



Western Australia's Plan for Plastics

Stage 1
Information and
feedback sessions

July & August 2021





Program team

DWER Single-use plastic team

- Joanne O'Connor & Bryce Pitts-Hill

Co-facilitator

- Andrew Huffer

Andrew is independent of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and has been engaged to co-deliver these sessions.



Purpose

- To provide you with a clear understanding of the intent of Western Australia's Plan for Plastics and implementation approach.
- To provide you with the opportunity to provide feedback on the implementation of Stage 1 items.



Intended outcomes of the session

- Clear understanding of the items proposed for regulatory action.
- Timeframes for implementation – when will the regulations be introduced and enforced.
- To understand any concerns or barriers with the proposed approach.
- Areas needed for support are identified.



Agenda

- Overview of the proposed changes
- Identification of key concerns
- Identification of areas for support



The ROPES

Respect

Open mind

Participate

Experience

Share the air

STAYING ABOVE THE LINE

Responsibility

Lay Blame

Justify



Western Australia's Plan for Plastics

Overview of
proposed changes





Impacts of single-use and disposable plastics

They are inexpensive, convenient and used in many applications.

Environmental

- Often littered (75% of rubbish collected on WA's beaches is plastic)
- Ingestion and entanglement of marine, aquatic and terrestrial fauna

Waste stream impacts

- Contaminate recycling and composting streams and wastewater treatment systems
- Most end up in landfill (89% in 2018/19)

Human health

- Emerging research is linking plastics to detrimental human health outcomes

Minderoo Foundation found that of all nation's Australia consumes the most single-use plastic per capita (50 kg) per year.



Support for action

- Governments are taking actions at all levels including locally, state, nationally and internationally
- 98% of respondents to WA's consultation in 2019, support action to reduce the impacts of disposable and single-use plastics

WA has already taken actions including:

- Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Strategy 2030
- Lightweight plastic bag ban (2018)
- Containers for Change (2020)



Western Australia's Plan for Plastics

- Announced by the Minister for Environment in November 2020
- Accelerated Plan introduced by the Minister for Environment in June 2021
- Two stages:
 - Stage 1 – by end of 2021
 - Stage 2 – by end of 2022
- Focus of this session is stage 1 items and implementation approaches
- Regulations to come into effect December 2021 and enforcement provisions commence on 1 July 2022



Stage 1 items:

Plastic:

- Straws
- Stirrers
- Cutlery
- Plates
- Bowls and lids
- Cups and lids (cold beverages)
- Expanded polystyrene food containers
- Thick plastic bags
- Helium balloon releases



Definition of plastic

For the purposes of the WA single-use plastic ban, plastic is defined as:

a material made from, or comprising, organic polymers, whether plant extracts or of fossil fuel origin, and includes expanded polystyrene.

This definition applies to all Stage 1 items whether made in part or in whole of plastic, unless stated otherwise.



Degradable, biodegradable, oxo-degradable and compostable plastics

- No Australian Standards for degradable, biodegradable and oxo-degradable plastics
- Two Australian Standards (AS) for compostable plastics, 4736: 2006 (industrial) and AS 5810: 2010 (home)
- When littered all of these plastic types pose the same threat to wildlife and they contaminate waste streams
- AS compostable plastics can be suitable if they are fit-for-purpose, e.g. bin liner for Food Organics Garden Organics waste collection

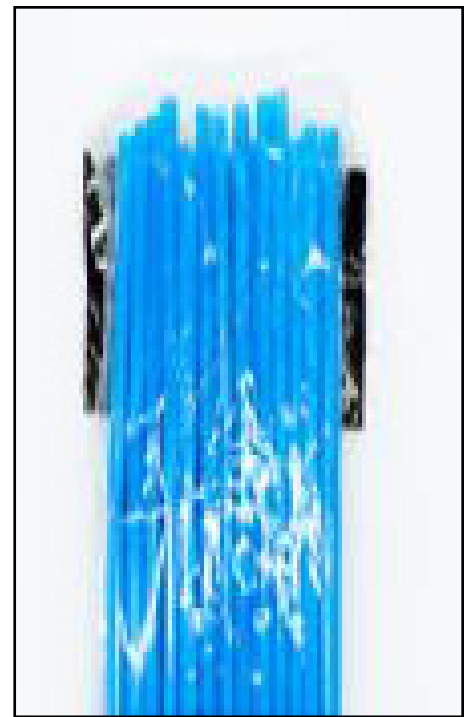
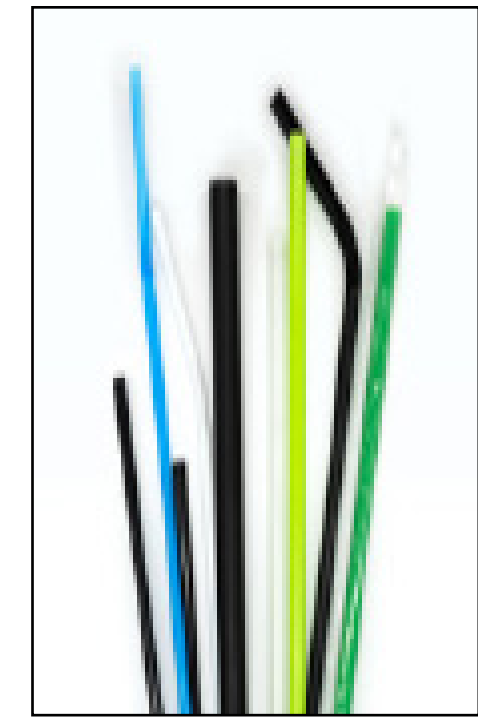


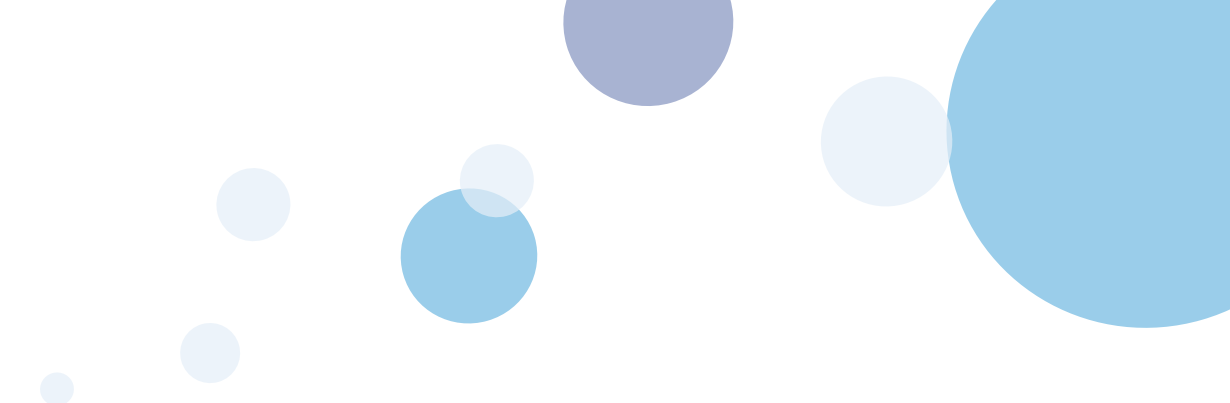
Description of items proposed for banning in WA



Plastic straws

- Proposed exemption approach for businesses to provide *individual* or *packs* of straws to an individual who requires a plastic straw to meet their life needs due to disability, health or other life needs, or to a person who is caring for them
- Developed with Plastic Straws Working Group (members from the disability, aged care, health, pharmacy, retail and environment sectors)
- Exemptions already in place in South Australia and Queensland were considered when developing WA's proposed approach
- Proposed exemption for straws attached to packaging





Reusable and single-use straw alternatives

Reusable

Silicone



Stainless steel



Bamboo



Glass



Single-use

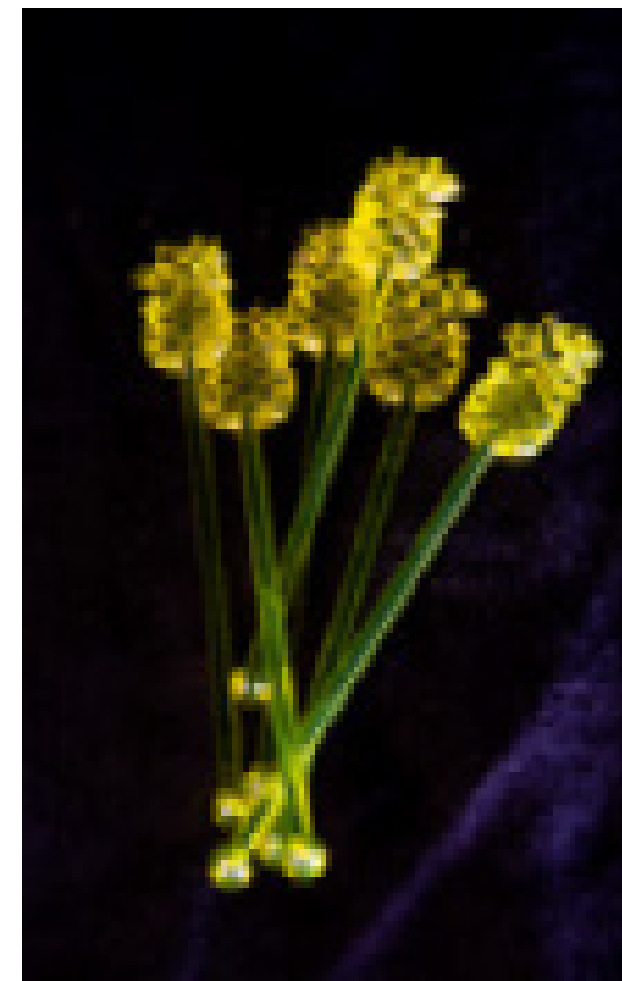
Paper,
wheat,
pasta





Plastic drink stirrers

- Disposable plastic drink stirrers for hot and cold drinks
- Includes packs of stirrers sold by retailers and individual drink stirrers provided by hospitality businesses and other organisations



Reusable and single-use alternatives:

Metal



Wood



Glass





Plastic cutlery

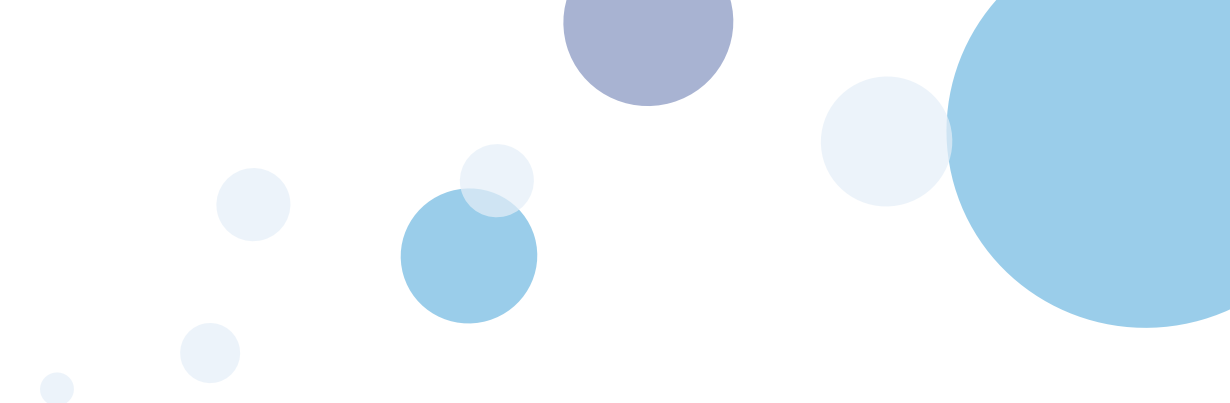
Disposable plastic implements for consuming food (e.g. knives, forks, spoons, sporks, laksa spoons and chopsticks)

- Includes packs of disposable cutlery sold by retailers and cutlery provided by hospitality businesses and other organisations



Proposed exceptions include:

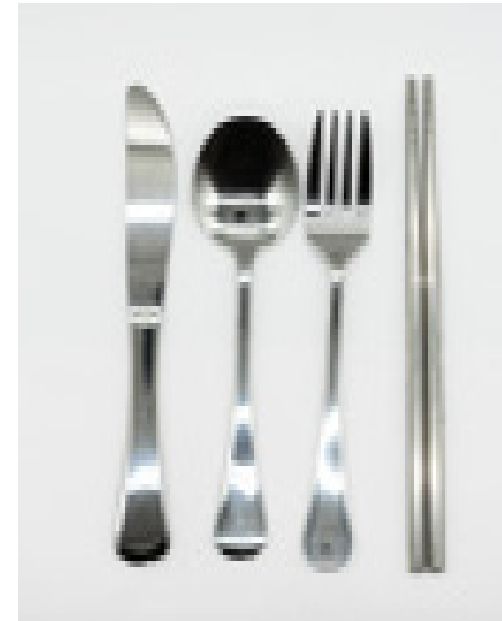
- Cutlery that forms part of the packaging of another product (e.g. a spoon included inside the packaging of instant noodles)
- Heavier weight plastic cutlery that is designed for multiple use and sold as individual items or in sets by retailers (e.g. outdoor dinner sets, camping equipment or cutlery designed for use by children)



Alternatives to plastic cutlery

Reusable

Stainless steel,
aluminium



Thick reusable
plastic



Single-use

Non-plastic
disposable cutlery
(wooden, bagasse)





Plastic plates

Disposable plastic plates made from plastic designed for consuming food.

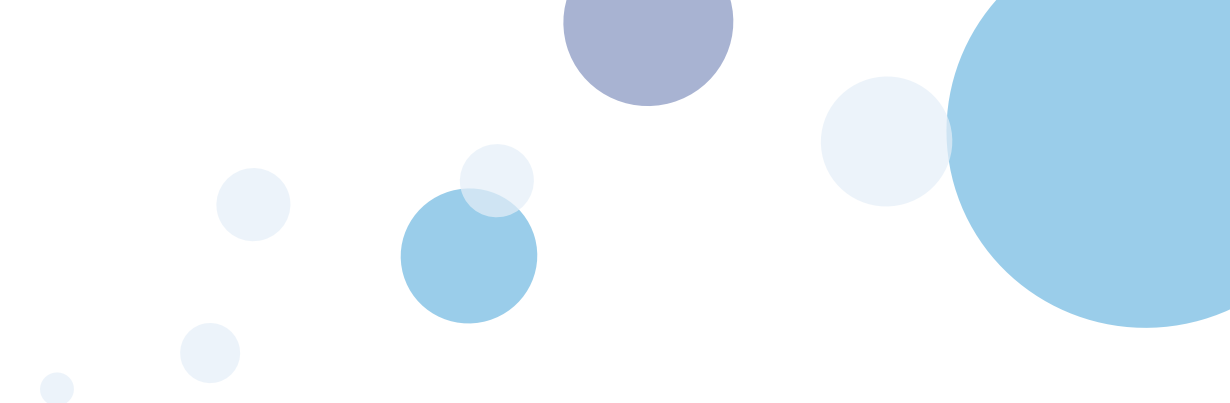
Plastic, PLA or PLA/CPLA lined paperboard plates are proposed to be included in the ban, as there are non-plastic alternatives available.

Includes packs of disposable plates sold by retailers and individual plates provided with food by hospitality businesses and other organisations.



Proposed exceptions include:

- Plates that form part of the packaging of another product (e.g. a plastic plate containing a frozen ready meal)
- Heavier weight plastic plates that are designed for multiple use and sold as individual items or in sets by retailers (e.g. outdoor dinner sets, camping equipment or plates designed for use by children)



Reusable and single-use plate alternatives

Reusable

Ceramic, enamel



Thick reusable
plastic



Single-use

Non-plastic lined
paperboard,
bagasse

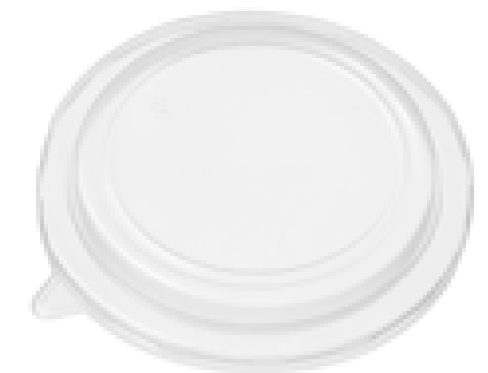




Plastic bowls and bowl lids

Disposable plastic bowls and bowl lids made out of plastic (whether wholly, partly, or lined by plastic) designed for consuming food.

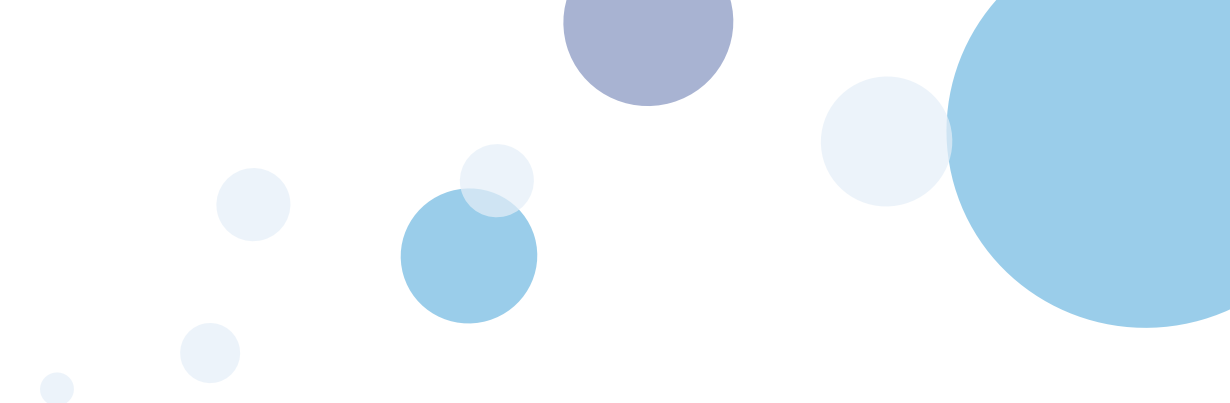
- Includes packs of disposable bowls and lids sold by retailers and individual bowls and lids provided with food by hospitality businesses and other organisations



Proposed exceptions include:

- Bowls and lids that form part of the packaging of another product (e.g. a plastic bowl containing a frozen ready meal or pre-packaged noodle bowls)
- Heavier weight plastic bowls and lids that are designed for multiple use and sold as individual items or in sets by retailers (e.g. outdoor dinner sets, storage containers, camping equipment or bowls designed for use by children)





Proposed exceptions for single-use plastic bowls & lids

Bowls

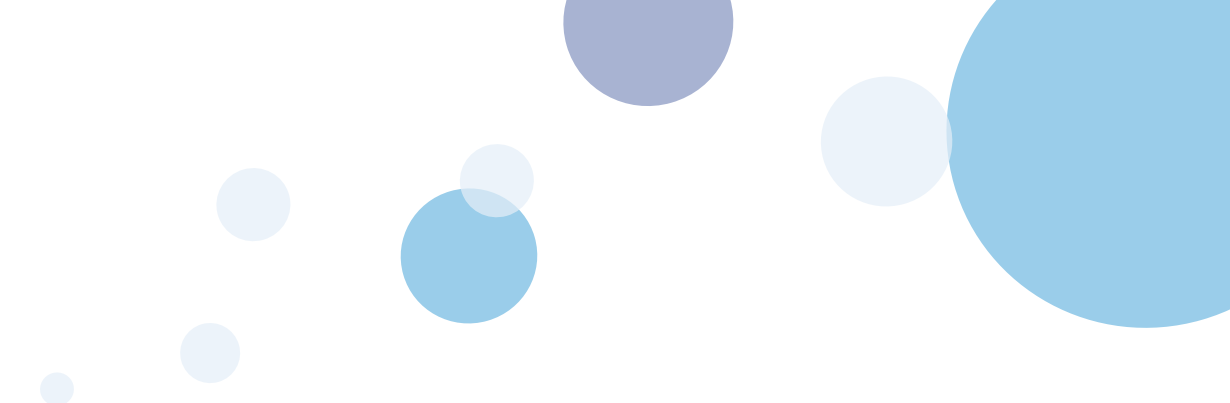
Paperboard bowls lined with polylactic acid (PLA) certified to the Australian Standard (AS) 4736:2006



Bowl lids

- Made from PLA-lined paperboard certified to AS 4736:2006
- Made from crystallised PLA (CPLA) certified to AS 4736:2006





Alternatives to plastic bowls & lids

Reusable

Glass,
stainless
steel



Ceramic



Single-use

Bowls

Non-plastic lined
bagasse bowls
and lids



Paperboard bowls
lined with polylactic
acid (PLA) certified
to the Australian
Standard (AS)
4736:2006



Bowl lids

- Made from PLA-lined paperboard certified to AS 4736:2006
- Made from crystallised PLA (CPLA) certified to AS 4736:2006





Plastic cups & lids

Disposable plastic cups and lids for cold drinks.

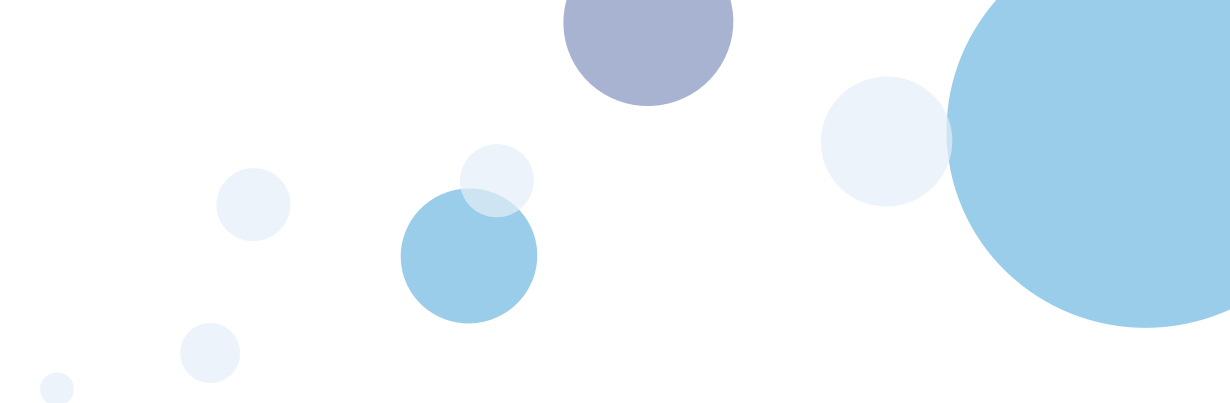
Includes all cups and lids made of plastic.

Disposable cups sold by retailers or provided individually by hospitality business and other organisations are included in the ban.



Proposed exceptions include:

- Heavier weight plastic cups designed for multiple use and sold as individual items or in sets by retailers (e.g. reusable cups such as keep cups, outdoor dinner cups and mugs, and cups designed for use by children)
- Expanded polystyrene cups proposed to be banned in Stage 2, at the end of 2022



Proposed exceptions for single-use plastic cups & lids

Single-use

Cups

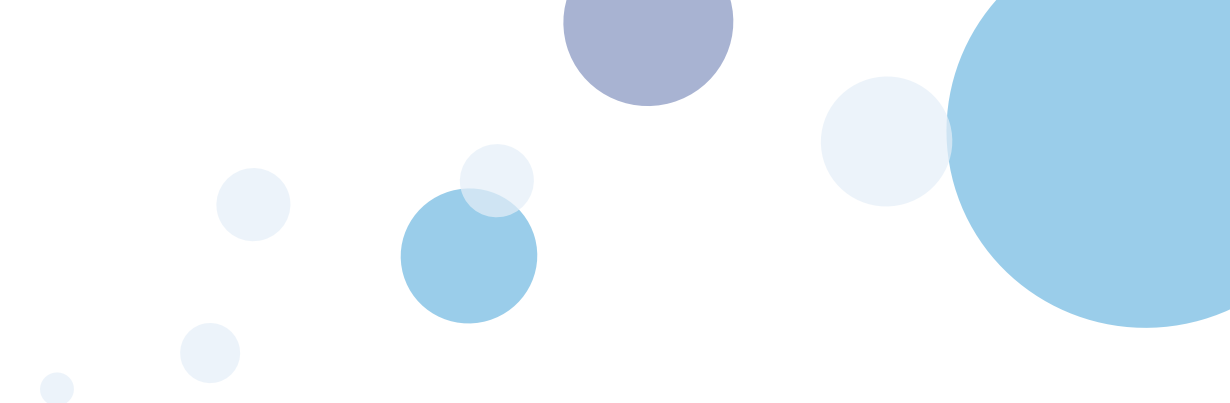
Paperboard lined with PLA
and certified to AS 4736:2006



Lids

Plastic made from PLA and
certified to AS 4736:2006





Reusable and single-use cup alternatives

Reusable

Glass,
aluminium



Thick reusable
plastic,
stainless steel,
ceramic



Single-use

Cups

Paperboard lined with
PLA and certified to
AS 4736:2006



Lids

- Bagasse
- Plastic made from PLA and certified to AS 4736:2006





Expanded polystyrene takeaway food packaging

To include all expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers including trays, bowls and clam-shell containers.

Expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers sold by retailers in packs or provided individually by hospitality business and other organisations are included in the ban.



Reusable and single-use takeaway food packaging alternatives

Reusable:

Stainless steel, glass



Single-use:

Aluminium, foil



Bagasse or non-plastic lined paperboard





Thick plastic bags

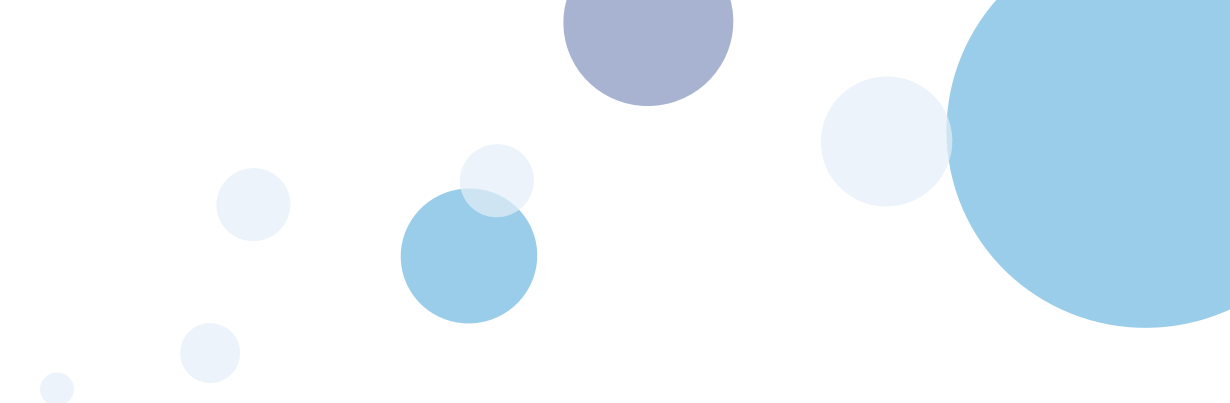
It is proposed for the ban on the supply of lightweight plastic bags to include thicker plastic bags.

This includes plastic bags:

- with handles provided by retailers to carry purchases
- that are classified as degradable, biodegradable and compostable

Bags made from plastic-laminated paper or plastic-laminated cardboard will also be included.

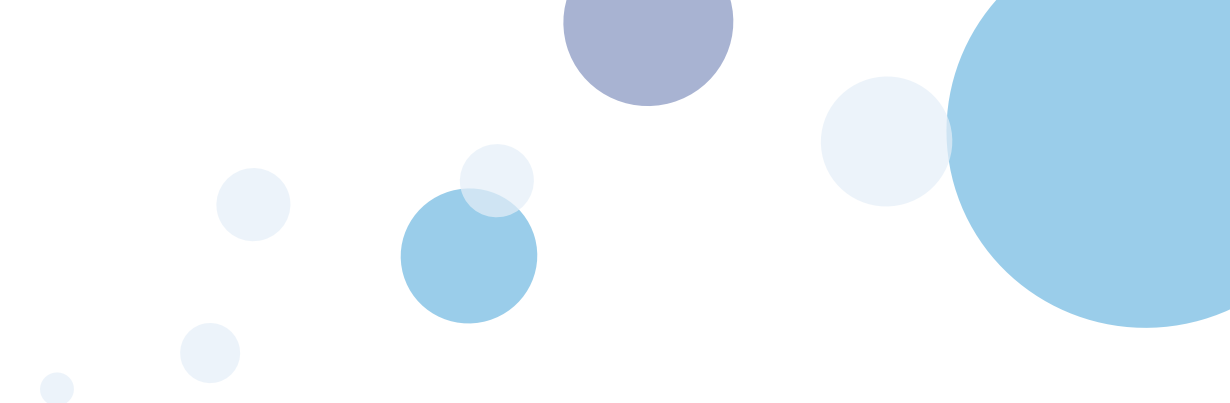




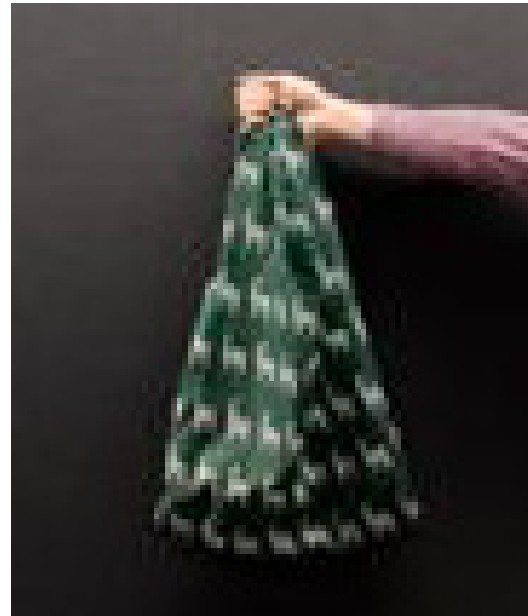
Proposed plastic bag exceptions

The following exceptions are proposed:

- Bags that are an integral part of the packaging in which goods are sealed for sale
- Plastic bags provided by a medical provider to a person receiving medical services



Proposed exceptions for plastic bags



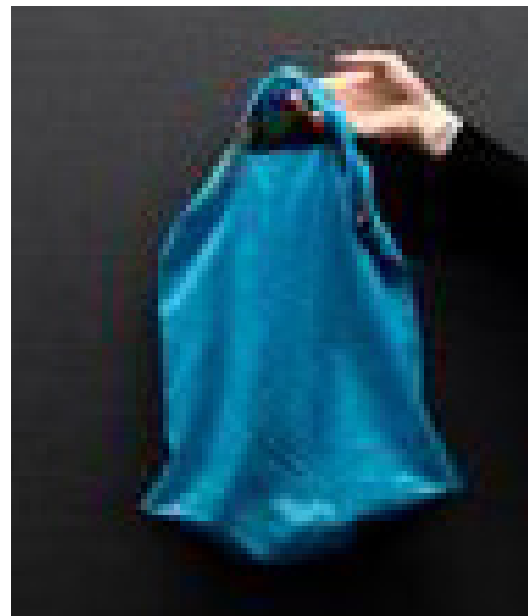
Nylon



Non-woven
polypropylene
(thickness of
100 gsm or
greater)



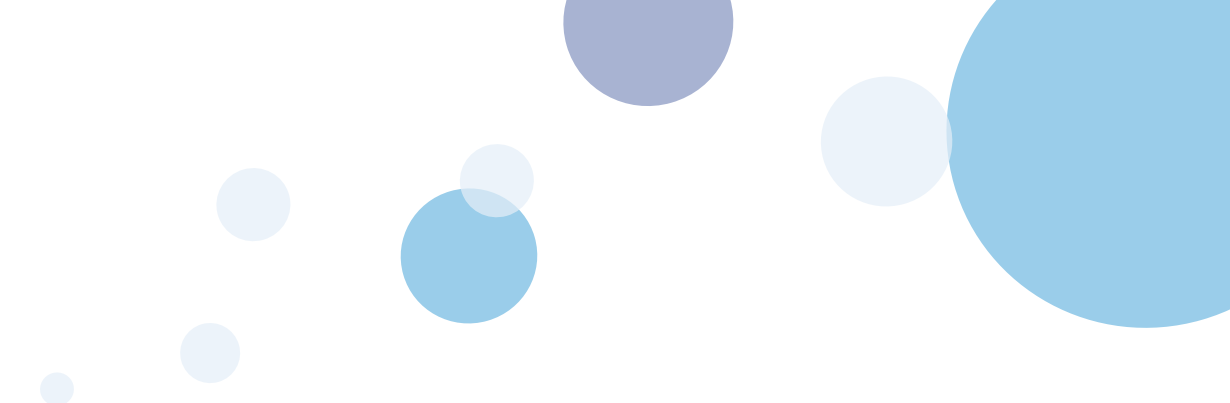
Cooler bags



Recycled PET



Woven
polypropylene



Reusable and single-use bag alternatives

Reusable



Cotton



Jute, hessian



String



Nylon



Recycled PET



Non-woven polypropylene
(thickness of 100 gsm or greater)



Woven polypropylene



Cooler bags

Single-use

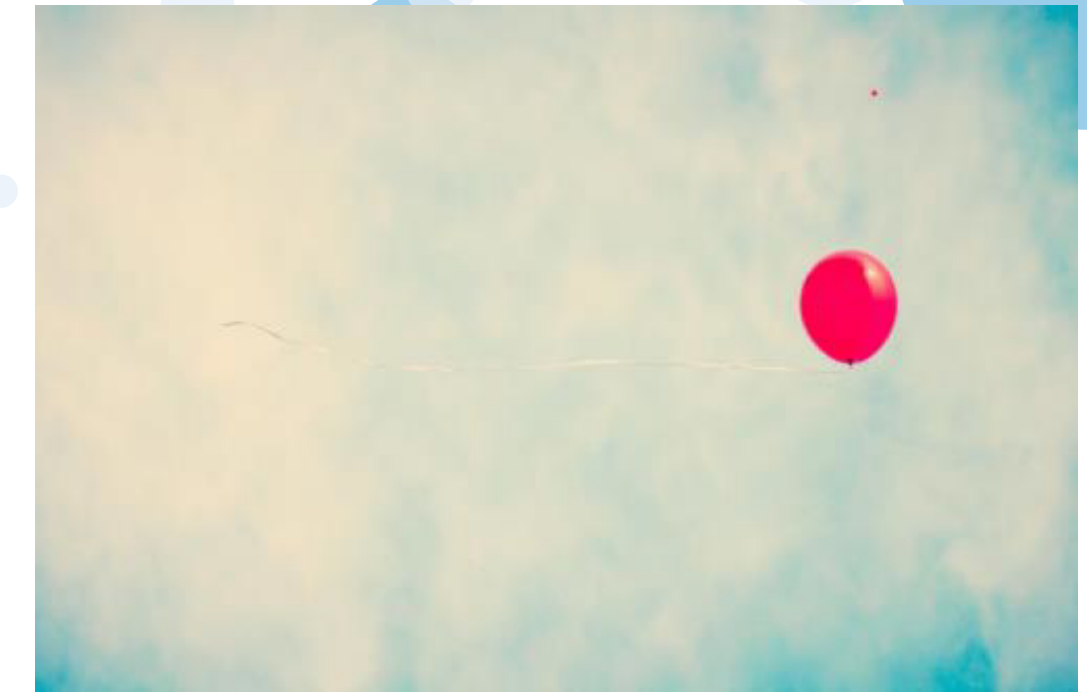


Paper





Helium balloon releases



It is proposed that:

- The release of one or more filled helium balloons outside will be banned

Balloons include any inflatable device made of any combination of plastic, latex or plastic/metal foil.

Application of regulations:

- To any adult person who releases one or multiple balloons
- An adult in supervision of a child who releases a helium-filled balloon will be considered responsible for the release of the balloon

- An event co ordinator or individual is responsible for the release of any balloons they have arranged or provided at an event

Proposed exceptions:

- A helium inflated balloon used for scientific purposes
- Hot air balloons designed to convey people and be recovered on landing



Offences and penalties

Under the new regulations it is proposed that it will be an offence to:

- Sell or supply a banned plastic item
- Provide false or misleading information about a banned plastic item
- Release any number of helium-filled balloons into the outdoor environment
- Arranging or permitting the release (by any number of people) of any number of helium-filled balloons into the outdoor environment
- A non-prescribed business selling or supplying individual or packs of plastic straws
- A wholesaler or supplier selling or supplying plastic straws to a business that is not a prescribed business



Proposed exemptions

It is proposed that two kinds of exemptions will be permitted under the new regulations:

1. Exemptions for businesses providing individual or packs of single-use plastic items that meet a medical, disability or other related life-need of a person or their carer, e.g. plastic straws
2. A general exemption on a case-by-case basis. The Chief Executive Officer of the department can exempt a person, business or organisation from the requirements of the regulations by written notice



Preparing for the ban

To prepare for the proposed bans it is important to consider:

- Current stock levels of these items and to run down stocks of these items
- Decide whether your business or organisation will sell or supply alternative non-plastic single-use items or move to reusable items (e.g. reusable party kits with plates, cutlery, cups, etc.)
- Discuss alternative items with suppliers
- Displaying signage regarding the ban at your premises

The Department understands that businesses and organisations who sell or supply items that are proposed to be banned will need to identify alternative products made from a non-plastic material or are reusable.



Retailer and hospitality support

The Department will be implementing two programs to support the changes required.

- Plastic Free Places Program – for food, hospitality, charitable organisations and events venues
- Retailer and supplier engagement program – to support retail businesses and wholesale suppliers transition to adapt to the proposed bans



Thank you for your attention

Questions are welcome