1.2 Written submissions

A total of 2,260 submissions were received.

Almost 96 per cent of the written submissions were 'pro forma' submissions based on a template drafted by the Conservation Council of WA with Sea Shepherd. These submissions were categorised as consumer submissions.

Ninety four non-pro forma written submissions were received from consumers, local government and waste facility operators, non-government organisations, retailers, plastic bag suppliers and reusable bag suppliers. The number of responses from each sector is shown in Table 2.

Most respondents were consumers, with two per cent of respondents being retailers. The number of responses from retailers, local governments, manufacturers and waste facilities were proportionate to the size of each sector.

Table 2: Summary of non pro forma written submissions received

Sector	Number
Consumer	64
Local government	12
Non-government organisation	12
Retail sector	3
Plastic bag supplier	1
Reusable bag supplier	2
Total	94

1.3 Public information sessions

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, in partnership with the Boomerang Alliance, presented five public information sessions on 13 June 2018. The sessions were held in Perth, Geraldton, Mandurah, South Coast and North West Coast. The sessions were held at the following locations:

The major supermarkets (Woolworths, Coles and Metcash (IGA)) were also consulted.

Implementing a lightweight



2.2 Community concern (about the impacts of plastics)

Almost 86 per cent of respondents to the online survey were very concerned about plastic waste and pollution from lightweight plastic bags (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Level of community concern about the impacts of plastics

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Figure 6: Future use of alternatives to plastic bags

2.5 Impacts

Responses to questions about potential impacts of the ban have been categorised according to stakeholder type.

2.5.1 Consumers

Impacts

The majority of submissions received were from consumers (97 per cent of 4,435 submissions). The main themes from the online survey indicated that:

- 59 per cent of respondents reported they are prepared for the ban;
- 37 per cent indicated that they already use reusable bags;
- 10 per cent do not use lightweight bags as bin liners;
- 7 per cent reported that they would be forced to buy bin liners after the ban; and
- 5 per cent reported that they are stockpiling plastic bags prior to the ban, to use as bin liners.

Benefits

Respondents indicated that they are aware the ban will lead to improved environmental outcomes in terms of waste, litter and marine animal impacts through ingestion and entanglement. To reduce their use of plastic, respondents indicated the following:

- 15 per cent plan to, or would like to, use an alternative to a bin liner (noting that most people reuse the bags as bin liners);

15 per cent indicated that they will purchase reusable bags; and





APPENDIX A

Discussion paper and online survey questions

General questions

Do you support a lightweight plastic bag ban for Western Australia?

How concerned are you about lightweight plastic bags polluting our waterways, harming wildlife, persisting in landfill and consuming resources?

If you intend to supply heavier weight plastic bags for free, would this incur additional costs?

Do you intend to pass any of the additional costs of providing a heavier weight plastic bag on to consumers?

Plastic bag suppliers

Can you outline how the plastic bag ban will impact your business?

How will your business adapt to the ban and how long do you need in order to be ready to offer alternatives to your customers?

Local government

Can you foresee any unintended

APPENDIX B

Breakdown of responses on support for the ban

Table 4: Breakdown of responses on support for the ban

Do you support a lightweight plastic bag ban for Western Australia?

Pooled data	Online survey	Pro forma	Non pro forma
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