

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C363

**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)**

Wednesday, 28 June 2017

Hon Robin Chappie to Minister for Environment:

I refer to your statements yesterday regarding plastic bags that it is the Government's "*intention to have a process or a ban in place for the first of January 2019*", and ask:

1. Please clarify this statement – will there be a ban in place, or is the Minister simply stating the good intentions of this government to consider bringing forward legislation on the matter, by January 1st 2019?
2. Why is there such a long lead time for consideration by the government of this important issue?

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER):

1–2. The McGowan Labor Government is committed to reducing the use of plastic bags. I have sought and received initial advice from DER on options to achieve such a reduction. That advice considered that it was likely that a ban on single-use plastic bags could be implemented through regulations made under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and be in place by 1 January 2019.

A vital part of change of this magnitude is the industry and community consultation. In the event that legal advice confirmed that a new Act was the preferred mechanism for implementing a ban, I would move to develop a Bill for Parliament's consideration as soon as practicable and in any case by 1 January 2019.

