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Do Something calls on PM to deliver a national ban on plastic checkout bags

Call follows motion by the Tasmanian Parliament to ban plastic bags

Now that a number of States and Territories have moved to ban plastic bags, action group **Do Something!** is calling on the Prime Minister to implement Labor's 2007 promise to bring about a national ban on plastic checkout bags.

Yesterday, in a show of tripartisan support, all 3 major parties in Tasmania's lower house passed a motion to ban non-biodegradable plastic checkout bags. The Tasmanian push follows on from South Australia's ban and recent decisions by the ACT and Northern Territory to also ban plastic checkout bags.

In 2003, Do Something! Directors Jon Dee and Ben Kearney organised Australia's first plastic bag ban in the Tasmanian town of Coles Bay. They've since led the campaign to ban plastic bags in Tasmania and the rest of Australia (see *Do Something's BanTheBag.com.au* web site).

Dee and Kearney are asking the Prime Minister to deliver on Labor's 2007 election promise to implement a national ban.

"The simple fact is the federal government has dropped the ball when it comes to implementing a national ban on plastic checkout bags. Instead, we're having to rely on states banning them on a state-by-state basis," said Dee, Do Something's Founder and NSW Australian of the Year for 2010.

"Companies like Target, Bunnings, IKEA and Nando's have banned non-biodegradable plastic bags on a national basis and some companies like McDonald's have never used them. Australia's fastest growing supermarket chain ALDI has also never given away free plastic checkout bags," said Dee.

"It would be great if Julia Gillard could resolve this matter once and for all. Such a move is necessary to protect marine life from the impact of plastic bags."

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Jon Dee is available for interview on 02 9519 8766.