

Western Australia's

# Plan for Plastics

## Single-use plastics ban Plastic plates

March 2022

From 1 January 2022, regulations to ban the sale, supply and distribution of single-use or disposable plastic plates in Western Australia come into effect.

Businesses, organisations and consumers who use these items are being supported to switch to reusable and non-plastic alternatives.

In the 2019–20 financial year, Western Australians used an estimated **EIGHT MILLION** plastic plates and bowls.



Quick fact

### ► What is being banned?

The ban applies to the sale, supply or distribution of single-use or disposable plastic plates that are made out of plastic, whether made wholly or partly of plastic, or lined by plastic.

The ban includes packs of disposable plates sold by retailers and individual plates supplied or sold by hospitality businesses and other organisations. Banned plates include those made from compostable, biodegradable and degradable plastics.

### ► Why are plastic plates being banned?

About 40 per cent of all plastics used are 'single-use', designed to be used only once or a few times before being thrown away (disposed of). While recyclable, only 11 per cent of single-use plastics are currently recycled, with the majority ending up as litter or in landfills.

In the environment plastic waste breaks down into smaller fragments over a long period of time, if at all. Plastic waste poses a major threat to the health of marine, freshwater and land ecosystems, and impacts the amenity of our environment and coastlines. The impact and abundance of single-use disposable plastic items is significant, and immediate action is required to reduce these impacts.





## ▶ Who does the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all businesses, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors in Western Australia. Community organisations and institutions may also be affected by the ban.

## ▶ Can I still use disposable plastic plates I have at home?

Yes, you can. The ban does not apply to the personal use of the items, only the sale, supply and distribution of them.

## ▶ What is **not** included in the ban?

Plates that form part of a pre-packaged product (e.g. plastic plates/trays containing a frozen meal) will not be included in the ban.

The ban does not apply to heavier-weight plastic plates that are designed for ongoing use and sold as individual items or sets by retailers (e.g. outdoor dinner sets or camping equipment).

## ▶ What can I use instead?

There are many options to choose from that are both better for the environment, and prevent waste going to landfill. Choose to:



- Refuse – say ‘No’ to a plastic plate
- Reuse – where possible, users of plates should consider switching to washable and reusable plates that are made from stainless steel, ceramic, silicone or heavier reusable plastics.



If you simply can't refuse and reusable options are not available, then consider disposable non-plastic plates made from material such as unlined paper/cardboard, wood, bagasse and bamboo.

## ▶ When do penalties apply?

From **1 July 2022** penalties apply for the sale, supply or distribution of plastic plates that are banned under the Environmental Protection (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons) Regulations 2018.

Penalties also apply to any person who supplies or manufactures plastic plates and knowingly provides false or misleading information about its composition or whether or not it is a banned plastic plate.

## ▶ Need more information?

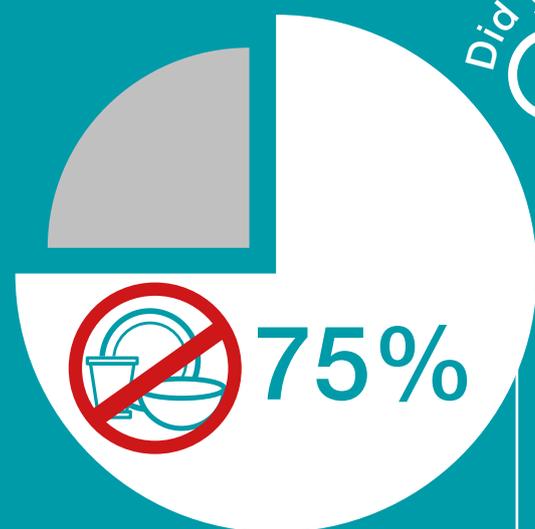
Call the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: 08 6364 7000

Email: [plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au)

Check out the website: [Western Australia's Plan for Plastics | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/department-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/plastic-action)



Did you know?



 75% of the people surveyed in WA told us they support a ban on single-use plastic plates, bowls and cups.