



NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

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Mr John Durkan MD
Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 480 Glen Iris Road Victoria 3146

24 July 2017.

Dear Mr Durkan,

RE: reduction of the supply of single-use plastic bags.

The announcement by Coles of this initiative recently, is a milestone in the move to protect the environment. Any policy change in a business the size of Coles will be followed by others in the field. It will be an example to all.

On behalf of over 400 members of Birding NSW, we ask that you consider a wider platform of environment protection than discontinuing giving customers plastic bags free of charge. As we understand it, single-use plastic bags will still be available to shoppers but at a charge of 15c per bag. It is likely that many customers will continue to use these bags for convenience as they are used to dispose of household waste.

By charging customers 15c for a plastic bag does this not mean that Coles stand to make a profit even if only 10% of the billions of free bags were bought? And, by still making these bags available, is Coles really helping to protect the environment?

It is a fact that food packaging and wrapping is increasing, causing growth in the volume of waste materials. If Coles were to consider a holistic approach to packaging, carry-home facilities and recycling of a greater proportion of containers of all types, an enormous contribution could be made to sustainability over time. If only recyclable materials were used, the war on waste could be won.

Given that a phase out period will take time, can your company achieve a better outcome by introducing biodegradable packaging of all types?

This organization is constantly reminded of the degradation of our world through monitoring bird species that indicate the health of an environment. Please help to reverse this trend.

Sincerely

Ian Bailey
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Birding NSW.
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