Petition calling for a Ban on Lightweight Plastic Bags in NSW

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled. This Petition of the citizens of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House:

- Australians use approximately 4 billion lightweight plastic bags every year. Vast amounts of fossil fuel are required to produce these bags, a process which adds to greenhouse emissions.
- Plastic refuse is a major threat to our land, waterways and ocean environments. Plastic takes hundreds of years to break down and has the potential to end up in the marine food chain with devastating consequences. At least 77 species of marine wildlife found in Australian waters are affected by marine litter.
- Eliminating single use plastic bags requires negligible infrastructure and will save clean-up costs incurred by local and state governments whilst also allowing significant savings to retailers. NSW must follow the lead of South Australia, the NT and the ACT and introduce a ban to reduce waste and environmental degradation as a matter of urgency.

The undersigned petitioners requests that the Legislative Assembly calls on the NSW Government to introduce legislation for the purpose of putting a ban on single-use lightweight plastic bags at retail points of sale in NSW by the end of 2012.

Name	Address	Postcode	Signature

Completed forms to: Plastic Bag Free NSW, P.O.Box 27 Hamilton NSW 2303 or present to your Plastic Bag Free NSW representative