



# Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 18546-21  
Your Ref: A756200

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7140  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

30 September 2021

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 2 September 2021 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3521-21 concerning littering in the environment.

The Palaszczuk Government released *Keeping Queensland Clean: The Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan* (the Plan) in 2021. The Plan aims to reduce litter and illegally dumped waste through coordinated, evidence-based actions and collaboration. The Plan does consider education and awareness campaigns, however at this time the Queensland Government remains focused on the delivery of public health messages associated with managing COVID-19 in our community. A copy of the Plan is available on the Queensland Government website at [https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/176262/keeping-qld-clean-lid-plan.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/176262/keeping-qld-clean-lid-plan.pdf)

I agree that local governments are important partners in managing littering and illegal dumping. The Palaszczuk Government continues to work closely with councils and has funded 31 additional illegal dumping compliance officers across 29 local governments. We have also provided customised training to 125 attendees from 34 local governments to establish best practice litter and illegal dumping management across Queensland. This investment has resulted in 11 million litres of waste being removed from Queensland's environment.

The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the Act) delegates powers to Queensland local governments to assist in managing littering and illegal dumping offences within their local government area. To date, 58 of the 77 local governments across Queensland have accepted this delegation, including the administration of Chapter 5 provisions concerning littering and illegal dumping offences. Penalty unit rates generally increase at the commencement of each financial year and are determined by the State Penalty Enforcement Registry.

A full list of offences and penalties for littering and illegal dumping is available on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/litter](http://www.qld.gov.au/litter). Current penalties for an individual's offence range from \$275 for general littering to over \$2,500 for more significant offences. Corporations incur higher penalties.

In 2021, Round 5 of the Community Sustainability Action Grants was dedicated to Litter and Marine Debris Clean-up and Prevention. A total of 28 projects will receive over \$1.1 million in grant funding for activities which seek to reduce litter and marine debris in our environment and the amount of waste going to landfill. The number and scope of funded activities demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to diverse projects, which are community-led and deliberately address littering in our community. A list of successful applicants is available on the Queensland Government's website at <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/sustainability-action->

[grants/?round=5&category=environmental-conservation&activity=litter-and-marine-debris-clean-up-and-prevention.](#)

The Queensland Government is also committed to reducing the incidence of littering by tackling plastic pollution in our environment. A ban on single-use plastic bags commenced in 2018, and earlier this month we introduced a ban on the supply of a range of single-use plastic items including straws, stirrers, plates, bowls, cutlery, and expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. The Government intends to commence further consultation before the end of the year seeking views on additional items for inclusion in the single-use plastic ban.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the bottom of the signature.

Meaghan Scanlon MP

**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef**  
**Minister for Science and Youth Affairs**