

**Attorney General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Environment
Minister for the Arts**



Level 10 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7739
Email Minister.Archer@dpac.tas.gov.au
Web www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

30 AUG 2018

Mr Mark Rauzon
Vice Chair for Conservation
Pacific Seabird Group
Email: conservation@pacificseabirdgroup.org

Dear Mr Rauzon

Thank you for your letter regarding support by the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) for an Australia-wide ban on the release of balloons and the use of helium to inflate balloons.

In Tasmania, the release of balloons into the environment is already an offence under our Litter Act.

The Tasmanian Government is working in collaboration with local government, the waste and recycling industry and the broader Tasmanian community to develop a Waste Action Plan that helps to address many of the issues you raise, with the draft plan expected to be made publically available by the end of the year.

I also continue to engage with my colleagues at the meeting of Environment Ministers National Environment Protection Council to develop national strategies to deal with future waste management challenges.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Hon Elise Archer MP
Minister for Environment



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia
delwp.vic.gov.au

Mr Mark J. Rauzon
Vice Chair for Conservation
Pacific Seabird Group
conservation@pacificseabirdgroup.org

Ref: MIN046556



Dear Mr Rauzon

22 AUG 2018

BALLOON BAN

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2018 to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change about banning balloons. As this matter is in my area of responsibility, the Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting our environment, including reducing the impacts of all types of litter. Single use plastics, including balloons, can be harmful to the environment if they are not disposed of appropriately. They also pose a significant health risk, particularly to marine life.

The release of helium balloons into the atmosphere can cause environmental harm and is an offence under the littering provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) discourages the release of balloons at all public events due to their potential environmental impacts. You can find more information about ways to report and reduce litter at www.epa.vic.gov.au/get-involved/report-litter/what-you-can-do/.

We want to do more to reduce the environmental impacts of all plastic pollution, including from balloon releases. That's why we are developing a plastic pollution reduction plan for Victoria over the next 12 months. The plan will prioritise the most effective actions to reduce plastic pollution, which may include considering what else we can do to prevent balloon releases. To help guide this plan, we are establishing a reference group of government, industry, community and environmental representatives. You can find out more about the plan at: www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/plastic-pollution

If you would like more information about this matter, please call Dominik Nicholls, Manager, Waste and Resource Recovery on (03) 9637 8620 or email dominik.nicholls@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Kath Rowley
Executive Director
Climate Change

Meegan Fitzharris MLA



Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Mr Mark J. Rauzon

mjrauz@aol.com

Dear Mr Rauzon

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2018 to Mr Mick Gentleman MLA regarding helium balloons and littering. I am responding as this matter falls under my portfolio responsibilities.

I share your concerns about littering and it is unfortunate that the irresponsible actions of a few can have such an impact on the community. In the ACT the *Litter Act 2004* provides a deterrent to littering and City Rangers and ACT Policing can issue on-the spot fines to offenders ranging from \$60 to \$1,000. Under the *Litter Act 2004* there is a requirement to identify the person responsible for depositing litter in a public place. However, this evidence is often difficult to obtain.

The ACT has committed to a number of major policy interventions to reduce other litter streams. The most significant of these are the *Plastic Shopping Bag Ban Act 2010*, the container deposit scheme and public event and public space waste management programs and initiatives.

I have asked Transport Canberra and City Services officials to review the work the Queensland Government has undertaken in relation to the release of balloons and to consider its appropriateness for our community. It is expected that a legislative review of the *Litter Act* will commence later this year.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust the information provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

24/8/2018

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 0051

GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Email fitzharris@act.gov.au



@MeeganFitzMLA



MeeganFitzharrisMLA

----- Original Message -----

From: Minister Lawler <Minister.Lawler@nt.gov.au>

Sent: Wed, Aug 29, 2018 10:55 pm

Subject: Re: Ban Helium Balloons

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for writing to me calling for support to ban the release of helium balloons. It is an issue that I am seeing growing community concern about, and one that I am seeing groups and individuals making decisions about. I believe that having the community actively make those decisions and the resulting community pressure will have a substantial impact in reducing the release of helium balloons.

Further, the Northern Territory Government engages with other jurisdictions on national approaches to reducing the impacts of wastes on the environment including balloons and other single use plastics. At the Meeting of Environment Ministers in April 2018, Ministers in all jurisdictions made a commitment to reduce waste and make it easier for products to be recycled.

Ministers endorsed a target of 100 percent of Australian packaging being recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 or earlier. Ministers also agreed to encourage waste reduction strategies through greater consumer awareness, education and with industry leadership.

Our Government will continue to work towards developing a national approach to further reduce impacts of these wastes.

I encourage you to continue to lobby and to share your views with organisations who utilise helium balloons. I can tell you that Territory Labor made a decision this year not to have helium balloons at any of the Shows across the Northern Territory.

Kind regards

Hon Eva Lawler MLA

Minister for Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics

Minister for Environment & Natural Resources

Northern Territory Government of Australia

Level 5, Parliament House, Darwin NT

GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801, Australia

p... (08) 8936 5566 | m... 0455 557 547 | e... minister.lawler@nt.gov.au

Confidentiality and Disclaimer Statement:

Use or transmittal of the information in this email other than for authorised NT Government business purposes may constitute misconduct under the **NT Public Sector Code of Conduct** and could potentially be an offence under the **NT Criminal Code**. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this message or any attachments is unauthorised. If you have received this document in error, please advise the sender. No representation is given that attached files are free from viruses or other defects. Scanning for viruses is recommended.