

HELIUM BALLOONS — BAN

Petition

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [10.02 am]: I present a petition containing 4 156 signatures, couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned believe that the deliberate release of helium balloons causes serious environmental harm and that it's time that the laws are updated to reflect this. This is an important step in the process to reduce the amount of waste in the environment.

All that goes up must come down and this includes helium balloons. Helium balloons which end up in the ocean cause serious harm to marine wildlife. Turtles and birds often mistake them for food and ingest them. This causes serious health issues and can result in the animal dying from starvation.

We therefore ask the Legislative Council to support an amendment to the Litter Act 1979 (WA) to make the deliberate release of helium balloons an illegal act punishable by an on the spot fine.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A similar petition was presented by **Hon Pierre Yang** (166 signatures).

[See papers 2748 and 2749.]