



Think Globally. Act Locally!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

ABN 48 036 173 161

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 26th January 2026

Re: Support for Boomerang Alliance and its programs

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) has affiliations with local (Queensland), national, and international organisations aligned with its mission of responsible and sustainable environmental stewardship. The **Boomerang Alliance** is an Australian not-for-profit group established in 2003, and is endorsed by HOPE in its mission of working towards a zero-waste society. The organisation launched its "Plastic Free Places" project in 2017, which supports communities and local organisations in reducing single-use plastics in areas that state-wide legislation has not yet addressed, by providing education and resources around cost-effective plastic alternatives.

The Boomerang Alliance states that 95% of all plastic packaging is used once before being discarded as litter/waste. Single-use plastic bans implemented on a government level demonstrate progress in reducing this number, though plastic pollution remains an overwhelming concern for our environment. Non-government programs like "Plastic Free Places" can further support progress in this area until the legislation catches up. The program empowers organisations, such as event-managers, food retailers and local markets to make the switch to non-plastic packaging alternatives, like those which are reusable or compostable.

"Plastic Free Places" identifies the six most problematic kinds of single-use plastics as water bottles, straws, coffee cups, takeaway containers, food ware and bags. Once an organisation has eliminated all six, they earn the title of "Plastic Free Champion." As of 31st of October 2025, the program has worked with 2,499 businesses, 487 of which have reached the "Plastic Free Champion" status. The larger impact reflects the combined effect of micro-level structural changes implemented by participating organisations, having collectively eliminating 41,777,845 plastic items.

The project can be implemented in any community in Australia with the support of local stakeholders and councils, with eight active projects in locations throughout Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, and South Australia. HOPE encourages its members to sign up to the alliance as an individual, and to lobby their local businesses and governments to consider adopting the program. The greater the support, the more businesses the Boomerang Alliance can partner with to reduce their plastic use, and more effectively bridge gaps not yet addressed at policy level.

Learn more and sign up as a supporter at www.boomerangalliance.org.au.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135

Written by Josie Jarvis - HOPE media officer NSW