



## What Goes Up Must Come Down

Many in our community don't realise the dire consequences of releasing helium-filled balloons and their impacts on native wildlife. The fact is that these balloons tend to fracture and burst in the atmosphere and fall back to earth. The remnants of balloons and any associated strings and ribbons resemble food to wildlife causing them to be eaten or get entangled.

Wildlife researchers have estimated that over 70% of plastic found inside dead pelagic turtles in Moreton Bay were balloons. Dr. Jenn Lavers, from the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, says she finds balloons "in about one in 20 of every sea birds I examine".

Most helium-filled balloons are not biodegradable, and even the ones that claim to be, degrade very slowly, by which time they have often been eaten by animals, reptiles or birds or become entangled with wildlife.

Releasing helium balloons leads to littering, an offence under the Queensland Waste and Resource Recovery Act. Mass releases of helium-filled balloons is not allowed at State Government events and is opposed many local Councils in Queensland.

**Please don't allow any helium balloons releases in your school or any associated activities. You can also help by alerting parents to the dangers.**

