Petition Calling for a Ban on Single-use and Heavy Retail Plastic Bags

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

- Currently, NSW consumes 34% of Australia's 8.5 billion plastic bags produced per annum, i.e. just under 3 billion light and heavyweight plastic bags are used in NSW alone yearly. (Luke Foley's Bill, 2016)
- Vast amounts of fossil fuels are required to produce these plastic bags, adding greatly to greenhouse emissions.
- All other Australian states have either introduced or intend to ban, single-use plastic bags by July 1 2018.
- Some leading supermarkets, have promised to phase out the use of single-use plastic bags by July 2018, however, it is only voluntary and cannot be enforced by anybody other than the supermarkets themselves.
- If plastic production continues as its current rate then, the CSIRO predicts that by 2050, 95% of all species of seabirds will suffer from ingestion of plastic. 44% of all seabird species, 22% of cetaceans, all sea turtle species, and some fish species have been found with plastic in or around their bodies.
- It costs the Australian government more than $4 million per annum to clean up litter specifically caused by plastic bags. This is a cost that can be easily cut or avoided by introducing legislation to ban further production of single-use plastic bags and heavy retail plastic bags in NSW. (Australian Ethical-Super and Manage Funds, 2017)

The undersigned petitioners ask the Legislative Assembly to introduce legislation banning the use of single-use and heavy retail plastic bags at retail points of sale in NSW.

NAME Please Print	FULL ADDRESS (required)	SIGNATURE