

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG BAN — LEGISLATION

840. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

Will the minister legislate to ban plastic shopping bags; and, if so, when; and, if not, why not?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for her question.

At this stage I am not planning to do that; however, this matter has been a source of discussion at many ministerial council meetings, as I am sure the member would know in her experience as parliamentary secretary to the Minister for the Environment. It is a matter that has been raised over a long period.

Hon Simon O'Brien: That was when she was supporting lead going out through Fremantle!

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: That is quite correct, Hon Simon O'Brien!

Hon Ken Travers: Do you take your own shopping bags to the shopping centre?

Hon Simon O'Brien: Yes, I do, actually.

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: I have pink, green and purple ones that I take shopping!

Hon Ken Travers: Does that depend on what mood you're in?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: Perhaps; I like the pink ones!

The issue of plastic bags is serious. The ministerial council has looked at the use of biodegradable bags, but this is also about changing consumer behaviour and encouraging the use of alternative bags.

Hon Sally Talbot: When are you going to make a decision?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: Did the previous government make a decision? It did not.

Hon Sally Talbot: How long have you been minister?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: How long was the member in government? Eight years. Did the previous government ban them? No, it did not.

Hon Sally Talbot: You're still just talking about it.

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: The previous government talked about it for eight years and did nothing.

The fact is that a ministerial council will be held in Perth in November. This, along with a number of other waste-related matters, will be dealt with at that time.