

# Kelly has her future in the bag

By DAVID COHEN

**A reusable bag has to be used more than 23 times before it is better than a single-use plastic bag, according to Kelly Moss.**

The businesswoman and North Cottesloe surf lifesaver is well-positioned to take advantage of the state government's ban from July on the plastic bags.

Kelly bought Platinum Bags 18 months ago.

The business, which has been operating for about 10 years, makes environmentally-friendlier reusable bags.

"I'm excited about the ban," Kelly (40) said.

"But for it to be effective, extensive education is the key.

"It will be challenging for consumers and retailers to adopt a new way of thinking, but the positive environmental impact will be considerable."

Kelly said various studies showed reusable bags had to be used at least 23 times.

"That's to do with the environmental impact of manufacturing the bag – the materials, energy, and water used," she said.

"The comment I get a lot is: 'I've got heaps [of reusable bags] but I always forget to take them to the supermarket.'"

Kelly's products range from hessian and calico totes to cooler bags, and she said most could be recycled.

"The most expensive are the

hessian and calico, due to the cost of the fabric," she said.

"I am researching more environmentally-friendly, plant-based fabrics.

"There are some made from corn starch with a claim to be bio-degradable, but they are bio-degradable only under very specific circumstances."

Kelly's customers include Boatshed Market, the Rottne General Store, The Herdsman, MadFish Wines and Mondo Nougat.

She has been a member at North Cottesloe SLSC for 22 years and is a former general manager of the club.

"I have two young kids and I am bent on leaving this place a better place than I found it," Kelly said.

"I always wanted to own my own business.

"Platinum Bags appealed because it is doing something positive environment-wise, and it helps businesses market themselves."

This week the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation ran public workshops aimed at helping plastic bag suppliers, retailers and consumers prepare for and comply with the ban.

Kelly went to one in the Perth CBD on Monday night.

The department said the ban would bring WA in line with South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, which already have plastic bag bans in place. It said Queensland had also committed to a ban from July 1.

The department said billions of single-use plastic shopping bags were supplied nationally each year, with about five million left as litter in WA.

## Cheap stadium peek

The women's Australian Rules game on February 10 between Fremantle and Collingwood may be the most cost-effective chance for a long time to tour the new Burswood stadium.

Tickets to the women's showdown – which should be easier to get than the free 110,000 tickets to the open day on January 21 – cost just \$2, and the price includes free public transport to the venue.

Even better, all the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Starlight Children's Foundation and the Fremantle Dockers Foundation, so organisers are hoping to draw a record crowd.

Other options for getting to the new stadium affordably are limited.

You could stump up for tickets to a sporting or concert event or opt for a place on one



Optus Stadium

of four daily tours, but you will need to fork out.

The 90-minute tours for 25 people at a time were completely booked out all this week.

One adult ticket costs \$25 and \$15 for a child.

It will cost a family of four \$65 to get in and \$5 extra for another child, with a maximum of six being allowed on a family ticket.

Children up to age five, and companions, can get in free of charge.



**Bag lady ...** Kelly Moss likes having a business that is doing something to help the environment. Photo: Billie Fairclough