



CURRENT STATUS OF PLASTIC LEGISLATION - JAN 2023

last updated: 31 January 2023

[AWAITING REGULATIONS >](#)

DRAFT REGS FOR 2023 BAN RELEASED
≥

[AWAITING REGULATIONS >](#)

| | | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUST | NZ |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL | Items in pre-packaged food/bev products | exempt | exempt | | exempt | Sep-25 | | exempt till Jan 2026 | varied | | |
| | Position on compostable plastic | banned | banned | | recognise AU cert. | varied | | banned | varied | | |
| UTENSILS | Plastic straws | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart only | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 |
| | Plastic cutlery | Jul-21 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart only | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 |
| | Plastic stirrers | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart only | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Oct-22 |
| FOODWARE (without lids) | Plastic plates | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-23 | | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 *see details |
| | Plastic bowls without lids | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-23 | Hobart only | | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 |
| | Plastic containers without lids | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Polymer-coated paper plates/bowls | | exempt till Nov-24 | 2025 | exempt | exempt till Nov-24 | | exempt till Nov-24 | Jul-22 | | |
| FOODWARE (with lids) | Plastic bowls with lids | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Feb-24 | | |
| | Plastic takeaway containers with lids | Jul-23 | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Feb-24 | | |
| | Plastic lined paper cartons (eg. noodle box) | | | | | TBC | Hobart only | | Feb-24 | | |
| | Plastic windows in paper food containers | | | | | TBC | | | Feb-24 | | |
| DRINKWARE | Plastic beverage containers (eg. bottles) | 2018 | 2017 | 2012 | 2018 | 1977 | 2023 | 2023 | 2020 | | 2025 |
| | Plastic cups for cold drinks | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Oct-22 | | |
| | Plastic cups for hot drinks | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Feb-24 | | |
| | Plastic cup lids | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart only | | Feb-24 | | |
| EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) | EPS foodware (eg. clamshells) | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-22 | | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | 2022 | Oct-22 |
| | EPS cups | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-22 | | Feb-23 | Aug-23 | 2022 | |
| | EPS trays (eg. meat, fresh produce) | Jul-23 | | 2025 | TBC | Sep-24 | | | Jul-22 / Aug-23 | 2022 | |
| | EPS multi-serve gelato container | currently exempt | currently exempt | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-24 | | currently exempt | Jul-22 | 2022 | |
| | EPS packaging (loose fill) | Jul-23 | | 2025 | | | | | Aug-23 | 2025 | |
| OTHER FOAMED PLASTIC | EPS packaging (moulded*) | Jul-23 | | 2025 | | | | | Aug-24 | 2025 | |
| | Expanded plastic packaging (loose fill) | | | | | | | | Aug-23 | | |
| | Expanded plastic packaging (moulded*) | | | | | | | | Aug-24 | | |
| BAGS | Lightweight plastic shopping bags (<36 microns) | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Heavyweight plastic shopping bags (>36 microns) | Jul-23 | | 2025 | Reusable Std by Sep-23 | Sep-24 | | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Paper bags with plastic laminate | | | | Reusable Std by Sep-23 | TBC | | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Fabric bags | | | | Reusable Std by Sep-23 | | | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Produce/ barrier bags (fruit & veg) | TBC | | | TBC | Sep-24 | | | Feb-24 | | Jul-23 |
| OTHER PACKAGING | Produce/ barrier bags (meat & other) | TBC | | | TBC | TBC | | | TBC | | |
| | Plastics with 'degradable' additives | Jul-22 | | | TBC | Mar-22 | | | Aug-23 | TBC | Oct-22 |
| | Product packaging | | | | | | | | | 2025 | |
| | B2B packaging | | | | | | | | | 2025 | |
| | Plastic soy sauce fish | | | | | Sep-25 | | | | | |
| | Sauce sachets | | | | TBC | | Hobart only | | | | |
| | Produce labels | | | | | Sep-25 | | | | | Jul-23 *see details |
| | Bread tags | | | | TBC | Sep-24 | | | | | |
| | Polystyrene takeaway food/bev packaging | | | | | | | | | | Oct-22 |
| | PVC pre-formed food trays and containers | | | | | | | | | | Oct-22 |
| OTHER PLASTIC ITEMS | Cotton buds with plastic shafts | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | | Sep-23 | Sep-23 | | Feb-23 | Aug-23 | | Oct-22 |
| | Microbeads | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | TBC | | | | Aug-23 | voluntary code | |
| | Balloon releases | | | | Sep-23 | | | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Balloon ties or sticks | | | | TBC | TBC | | | | | |
| | Balloons | | | 2025 | | | | | | | |
| | Pizza savers | | | | | Sep-23 | | | | | |
| | Confetti | | | | | Sep-24 | | | | | |
| Bait bags | | | | TBC | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Already banned | | Banned soon (regs finalised) | | Proposed for ban / under consultation | | Design standards in effect | | Proposed for design standards |
|--|----------------|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

KEY SOURCES

- [ACT City Services](#)
- [NSW plastics ban](#)
- [Circular Economy Strategy](#)
- [5 year roadmap](#)
- [ReplacetheWaste SA](#)
- [VIC Plastics Ban](#)
- [DWER Plan for Plastics](#)
- [National Packaging Targets](#)
- [NZ Plastics Plan](#)
- [Darwin by-law](#)
- [Stage 1 ban](#)
- [2023 ban regs](#)
- [Hobart by-law](#)
- [Stage 1 ban](#)
- [National Waste Policy](#)
- [National Plastics Plan](#)