

***Title of Resolution:***

Reduce the use of Plastic to assist our environment nationally

***Wording of Resolution:***

VIEW Clubs of Australia call on State and Federal Government to implement a plan to reduce unnecessary plastic packaging in all areas of retail manufacturing and ban single use plastic bags.

***Rationale:***

We have an obligation to preserve our planet for future generations.

- Every piece of plastic that holds water is a potential breeding ground for insects,
- There is a direct link between plastic debris and the risk of infectious disease.
- Floating plastic can be a source for the spread of pathogens including cholera bacteria.
- The intent behind the ban of single use plastic bags/plastic packaging is to ensure that unnecessary packaging is eliminated and where packaging is used it is reusable and/or biodegradable

***Arguments for the resolution:***

- Plastics pollute the environment both land and water.
- Plastic is not biodegradable and exists for unknown numbers of decades.
- Microplastics are in the air that we breathe, negatively impacting our health.
- Plastic bags are not biodegradable: When plastics bags become litter, they pollute oceans, rivers, farmlands, cities, and neighbourhoods. Bans eliminate bags, which equals less litter and less pollution.
- Marine life will improve: Marine animals often mistake plastic bags as jellyfish or plankton, leading them to consume the litter and become ill or die.
- Manufacturers of food, clothing, toys, household goods use plastic packaging to protect and contain the item, this plastic is single use and thrown out the moment the item is unwrapped, alternatives exist and manufacturers need to be encouraged and/or given incentives to become more environmentally responsible with their packaging.
- Sweden is aiming for a zero-waste society, in 2019 nearly half the of the plastic on the Swedish market was recycled, meaning either processed and made into new products or incinerated for energy recycling
- Plastic does not decompose. This means that all plastic that has ever been produced and has ended up in the environment is still present there in one form or another

***Arguments against the resolution:***

- While litter does contribute to the death of thousands of marine animals each year, it is not fair to single out plastics and plastic bags as the cause. Lost or abandoned fishing gear is also responsible for the wrongful death of marine animals and a plastic ban does not address the entire problem. This “all or nothing” rationale is not only weak, it is short sighted.
- Bans often lead plastic bag manufacturers to scale back business and may lead to job losses.
- Plastic bag bans will require shoppers having to purchase reusable bags, which can be expensive