

Reducing Plastic Pollution

Single-use plastics are especially harmful because they are usually not able to be recycled and are discarded after use, often inappropriately. In a climate and biodiversity crisis, it doesn't make sense to keep using single-use plastic items.

Plastic accounts for 85% of the litter in our oceans. There is estimated to be between 75 and 199 million tons of plastic waste currently in the ocean, and by 2040 it is thought that between 23 to 37 million tons will enter the ocean per year, unless something changes.¹

Most plastics are derived from oil-based products and take centuries to break down, if at all. Micro-plastics, tiny fragments of discarded plastic products are found in many food chains and have been discovered in the human body. The full health impacts are unknown.

In 2021 state and territory governments agreed to phase out several types of single-use plastics, including plastic utensils and stirrers, plastic straws, and polystyrene packaging.²

Despite this, other than a ban on lightweight plastic bags in 2013,³ and individual council-level bans in Hobart⁴ and Launceston (on council land and facilities)⁵, Tasmania is the only jurisdiction without a ban, or timeframe for a ban, on single-use plastics.⁶

We will fight for Tasmania to join the rest of the country in implementing a strong, single-use plastics ban.

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Single-use plastic bans by jurisdiction⁷

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Ballon ties	X	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	X
Bread tags	X	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	X
Light bags	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heavy bags	✓	2025	2025	✓	2024	X	X	✓
Coffee cups	X	X	X	X	2024	X	X	2024
Confetti	X	X	X	X	2024	X	X	X
Cotton buds	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cups and Lids	X	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	2024
Cutlery	✓	✓	2025	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Stirrers	✓	✓	2025	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Trays	✓	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	✓
Loose packaging	✓	X	2025	X	X	X	X	✓
Moulded packaging	X	X	2025	X	X	X	X	2025
Produce bags	X	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	2024
Fruit/Veg Stickers	X	2025	X	X	2025	X	X	X
Balloon Releases	X	2025	2025	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Microbeads	✓	✓	2025	✓	X	X	X	✓
Pizza Savers	X	2025	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Plates and Bowls	✓	✓	2025	✓	✓	X	X	X
Food/drink containers	✓	✓	2025	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Prepackaged/attached	X	2025	X	X	2025	X	2026	X
Soy Sauce Fish	X	2025	X	X	2025	X	X	X
Straws	✓	✓	2025	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Takeaway Containers	X	2025	X	X	2024	X	X	2024

¹ UN Environment Program, [How to reduce the impacts of single-use plastic products](#), 2021.

² Judd, B, [Australia is phasing out single-use plastics – but what items and when depends on where you live](#), ABC News, 2023.

³ EPA Tasmania, [Plastic Bag Ban Frequently Asked Questions](#), 2021.

⁴ City of Hobart, [Single-use plastics by-law information](#), n.d.

⁵ City of Launceston, [Council adopts single use plastics policy](#), 2020.

⁶ Australian Marine Conservation Society, [Ban on Single-Use Plastics Scorecard](#), 2023.

⁷ Ibid.