



Local Governments leading the way with BYO Bag Campaign

A campaign to reduce community use of plastic bags has been launched by a group of Local Governments in the Bunbury Geographe region.

It is hoped a collaborative approach to the project will broaden its impact and help shoppers develop new habits.



An eye-catching BYO Bag logo with the tagline 'Let's be plastic free!' was created as the centrepiece of the campaign.

The logo will appear on the websites and social media platforms of participating local governments, accompanied by information designed to raise community awareness about the problem with plastic bags.

The campaign was initiated by the Shire of Dardanup following a resolution of Council at its meeting on July 19 to advise Environment Minister Stephen Dawson and Local Government Minister David Templeman of its support for a state-wide ban on plastic bags.

Single-use, plastic bags have already been banned in South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT.

According to the Plastic Bag Free NSW website:

- Australians use more than four billion plastic checkout-style bags per year;

- Australians throw out more than 7,000 plastic bags per minute;
- Lightweight plastic bags are used for 12 minutes on average;
- They take up to 1,000 years to break down;
- Each year an estimated 50 million plastic bags do not make it to landfill, instead entering the environment... and they never leave
- Plastic bag litter kills tens of thousands of animals every year including birds, whales, seals and turtles.

(LG representative) said plastic bags couldn't go into Yellow Top recycling bins and instead needed to be dropped in special bins specifically for soft plastics recycling found at Coles and Woolworths supermarkets.

"These soft plastics are then recycled into products like outdoor furniture, bollards, signage and decking.

"The Shire of Dardanup has been purchasing these environmentally-friendly, recycled products for the past two years because of their superior resilience to termites, rotting and cracking."

It was hoped the new BYO Bag logo would provide a visual cue, reminding residents to:

1. Bring their own enviro bags when they went shopping
2. Drop off their soft plastics at participating supermarkets for recycling
3. Participate in litter clean-up events to help prevent the amount of plastics entering the environment.

ENDS