



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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Temporary ban placed on supply and sale of sky lanterns

Consumer Affairs Minister Dr Craig Emerson today placed a supply and sale ban on sky lanterns, also known as sky candles or fire balloons.

Sky lanterns are paper lanterns which use flammable liquid or a candle to produce hot air which then inflates the lantern.

The lantern then floats away on prevailing air currents.

“While sky lanterns have been an important part of festive celebrations for various ethnic communities, the potential dangers are alarming,” Dr Emerson said.

“As we near what promises to be another severe bushfire season we need to remain wary of potential fire threats.”

Sky lanterns are made from flame-retardant paper, a bamboo ring at the bottom and a thin cross-wire supporting a square of wax paper or petroleum-soaked cloth.

A temporary ban will mandate that supply and sale of these products cease in Australia for up to 18 months.

“The ACCC will carry out further investigation on potential dangers associated with the use of sky lanterns and I will consider whether or not a permanent ban is warranted,” Dr Emerson said.

Media contact: Chris Ward 0418 424 654