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Importer/Supplier

MS

Malcolm Sykes [REDACTED]

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Plastic Bag Ban [v](#)[Reply all](#) | [v](#)

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To Whom it may concern.

I am writing today to lend my thoughts and views to the plastic bag ban debate.

Firstly I would like to confirm that I and 20 staff make a living out of selling plastic bags and other items. I am a strong supporter of **banning** plastic single use carry bags.

Packaging is a largely unregulated market and almost anyone can import anything. There has been confusion and still is around works such as degradable and biodegradable that need to be have a national standard so labelling laws can be applied. The banning of these bags is a very good idea. Long term damage to water supplies and food chain due to micro size of plastic particles never seemed like a good idea to me.

I have some concerns about importers such as ourselves and our customers who carry stock of plastic bags – either printed or custom made- getting caught with stock after July 1st. The lead time just isn't long enough. I downloaded the document "Implementing a single -use plastic bag ban in Western Australia" today after looking on the ministers website for information. This document appears to have been published sometime in December. We have orders placed over seas that we have already paid for that won't be here till Mid-April. With custom made bags and/or printed bags we need to do minimum runs in order to achieve efficiency. If the ban is enforced as of 1st July we would have to ask for compensation as there has been a shortage of information on what the intended legislation is to be and when to implement. We just haven't been able to plan effectively. Part of this submission process is the fact the plan is still being formulated and formalised.

We have customers such as Miss Maud's , 7 /11, pharmacies and bottle shops all that we make printed bags for. Some of these we are carrying the stock to supplied as required.

My suggestion is that from the 1st July customs rejects any containers that are coming into WA that have single use carry bags in them and that shops can no longer use them after 1st January 2019. This will give the majority of retailers and wholesalers and importers time to clear the stocks they have or are already committed to. We have been proactive in this area and we have reduced stock holding already.

Once the ban is in place something needs to be done to make sure that bags supplied by importers such as ourselves actually meet the legislative requirement on thickness. Bags must be printed to state they meet the requirement and no bag may be sold in a carton that is "plain "in nature . The seller of that bag must be able to be found if it is found the product isn't up to specification. During implementation in Tasmania and South Australia we found many many importers were importing and selling bags 28 um and up and passing off as 35um.

Perhaps bag importers apply for a license number which goes on the bag and on the carton. This way commercially we are protecting and supporting the supply chain.IE the retail customer cannot find me the importer and short cut their distributor out of business. Govt will then be able to test bags and address with fine etc with the importer as they have the license number from the carton if bags found to not meet requirement. Currently nearly impossible to determine who is importing carry bags.

I am more than happy to discuss further and I hope that I have been articulate enough in this short email

Kind Regards,

Malcolm Sykes

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