## Australia and New Zealand Single-use Plastic Bans This document provides details on current single-use plastic bans in Australia and New Zealand. We recommend speaking directly with the relevant government department for further information on bans and exemptions. All information is current as of the date below.



Last updated: 7 July 2023

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	WA	NSW	VIC	SA	QLD	NT	ACT	TAS	AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND
Legislation/Policy Documents	'Environmental Protection Act 1986'	'Plastics and Circular Economy	Environment Protection	'Single-use and Other Plastic	'Waste Reduction and Recycling Act	<u>'Environment</u> Protection (Beverage	'Plastic Reduction Act 2021'	'Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2013'	National Plastics Plan 2021	'Waste Minimisation Act 2008'
		Act 2021'	Amendment (Banning Single-Use	Products (Waste Avoidance) Act	2011'	Containers and Plastic Bags) Act				
			Plastic Items)	2020'		<u>2011'</u>				
	Environmental Protection		Single-use Plastics Ban Guide for	Single-use and Other Plastic	'Waste Reduction	Northern Territory Circular Economy	Phasing out single-use	Single-use Plastics Bv-Law	National Plastics Plan — Pathway to	Plastic and Related Products Regulations
	(Prohibited Plastics		Businesses	Products (Waste	(Plastic Items)	Strategy 2022-2027	plastics - Next	DV-Law	more sustainable	2022
	and Balloons) Regulations 2018			Avoidance) Regulations 2021	Amendment Act 2021		Steps Policy 2021		polystyrene (EPS)	
	Western Australian						Plastic Reduction	Single-use Plastics		
	Government Gazette			Turning the Tide on Single-Use	Five-year roadmap for action on single-		Amendment	By-Law Information		
	No.23			Plastic Products	use plastic items		Regulation 2023 (No 1)	Sheet		
UTENSILS			1-11					1-Jul-21		
Plastic straws	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Mar-21	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-22	HOBART ONLY		1-Jul-23
Plastic cutlery	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Mar-21	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-21	1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		1-Jul-23
Plastic stirrers	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Mar-21	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-21	1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		1-Oct-22
Plastic swizzle sticks		1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23		1-Sep-21			HOBARTONET		
FOODWARE										
Plastic plates	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Sep-23	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-23			1-Jul-23 *view details
Plastic trays for takeaway food	1-Mar-24									1-Jul-23
Plastic bowls without lids	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22		1-Sep-23	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-23	1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		1-Jul-23
Plastic containers without lids	1-Jul-22			4.0 04	Possible ban from 1-Sep-2025 -			1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
	1-Jul-22			1-Sep-24	non-recyclable			HOBART ONLY		
Plastic lids for takeaway food containers, bowls, plates and trays (excl. AU certified	1-Sep-24									
lined paper lids)					<u> </u>	1		1-Jul-21		
Plastic takeaway food containers with lids	1-Sep-24			1-Sep-24		1		HOBART ONLY		
Plastic lined cartons (e.g. noodle box)	1-Sep-24							1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
Plastic tubs (e.g. sandwich wedges)								1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
DRINKWARE					Possible ban from 1-			1-Jul-21		
Plastic cups for cold beverages	1-Oct-22			1-Sep-24	Sep-2024 - non- recyclable and non-			HOBART ONLY		
	*view details				compostable					
Plastic cups for hot beverages	1-Mar-24			1-Sep-24	Possible ban from 1- Sep-2024 - non-			1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
Flastic cups for not beverages	*view details			1-5ep-24	recyclable and non- compostable					
Plastic lined coffee cups	*Refer to ban dates for cold & hot			1-Sep-24				1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
r lastic mica conce caps	beverages above			1-Sep-24						
Plastic lids for cups	1-Mar-24 *view details			1-Sep-24	Possible ban from 1- Sep-2025			1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
Container Deposit Schemes	Since 1-Oct-20	Since 1-Dec-17	Due to start in 2023	Since 1977	Since 1-Nov-18	Since 2011	Since 2018	Due to start in 2023		Under consultation
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS)									Industry-led phase out from	
EPS foodware (e.g. clamshells)	1-Jul-22	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Mar-22	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-21		December 2022	1-Oct-22
EPS cups	1-Sep-23	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Mar-22	1-Sep-21	By-2025	1-Jul-21		Industry-led phase out from December 2022	1-Oct-22
EPS trays (used for meat, fruit & other food	1-Sep-23			4.0 04	Possible ban from 1-Sep-2024 -	D., 2005	4 1:100			1-Oct-22
items)	*view details			1-Sep-24	non-recyclable & non-compostable	By-2025	1-Jul-23			1-001-22
Other EPS consumer food & beverage				1-Sep-24	1-Sep-21	By-2025				
containers (e.g. gelato tubs)				1 dop 24		Dy 2020			Industry-led phase out from	Being considered throug
EPS (loose packaging)	1-Sep-23				1-Sep-23	By-2025	1-Jul-23		July 2022	the development of a Regulated Product
Li 3 (loose packaging)	*view details				1-36р-23	By-2025	1-Jul-23			Stewardship Scheme fo
									Industry-led phase out from	plastic packaging Being considered throug
EPS (moulded)	1-Jul-25 *view details					By-2025			July 2022	the development of a Regulated Product
	-view details									Stewardship Scheme fo plastic packaging
BAGS										
Lightweight plastic bags (<36 microns)  Paper shopping bags made of plastic	1-Jul-18	1-Jun-22	1-Nov-19	May-09	1-Jul-18	1-Sep-11	2011	Nov-13		1-Jul-19
laminate with handles Plastic shopping bag made from plastic or	1-Jul-22									
bioplastic film with handles	1-Jul-22									
Heavyweight plastic shopping bags	1-Jul-22		1	1-Sep-24	1-Sep-23	By-2025	1-Jan-24			1, 1, 1, 22
Barrier/produce bags (fruit & vegetable)	1-Mar-24			1-Sep-24	Possible ban from 1-Sep-2024					1-Jul-23 *view details
OTHER PLASTICS Helium balloon releases	1-Jul-22		1-Jul-21		1-Sep-23					
Helium balloons						By-2025				
Balloon sticks or ties				1-Sep-24	Possible ban from	,				
Microbeads	4 Con 22	1-Nov-22		1-3ep-24	1-Sep-2024	F			Industry-led voluntary	
	1-Sep-23		151.00		1-Sep-23	By-2025	1-Jul-23		phase out from 2020	2017
Cotton buds with plastic shafts	1-Sep-23	1-Nov-22	1-Feb-23	1-Sep-23	1-Sep-23		1-Jul-22			1-Oct-22
Plastic pizza savers  Plastic confetti	-			1-Sep-23		1				
Plastic confetti OTHER PACKAGING				1-Sep-24						
Sachets or packets					Possible ban from 1-Sep-2026			1-Jul-21 HOBART ONLY		
Plastics with 'degradable' additives (e.g.	1-Sep-23			1-Mar-22	Possible ban from		1-Jul-22	- HOBART ONLY	Industry-led phase out from	1-Oct-22
oxo- degradable)	1-0ep-23			1-md1-22	1-Sep-2024		1-30F22		July 2022	*view details
PVC pre-formed food trays and containers									Industry-led phase out from	1-Oct-22
PVC packaging labels					Described to the				December 2022	Mid-2025
Plastic bread tags				1-Sep-24	Possible ban from 1-Sep-2024					
Pre-packaging & attached products (i.e. products that contain plastic straws or				1-Sep-25					-	
Plastic fruit stickers				1-Sep-25		1				
Plastic soy sauce fish Polystyrene takeaway food & beverage	-			1-Sep-25		+				
packaging	-				1	1				1-Oct-22 1-Jul-23
Plastic produce labels					Beesile's bour	<u> </u>				view details
Bait bags				<u> </u>	Possible ban from 1- Sep-2025					
All other PVC food and beverage packaging										Mid-2025
All other PS food and beverage packaging										Mid-2025
	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	

## **Exemptions**



State	Exemption/s
State	<ul> <li>Polymer-lined paperboard cups, bowls and food containers where the product is certified to Australian Standard 4736-2006 or 5810-2010*. See details.</li> <li>Under subregulation 1: A prescribed plastic item if the item forms part of, is attached to, or is inside the sealed packaging of, a pre-packaged food or drink product.</li> <li>Under subregulation 2A: A prescribed plastic item that is a food container, food tray or bowl, if when the food container, food tray or bowl is supplied it - (a) contains food that is not eat-in food or takeaway food; and (b) has a lid on it (whether the lid is an integrated part of the food container, food tray or bowl or is detachable). Note this do not apply in relation to a prescribed plastic item that is made from expanded plastic.</li> <li>Under subregulation 2B: The supply of a prescribed plastic item that is a lid for a food container, lid for a food tray or lid for a bowl if, when it is supplied — (a) the lid is attached to a food container, food tray or bowl that contains food that is not eat-in food or takeaway food; or (b) the lid is attached to a food container, food tray or bowl that ontains food that is not eat-in food or takeaway food. Note this do not apply in relation to a prescribed plastic item that is made from expanded plastic.</li> <li>Under subregulation 2C: The supply of a prescribed plastic item that is a catering platter, or a lid attached to a catering platter, if the catering platter — (a) contains food when it is supplied; and (b) is supplied in the course of conducting a business that provides catering services for functions or events. Note this do not apply in relation to a prescribed plastic item that is made from expanded plastic.</li> <li>The wholesale supply of a prescribed plastic item if the wholesale supplier believes on reasonable grounds that the person to whom the item is supplied by the wholesale supplier, or another person to whom the item is subsequently to be supplied, will use the item — (a) to prepare a pre-</li> </ul>
WA	<ul> <li>packaged food or drink product; or (b) in the case of a prescribed plastic item that is a food container, a food tray or a bowl — supply the item as permitted under subregulation (2A); or (c) in the case of a prescribed plastic item that is a lid for a food container, a lid for a food tray or a lid for a bowl — supply the item as permitted under subregulation (2B); or (d) in the case of a prescribed plastic item that is a catering platter or a lid for a catering platter — supply the item as permitted under subregulation (2C); or (e) in connection with the service or consumption of food or drink on an aircraft.</li> <li>A person may supply a straw as part of a pre-packaged food or drink product e.g., a straw attached to a juice box.</li> <li>A person may supply a single prescribed drinking straw to a person on request with food or drink while conducting a business or undertaking (other than a retail business).</li> <li>A person may supply a single prescribed drinking straw to a person if the supply occurs in connection with the service or consumption of food or drink on an aircraft.</li> <li>Packs of plastic straws will be available from authorised businesses and organisations including pharmacies, medical and dental care places, local government customer service centres, charities, nursing homes, aged care homes, palliative, respite, and rehabilitation service locations. However, these places will not be mandated to supply. Wholesalers of plastic straws can continue to provide to these exempt places.</li> <li>A prescribed plastic bag does not include — (b) an unsealed bag that is the packaging in which perishable food is offered for sale; or (c) a bag that is, or is an integral part of, the packaging in which goods are sealed for sale; or (d) a carry bag or barrier bag that is made from 1 or more of the following fabrics (whether or not mixed with a fabric that is not made from plastic) — (i) woven polypropylene (whether or not it is insulated for the purpose of keeping items cold); (ii) nylon; (iii) p</li></ul>
	The above exemptions have been directly sourced from the Western Australian Government Gazette 2023 containing amended regulations to single-use plastic bans and the Environmental Protection (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons) Regulations 2018 as of 20 June 2023.

## **Exemptions**



State	Exemption/s
NSW	<ul> <li>People with a disability or medical issue in certain settings are permitted to continue using single-use plastic straws or individuals/organisations acting on behalf of this individual.</li> <li>Plastic-lined paper plates and bowls will be exempt until 1 November 2024.</li> <li>Plastic single-use cotton buds and plastic single-use bowls can continue to be supplied for medical, scientific and forensic purposes subject to certain conditions. This exemption is intended to be reviewed by the EPA after two years (1 November 2024) but may still be reviewed at any time.</li> <li>Supply of plastic single-use cutlery has a time-limited exemption in certain circumstances and settings. 'Exempt facilities' such as correctional and mental health facilities where its use is required to help prevent violence, injury or harm (until 31 October 2024, subject to the conditions of the exemption). It also includes public hospitals in exceptional or emergency situations when they are prevented from using alternative cutlery (until 31 October 2023, subject to the conditions of the exemption).</li> <li>The above exemptions have been sourced from NSW EPA Exemptions Guidance webpage as of 20 June 2023.</li> </ul>
VIC	<ul> <li>People with a disability or medical issue in certain settings are permitted to continue using single-use plastic straws.</li> <li>Plastic cotton bud sticks will be available for testing carried out for scientific, medical, forensic or law enforcement purposes.</li> <li>Single-use plastic cutlery used in correctional or custodial settings and mental health facilities, for safety purposes.</li> <li>Items 'integrated' into food or beverage packaging (e.g., a single-use plastic spoon attached to a yogurt tub) can continue to be used up until 1 January 2026.</li> <li>Plastic lined paper plates can continue to be used until 1 November 2024.</li> <li>The above exemptions have been sourced from the Victoria Government's information on Single-use Plastics Ban's website as of 20 June 2023.</li> </ul>
SA	<ul> <li>Single-use plastic drinking straws for disability or medical needs.</li> <li>Pre-packaged and attached products.</li> <li>Single-use plastic spoons for clinical purposes.</li> <li>The above exemptions have been sourced from the Government of South Australia's 'Exemptions Under The Single-Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020' as of 20 June 2023.</li> </ul>
QLD	<ul> <li>Clinics or facilities that provide healthcare to individuals with a disability or health need, hospitals, dental clinics, medical clinics, pharmacies, aged care facilities and medical suppliers are exempt from the ban. Suppliers, distributors, and wholesalers can continue to sell banned items to these exempt businesses.</li> <li>The above exemptions have been sourced from the Queensland Government Single-use plastic items ban information website as of 20 June 2023.</li> </ul>
ACT	<ul> <li>Businesses and healthcare entities can supply single-use plastic straws to people with a disability or medical issue without them having to provide proof of need, however these items cannot be displayed. Healthcare entities providing care or products to people with a disability or healthcare need may display and supply single-use plastic straws. Examples of healthcare entities include hospitals, aged care or disability facilities or pharmacies.</li> <li>Plastic stick cotton buds can be supplied for scientific, forensic or medical purposes which would be compromised by the use of alternative products.</li> <li>Integrated packaging items e.g., a straw attached to a juice box.</li> <li>Banned single-use plastic cutlery can still be supplied in detainee or mental health settings.</li> <li>Single-use plastic items purchased before the ban can continue to be used in domestic settings.</li> <li>Single-use plastic bowls designed or intended to have a spill-proof lid are exempt. Plastic bowls can be supplied for scientific, forensic or medical purposes which would be comprised by the use of alternative products. Paper or cardboard bowls with a plastic lining or coating can continue to be used until 31 October 2024.</li> <li>Paper or cardboard plates with a plastic lining or coating can continue to be used until 31 October 2024.</li> <li>The above exemptions have been sourced from the ACT Government Single-use plastic ban information website as of 7 July 2023.</li> </ul>

## **Exemptions**



State Ex	emption/s
TAC	The By-Law does not apply to pre-packed fruit and vegetables, soft plastics and plastic bags, and non-food related plastics.
TAS	The above exemptions have been sourced from Hobart City's Single-use Plastic By-Law as of 20 June 2023.
AUSTRALIA	The industry led voluntary phase out of EPS in Australia does not include EPS used for business-to-business packaging, such as fresh produce boxes; specialist packaging used in medical applications, for example, organ transport or pharmaceuticals; EPS used in building and construction; and/or business-to-consumer packaging where there is a demonstrated and effective reuse model in operation, for example bulk cold home-delivered meal services.
	The above exemptions have been sourced from the <u>Australian Government's National Plastics Plan— Pathway to more sustainable use of expanded polystyrene (EPS)</u> as of 20 June 2023.
NEW ZEALAND	<ul> <li>Plastic stemmed cotton buds used as a medical device (defined by section 3A of the Medicines Act) and not sold by retail; in a veterinary clinic for diagnosis or sampling; in a commercial food laboratory for food sampling; in a laboratory for scientific investigation; as part of a testing kit for medical or scientific matter, including for infection or immunity and to produce a result without analysis at a laboratory.</li> <li>Expanded polystyrene used to transport cold items e.g., medicines or seafood, and protective packaging for electronics and homeware items are excluded from the ban.</li> <li>Single-use plastic drinking straws that are attached to a beverage box by a machine (e.g., juice or milk boxes) or are an integral part of the packaging are exempt until 1 January 2026. Disabled people and those with health conditions (or someone acting on their behalf) will still be able to access and use single-use plastic drinking straws if they need them. Some entities and businesses are permitted to sell or provide single-use plastic drinking straws to people who need them, including supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitality businesses, education entities, charitable entities, health and disability support services. A manufacturer or wholesale supplier can continue to supply single-use plastic drinking straws to these entities. Disabled people and those with a health condition can buy single-use plastic drinking straws from retailers online.</li> <li>The single-use plastic tableware and cutlery ban does not include plastic containers (i.e. a plastic bowl or a plate that is part of a container with a lid); plastic items that are not used for eating or preparing food (e.g. measuring spoons or scoops such as those provided with medicine, supplements, infant formula or washing powder); and tableware made of other materials (e.g. paper, bamboo or sugarcane pulp) that is plastic lined.</li> <li>Single-use plastic bags that are part of the packaging for pre-packaged produce are excluded from the ban.</li> <li>Non-h</li></ul>