Plastic Bag Ban Starts Next Month

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today reminded Territorians that the Territory Government’s ban on plastic bags commences from 1 September this year.

Mr Hampton said a phase out of plastic bags began on 1 May to allow retailers enough time to become used to the new way of doing business in the Territory.

“Banning plastic bags will mean a cleaner, greener Territory,” Mr Hampton said.

“Approximately 40 million single-use plastic bags are consumed in the Territory each year, creating landfill, litter and killing our wildlife.

“That’s why this Government is proud to have passed historic legislation earlier this year banning shops from selling or giving away lightweight, non-biodegradable, “checkout” style plastic bags.

“We are also pleased to see that other regions of the country are following in our footsteps as the Australian Capital Territory has recently begun its phase out period of a plastic bag ban that comes into effect on 1 November.

“Not only is the ACT Government looking at the Territory as a example, it is also planning to use segments of our Government’s advertising campaign to keep its residents and retailers informed about the plastic bag ban, which is a great compliment to us.

“Territorians are encouraged to make the switch now to reusable, environmentally friendly bags, including Green Bags and biodegradable (compostable) bags.

“Only biodegradable (compostable) bags that comply with Australian Standard AS4736-2006 will be permitted.

“Degradable bags will be banned as degradable plastics merely break down into smaller and smaller flakes which continue to pollute for many years, whereas biodegradable bags biodegrade within 180 days under industrial composting conditions.

“The Territory Government’s plastic bag ban is also a step towards reducing the amount of waste being taken to our rubbish dumps by 50 per cent by 2020, in line with our Territory 2030 objectives.”

Go to www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au for more information about the Plastic Bag Ban.

Media Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563