



CURRENT STATUS OF PLASTIC LEGISLATION - AUGUST 2021

| | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA (UPDATED) | FEDERAL | NZ (UPDATED) | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Definition of "single-use" | "single-use plastic product is a plastic product that is designed or intended to be used once only" | TBC | TBC | "single-use plastic item means a plastic item, other than a plastic item that is compostable, designed to be used only once." | "single-use, in relation to a product, means a product designed or intended to be used once or for a limited number of times before being disposed of." | TBC | TBC | TBC | | TBC | |
| Plastic straws | Second round ban (1 July 2022). Under current discussion with stakeholders. | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | Indicated intention to take action on single-use plastics, no immediate action underway | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes straws in pre-packaged food & bev. Excludes Australian certified compostable. | Ban - Bill passed 9 Sept. Came into effect 1 March 2021. Bioplastics and oxo-bioplastics not exempt. | Indicated intention to take action on single-use plastics, no immediate action underway. See Hobart by-law. | Announced ban to come into effect by 2023. | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. | | Proposed phase out mid 2023. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Plastic cutlery | First round ban. Legislation passed 30 March 2021. Will come into effect 1 July 2021. Bioplastics and oxo-bioplastics not exempt. Select exemptions exist. | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | as above | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes cutlery in pre-packaged food & bev. Excludes Australian certified compostable. | Ban - Bill passed 9 Sept. Came into effect 1 March 2021. Bioplastics and oxo-bioplastics not exempt. | as above | Announced ban to come into effect by 2023. | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. | | Proposed phase out mid 2023. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Plastic stirrers | First round ban. Legislation passed 30 March 2021. Will come into effect 1 July 2021. Bioplastics and oxo-bioplastics not exempt. | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | as above | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes stirrers in pre-packaged food & bev. Excludes Australian certified compostable. | Ban - Bill passed 9 Sept. Came into effect 1 March 2021. Bioplastics and oxo-bioplastics not exempt. | as above | Announced ban to come into effect by 2023. | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. | | Proposed phase out late 2023. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway containers & cups | First round ban. Legislation passed 30 March 2021. Will come into effect 1 July 2021. Pre-packaged exempt. | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | as above | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes pre-packaged food & bev. | Ban on EPS cups, clamshells, plates. Bill passed 9 Sept. Comes into effect 1 March 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. | as above | Announced ban to come into effect by 2023. | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Description includes "all expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers including trays, bowls and clamshell containers". Bioplastics not exempt. | Announced phase-out in Plastics Plan from 2022. See EPS factsheet. | Proposed phase out late 2022. Also includes all polystyrene takeaway food and beverage packaging. | |
| Plastic plates | Further consideration | Review in 2024. | as above | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes plates in pre-packaged food & bev. Excludes Australian certified compostable. Excludes plastic-lined/coated paper plates. | Further consideration | as above | Announced ban to come into effect by 2023. | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Includes ban on PLA or PLA lined paperboard plates (therefore printed or coloured paper plates not possible). | | Proposed phase out mid 2023. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Plastic bowls | Further consideration | Review in 2024. | as above | Passed 15 March, will come into effect 1 Sept 2021. Excludes bowls with lids (defined as container). Excludes bowls in pre-packaged food & bev. Excludes Australian certified compostable. Excludes plastic-lined/coated paper bowls. | Further consideration | as above | | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban to be enforceable 1 July 2022. Includes ban on plastic and PLA bowl lids. Only AU certified PLA-lined paperboard bowls and lids, and CPLA bowl lids exempt. | | Proposed phase out mid 2023. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Plastic lined coffee cups and lids | Further consideration | Not explicitly mentioned but expect to align with cups strategy. | as above | Further consideration | Further consideration | as above | | Proposed ban end 2022 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | "There is more work to do before we can phase out certain types of expanded polystyrene, single-use cups (including coffee cups) and wet wipes" | |
| Plastic cold cups and lids | Further consideration | Review in 2024. | as above | Further consideration | Further consideration | as above | | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban on disposable plastic cups and lids for cold drinks to be enforceable by 1 July 2022. Includes all forms of cold cups including flutes, goblets, beer cups, etc. Allows only AU certified PLA-lined paperboard cups and PLA lids (therefore no transparent cups will be possible). | | "There is more work to do before we can phase out certain types of expanded polystyrene, single-use cups (including coffee cups) and wet wipes" | |
| Plastic takeaway containers and lids | Further consideration | | as above | Further consideration | Further consideration | as above | | Proposed ban end 2023 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | Proposed phase out late 2022 of all polystyrene takeaway food and beverage packaging. | |
| Above items with 'degradable' additives | Any banned item above, which is in whole or part plastic, includes plastics with 'degradable' additives, such as oxo-degradable. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lightweight plastic shopping bags | Ban - Nov 2011 (incl. less than 35um, bio exempt) | Ban mid 2022. Announced June 2021. (incl. less than 35um) | Ban - Sept 2011 (incl. less than 35um, bio exempt) | Ban - July 2018 (incl. less than 35um) | Ban - May 2009 (incl. less than 35um, bio exempt) | Ban - Nov 2013 (incl. less than 35um, bio exempt) | Ban - Nov 2019 (incl. 35um or less at any part of bag) | Ban - Jan 2019 (incl. 35um or less) | | Ban - July 2019 (incl. less than 70um, reused bags exempt) | |
| Heavyweight plastic shopping bags | Further consideration | Review in 2024. | | Further consideration, support NRA Code of Practice | Further consideration | | | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban enforceable by 1 July 2022. Includes all unsealed plastic shopping bags with handles regardless of thickness. Includes plastic-laminated paper/cardboard bags. Also sets min 100gsm for polypropylene bags. | | | |
| Produce/ barrier bags | Second round ban (phase out 2022). Under current discussion with stakeholders. | Review in 2024. | | | Further consideration | | | Proposed ban end 2022 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | Proposed phase out mid 2022 of elastic produce bags. Bioplastics not exempt. | |
| Other items with 'degradable' additives | Second round ban (phase out 2022) | Review in 2024. | | | Ban - Bill passed 10 Sept. Comes into effect 1 March 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. | | | Proposed ban on "oxo-degradable" end 2022 (brought forward). No definition provided. | Phase out plastic packaging products with additive fragmentable technology that do not meet relevant composable standards. (AS4736-2006, AS5810-2010 and EN13432) (July 2022) | Proposed phase out late 2022. Includes oxo and photo degradable. | |
| BEVERAGE CONTAINERS | Container deposit schemes | YES - Nov 2018 | YES - Dec 2017 | YES - Jan 2012 | YES - Nov 2018 | YES - 1977, under review | Planned for 2022 | Planned for 2023 | YES | NO | Indicated intention to take action on single-use plastics |
| OTHER PLASTICS | Balloons | | | | Balloon sticks and ties further consideration | | | | ROUND 1 BAN: Proposed ban on outdoor helium balloon releases comes into effect 1 July 2022. | | |
| | Cotton buds with plastic shafts | | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | | | | | | Proposed ban end 2022 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | Proposed phase out late 2022. Bioplastics not exempt. |
| | Microbeads | | Ban by late 2022. Announced June 2021. Legislation being drafted. | | | | | | Proposed ban end 2023 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | |
| | Meat trays | | | | | | | | Proposed ban end 2023 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | Proposed phase out late 2022 of PVC meat trays. |
| | Produce labels | | | | | | | | Proposed ban end 2023 (brought forward). No definition provided. | | Proposed phase out mid 2023 of elastic produce labels. |
| Other | | | | | | | Announced ban on cotton bud sticks to come into effect by 2023. | Proposed end 2022 ban "polystyrene packaging" | | By mid 2025. All other PVC food and beverage packaging. All other PS food and beverage packaging. | |
| Key Sources | ACT Single-Use Plastics (UPDATED) | NSW Plastics Action Plan (UPDATED) | | QLD Govt website (UPDATED) | Replace The Waste SA (UPDATED) | | Recycling Victoria | Plastics Plan 2020 (UPDATED) | Bill | 2020 consultation paper | |
| NRA Submissions | ACT - July 2019 | NSW - May 2020 | | QLD - April 2020 | SA Draft Bill submission | NA, see Hobart | | WA - July 2019 | Plastics Plan | Website | |
| NRA Representation | ACT SUP Advisory Group ACT - Retailer engagement | NSW Single-use Plastic Advisory Taskforce CDS Taskforce | | CDS Taskforce QLD Bag Ban Retailer engagement QLD SUP Advisory Group QLD SUP ban Retailer engagement | SA SUP Advisory Group SA SUP retailer engagement | CDS Taskforce | VIC bag ban advisory group VIC Plastic Reference Group CDS Taskforce VIC bag ban Retailer engagement | CDS Taskforce WA bag ban Retailer engagement WA Single-Use Plastics working group | National Plastics Summit APCO membership APCO Design Working Group EPS govt consultation group | NZ bag ban consultant | |

GREEN : Law in effect. BLUE: Law passed but not yet in effect. RED: Indicates legislative processes or formal consultation underway in 2021

Action by local governments

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| Hobart | A single use plastics by-law ban was introduced in 2020 and came into effect 8 April 2020. Being enforced from 1 July 2021. To learn more visit www.hobartcity.com.au/residents/recycling-and-rubbish/resources |
| Rottnest Island | Single use straws banned April 2019 |
| Darwin | On 1 January 2019 plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, plates, takeaway containers and plastic lined coffee cups were banned at all events on council land including markets. |