



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

Ref CTS 22046/15

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Level 13  
400 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330  
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2015 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2450-15 and 2430-15 (e) lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. This letter comprises my response to these petitions and I request that, under Standing Order 125, you table the response by Thursday 15 October 2015.

I am pleased to advise that the Queensland Government has committed to investigate options to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags in Queensland. It is clear from recent research that plastics have negative impacts on the environment and in particular the marine environment.

There are a number of stakeholders with an interest in, and that will potentially be impacted by, any decisions around restrictions. The Government is committed to consulting fully on a range of options. This is why we convened a stakeholder workshop on 14 October 2015, in order to start a discussion and gain a better understanding of the issues.

Information from stakeholder discussions and feedback from this workshop will help inform the development of a paper for broader public consultation. This paper is planned to be released for public consultation in 2016.

Yours sincerely

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