

Queensland

Queensland bans single-use plastic bags from July 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/sep/06/queensland-bans-single-use-plastic-bags-from-july-2018>

State will also introduce new container refund scheme with most drinks containers attracting 10-cent refund

   

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Australian Associated Press

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 Legislation was passed in Queensland's state parliament on Tuesday night to ban single-use plastic bags by mid 2018. Photograph: The AGE/Fairfax Media via Getty Images

Single-use plastic bags will be banned in [Queensland](#) from July next year after the state parliament passed new legislation on Tuesday night.

The state will also have a new container refund scheme, with most beverage containers to attract a 10-cent refund to stop them ending up in waterways and the sea.

“An estimated 2.4bn beverage containers and 1bn lightweight plastic shopping bags are used in Queensland every year. These are ending up in our waterways and killing and maiming our native animals,” environment minister Steven Miles has told parliament.



Woolworths and Coles to phase out single-use plastic bags

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“This bill responds to overwhelming community demand.”

Dr Miles praised Coles and Woolworths for [announcing earlier this year](#) that they would voluntarily impose a nationwide ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags, which are already banned in some other states.

“It goes to show that there is broad momentum and support for this ban,” he said.

The minister said the container refund scheme would create new jobs and charities would be among those reaping the rewards.

“This means more revenue for our not-for-profit organisations including sporting clubs and charities,” he said.

Technology should help make it easy for people to turn rubbish into cash: “We are giving people access to the latest technology to do it. Reverse vending machines are easy to use and provide instant refunds. They will be made available right across the state,” Miles said.

The first machine is currently being installed at parliament house.

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