



31 May 2022

NSW Plastic Bag Ban – no dithering on next steps

As NSW finally enters the lightweight plastic bag free-era tomorrow, environmental groups have called for the government to avoid delaying action on other polluting plastics.

























































































“An enormous amount of harmful bag litter occurred while NSW dithered for years. We don’t want to have the same problem with the next tranche of items like heavyweight bags, plastic cups and balloon releases, that other states are now moving on,*” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance of 55 groups.

“The government’s Plastic Action Plan postpones action till 2025. This is an unacceptable delay and means NSW will again be at the back of the pack by next year. The alternatives are proven and there is no need to keep reinventing the wheel on these important policies.”

“We are particularly focused on reusables that can be used hundreds of times. That’s genuine circular economy action avoiding single uses, saving resources and eliminating plastic pollution. Retailers also need to be careful to not be conned by reusable or compostable claims with slightly thicker bags like those recently promoted by Coles. They need to conform to a credible standard that delivers the environmental gains.”

“With the State Election next March, it’s time for the political parties to develop the next round of policies on plastic pollution and packaging,” Mr Angel said.

* Current Single Use Policies:

ITEMS	NSW	ACT	VIC	SA	WA	QLD	NT	TAS	
Lightweight Plastic Bags	 Jun 2022	 Nov 2011	 Nov 2019	 May 2009	 July 2018	 July 2018	 Sep 2011	 Nov 2013	 Legislated Ban
Heavyweight Plastic Bags					 Jan 2022		 2025		 Proposed Ban
Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds	 Nov 2022	 Jul 2022	 Feb 2023		 Jan 2023				
Plastic Coffee Cups and Lids					 Jan 2023				
Plastic Straws	 Nov 2022	 Jul 2022	 Feb 2023	 Mar 2021	 Jan 2022	 Sep 2021	 2025		
Plastic Stirrers	 Nov 2022	 Jul 2021	 Feb 2023	 Mar 2021	 Jan 2022	 Sep 2021	 2025		
Plastic Cutlery	 Nov 2022	 Jul 2021	 Feb 2023	 Mar 2021	 Jan 2022	 Sep 2021	 2025		
Plastic Plates and Bowls	 Nov 2022		 Feb 2023		 Jan 2022	 Sep 2021	 2025		
Expanded Polystyrene Foodware	 Nov 2022	 Jul 2021	 Feb 2023	 Mar 2022	 Jan 2022	 Sep 2021	 2025		
Expanded Polystyrene Packaging					 Jan 2023		 2025		
Oxodegradable Plastics		 Jul 2022		 Mar 2022	 Jan 2023				
Microbeads	 Nov 2022			 Mar 2022	 Jan 2023		 2025		
Produce Bags		 Jul 2022			 Jan 2023				
Helium Balloon Releases					 Jan 2022		 2025		
Plastic Fruit Stickers									
Plastic Cups (cold drinks and food, any temperture)					 Jan 2022				
EPS Fruit/Meat Trays									


Legislated Ban


Proposed Ban


Decision Pending (no specific date)