



Single Use Plastic Policy



Policy Reference: A2397864

Date of Adoption: 5 March 2019

Date last reviewed: 5 March 2019

Date next reviewed: 5 September 2019

Responsible Officer: Hayley Jarvis – Team Leader Waste Strategy

Purpose

This Policy has been developed to eliminate Council's supply of single use plastics at events and facilities.

Objectives

- To eliminate single use plastic usage at Council events, facilities and buildings
- To reduce the amount of litter and waste generated at Council events, facilities and buildings
- To promote re-use and waste avoidance to Council staff and audiences at Council events, facilities and buildings

Policy Scope


This policy demonstrates Council's commitment to ban the purchase and supply of single use plastics at Council events, buildings and facilities.

Single use plastics include disposable plastic items which are designed to only be used once. Single use plastics included in this policy are:

- Plastic plates/cups
- Plastic bags
- Balloons
- Plastic cutlery
- Polystyrene food containers/cups
- Plastic straws (see exemption)
- Single use water bottles (see exemption)
- Disposable coffee cups (see exemption)

Key Requirements

- Single use plastic straws, plates, bowls, cups, bags are not to be purchased, used or sold at Council events, buildings or facilities
- Balloons are not to be used or distributed by Council at events, buildings or facilities
- Bottled water is not to be used, supplied or sold by Council at events, buildings or facilities
- Disposable coffee cups are not to be used, supplied or sold by Council at events, buildings or facilities

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- Polystyrene food packaging is not to be purchased, used or sold at Council events, buildings or facilities
 - Consideration must be given when supplying promotional giveaways at Council events, buildings and facilities to limit unnecessary plastic material
 - Education will be provided to assist Council staff, stall and leaseholders on single use plastic avoidance
 - Event patrons will be educated on single use plastic avoidance and the benefits of reusable products

Exemptions

- For many people with disability, plastic straws are an essential accessibility tool that allows for drinks to be consumed safely and easily. Straws will still be made available when required
- Use of single use plastics in heatwave events as per the heatwave action plan are exempt from this ban
- Plant based plastics with a closed loop composting service are exempt if no alternative products can be sought (approval required from Environment & Water Department)
- Bottled water and disposable coffee cups will still be permitted to be sold by stallholders at Council events, however measures to reduce usage is encouraged
- Sporting Clubs and Leisure Contracted Facilities will be exempt from this policy, however will be provided education and engagement to assist in transitioning to a ban in the future
- Plastic products required to meet health and safety requirements are also exempt

Transition Period

This policy allows for a 6-month transition period, meaning the ban will be fully implemented in September 1 2019 allowing time to engage and procure alternative options to single use products.

Review

Progress report will be developed following the first six months of implementation, helping to measure advances and issues relating to the introduction of this policy.

Relevant documents

- Waste & Litter Strategy 2016-2040
- Environment & Sustainability Strategy 2016-2040
- State of Environment Report