



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

Ref CTS 09328/16

17 MAY 2016

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 21 April 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2571-16 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 Thursday, 19 May 2016.

The Queensland Government is aware of the importance of addressing the impact of plastic debris on the marine environment. While no single solution will address this problem, the Government is actively investigating ways to reduce the incidence of littering of plastics through implementing programs and funding projects which aim to work towards addressing the 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. For example, there are over 33 community groups on the Gold Coast alone that clean up litter on the beaches and nearby waterways.

In addition to these, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 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.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Julie Hoek of the department on telephone 3330 5035.

Yours sincerely

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