



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 06079/16

11 APR 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 16 March 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2481-15 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125, you table the response by Wednesday, 13 April 2016.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is aware of the level of plastic waste that is entering Queensland waterways and has implemented programs and funded projects to work toward addressing this issue.

These programs and projects seek to either reduce litter at its source by encouraging behaviour change in the community, or to physically remove litter from the waterways through marine debris collection activities.

There are also a range of primarily volunteer-led community activities which work to remove marine debris, that are operating independently of the Government.

In addition to these, EHP is currently investigating both the restriction on the usage of single-use plastic bags and options for a State-based container deposit scheme in Queensland, which will work further towards addressing the issue of plastic waste entering Queensland waterways.

A 'Plastic Border Patrol' may have some benefit in reducing plastic waste in Queensland's waterways, and this proposal was discussed with Dr Gannon at the recent Northern Suburbs Community Cabinet meeting held on 6 March 2016. EHP and Dr Gannon are currently discussing this concept further.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Angela Siggery, A/Director, Conservation Partnerships of the department on telephone 3330 5827.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef