

Phasing out Single Use (Disposable) Plastics at Events, Markets and Other Activities on Council Managed/Owned Land and Council Sponsored Events

PURPOSE

To outline the procedures to phase out single use (disposable) plastics at events (sponsored and non-sponsored), markets and other activities on council controlled land, by 2022.

OBJECTIVES

To provide a framework to phase out the use of single use plastic packaging within the City of Launceston to:

- Minimise the negative impacts of plastic litter on river, estuarine and marine environments, and to reduce the incidence of litter on land.
- Support sustainable procurement, along with economic, environmental and social initiatives within Launceston.
- Help Council take a leadership role through using only compostable or reusable packaging in all its occupied buildings, including when ordering catering.
- Ensure all Council leases where the lessee provides take away food/beverages include a clause prohibiting the use of single use plastic packaging on council controlled land.
- Ensure all events, markets and other activities on council controlled land, whether sponsored or not, are prohibited from using single use plastic packaging.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Council controlled buildings including:
 - Carr Villa
 - Launceston Aquatic Centre
 - Launceston Information Centre
 - Launceston Waste Centre
 - Premises that may be leased by Council (i.e. for Council use) for time to time
 - QVMAG
 - Remount Road Depot
 - Town Hall and Annex
 - UTAS Stadium
- Council leases where the lessee is operating a take away food and/or beverage service.
- Events, markets and other activities (including food vans) on council controlled land, whether sponsored by council or not.

This policy initially does not apply to the following, but may be considered in the future:

- Incidental bookings of Council-owned/managed halls and venues
- Other leases managed by council
- Vending machines
- Bottled Beverages (glass/plastic/metal)
- Plastic pre-wrapped chocolate bars/lollies/biscuits/chips/ice creams

Plastics to be phased out under this policy include single use plastic:

- plates, bowls and other plastic dishes
- cups and lids
- cutlery
- stirrers
- straws
- food and beverage packaging including, but not limited to, bottled water and polystyrene containers.

There are some circumstances where single use plastics might not be avoidable. Such circumstances include the following:

- a person with a disability may require a single use plastic straw. The use of a single use plastic straw in this circumstance is permitted.
- in an emergency situation.
- where public health risks are possible, i.e. the need to use plastic cling wrap to cover food.

POLICY

- The Council will cease purchasing single use plastics by 1 July 2020 at all Council operated buildings as listed in the scope.
- The council will stipulate to caterers that all catering brought onto council occupied premises must be in reusable or compostable packaging by 1 January 2022.
- The Council will, as leases expire, update leases where the lessee offers take away food/beverages to include the following clause: "single use plastics are not to be used on the premises and are to be substituted with approved compostable or reusable packaging alternatives".
- The Council will mandate that no single use plastics are used at both sponsored and non-sponsored events from 1 January 2022 onwards. Approved single use compostable packaging or reusable packaging will be permitted. All sponsorship agreements from 1 January 2022 will include the following clause: "single use plastics are not to be used during the event and are to be substituted with approved compostable or reusable packaging alternatives".
- The Council will, after 2022, work with event holders to transition to more sustainable event management, specifically facilitating the move away from compostable single use packaging to reusable packaging.
- The Council will encourage food vans operating on council land to move away from using single use plastics. The council will ask all food van operators to join into a memorandum of understanding which will ask that, when operating on council land or public roads, single use plastics not be used and are instead substituted with compostable or reusable packaging alternatives.
- The Council will stipulate that the public bars at UTAS stadium will no longer be able to use disposable alcohol beverage packaging. The following clause will be inserted into the agreement with the public bar operator: "single use plastics are not to be used and are to be substituted with approved reusable packaging alternatives by 1 January 2022."
- All general managers and senior leaders will support and implement appropriate processes to ensure operation and compliance to this policy and associated procedures.

PRINCIPLES

Single use plastics are a staple at many events and activities within the municipality due to their cheap cost and ease of disposal. It is estimated there will be more plastics than fish in the world's oceans by 2050. This policy will minimise the impact of single use plastics on our marine environments, especially the iconic kanamaluka/River Tamar and Cataract Gorge.

Council's Organisational Values apply to all activities.

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

[11-Plx-004 Code for Tenders and Contracts](#)

[05-PI-012 Events Sponsorship Policy](#)

[32-Plx-005 Mobile Food Vendors Operating on Public Roads Policy](#)

[11-Plx-001 Procurement Policy](#)

[11-HLPr-001 Purchasing \(Non-Tendered\) Procedure](#)

[05-Rfx-020 Signature Event Sponsorship Guidelines](#)

[11-Rf-011 - Standard Terms and Conditions of Purchase Orders](#)

RELATED LEGISLATION

Public Health Act 1997

REFERENCES

Revised Regulatory Impact Statement: Single-use Plastics By-law, City of Hobart, 2019

DEFINITIONS

Single use plastics

Single use plastics are plastic items used for food and beverages which are not designed or intended for multiple use or to be returned to the retailer for refill or reuse for the same purposes for which it was conceived. The following single use plastic items are covered by this policy:

- a) crockery (plates, bowls, other plastic dishes)*
- b) cups and lids (including non-compostable plastic lined coffee cups)*
- c) cutlery*
- d) stirrers*
- e) straws*
- f) food and beverage packaging including, but not limited to, bottled water and polystyrene containers.*

Compostable packaging

Compostable packaging (when used in relation to bioplastic) means, when treated in an industrial composting facility, the following requirements are met:

- a) 60% decomposition (aerobic) within 180 days*
- b) 90% disintegration to less than 2mm in 84 days, and*
- c) is non-toxic.*

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no more than two years after the date of approval or more frequently, if dictated by operational demands and with Council's approval.