



# SINGLE USE PLASTICS POLICY

**Policy Owner:** Director Community, Planning & Environment

**Category:** Strategic

**Direction:** 1. Our Living Environment

## 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.1 North Sydney Council is committed to taking all feasible and reasonable viable steps to phasing out single-use plastics for its operations, events, venues and Council owned properties. Single use items will be replaced with reusable alternatives where feasible. Where single use items cannot be avoided, and reusable alternatives are not feasible, compostable alternatives should be used.

1.2 This policy is consistent with the Australian Packaging Covenant and will help ensure that Council plays a leadership role in working towards the 2025 National Packaging Targets in North Sydney.

The 2025 National Packaging Targets are:

- 100% of all Australia's packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 or earlier;
- 70% of Australia's plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025;
- 30% average recycled content will be included across all packaging by 2025; and
- Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out through design, innovation or introduction of alternatives.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 All councillors, staff and suppliers involved in Council procurement and/or activities conducted in Council owned venues.

2.2 Hirers of Council venues, facilities, parks, reserves, sportsgrounds and pools.

2.3 Commercial tenants in Council owned properties with leases signed after adoption of this Policy. For commercial tenants this Policy applies only to plastic straws and single-use plastic bags.

- 2.4 The General Manager or delegate may grant exemptions to this policy for health and safety, alcohol licensing, medical and disability reasons.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 Single use plastic - any disposable plastic item, including made from polystyrene, that is designed to be used once and then discarded. This includes, but is not limited to, disposable cups and lids, straws, bags, cutlery, plates, bottled water, take away containers, single serve sachets and unnecessary packaging.
- 3.2 Reusable - any item, including made from plastic, that is designed to be used multiple times for the same purpose for which it was conceived.
- 3.3 Compostable - an item that has been certified as compostable according to AS 5810 (suitable for home composting) or an equivalent standard.

### **4. PROVISIONS**

- 4.1 Council commits to making arrangements with suppliers, caterers, stall holders, tenants and venue hirers to use reusable or compostable alternatives to single use plastic.
- 4.2 Where a supplier, caterer, stall holder, tenant or venue hirer cannot guarantee that single use plastics are avoided or replaced with reusable or compostable alternatives, the Council will, where practicable, opt for alternative suppliers, caterers, stall holders, tenants or venue hirers.
- 4.3 The avoidance of single use plastics will be stipulated in all relevant tender and contract conditions and event, venue hire and lease documentation.
- 4.4 A six-month transitional period will apply from date of adoption of this Policy to allow viable solutions to be applied and alternatives to be sourced.

### **5. RESPONSIBILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 5.1 Council's Senior Sustainability Programs Coordinator is responsible for:
- a) notifying Council staff of this Policy; and
  - b) providing support to Council staff to assist them in implementing this Policy.

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- 5.2 Council's Manager Corporate Contracts is responsible for ensuring that all new tenders and contracts contain clauses which avoid the use and supply of single use plastics.
- 5.3 Council's Manager Procurement is responsible for establishing a system to monitor non-compliant purchase orders.
- 5.4 Council staff are responsible for complying with this Policy and take all reasonable steps to avoid using single use plastic products.
- 5.5 Council staff responsible for event management and/or venue hire are responsible for:
- a) updating relevant event management and venue hire documentation.
  - b) promoting that events are single use plastic free and encouraging attendees to bring their own reusable materials.
  - c) monitoring compliance with the requirements of this Policy by Council run and third-party events as well as by venue hirers in accordance with Council's existing monitoring practices.
- 5.6 Council's Manager Property Assets is responsible for:
- a) ensuring, where feasible, Council facilities and hireable Council venues have adequate dishwashing facilities and enough reusable crockery, glasses, mugs, cutlery and other relevant supplies to accommodate venue capacity, and/or the requirements of the bulk of the venue hirers.
  - b) ensuring that all new commercial leases contain clauses which discourage non-compliance with this Policy.
  - c) notifying Council's existing commercial tenants to request compliance with this Policy, with support from the Better Business Partnership.
  - d) ensuring Council's Commercial Property Agents monitor compliance with the requirements of this Policy by commercial tenants.

## 6. RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS/LEGISLATION

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Council policies:

- Procurement Policy
- Sustainable Public Events Policy
- Events Strategy
- Procurement Manual
- Contracts Management Manual

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents/legislation:

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- The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (<https://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/documents/item/1091>)

Version	Date Approved	Approved by	Resolution No.	Review Date
1	23 September 2019	Council	275	2020/21
2	22 August 2022	Council	251	2024/25