



Single-use plastic products ban

Consultation summary

What Queenslanders and businesses think about plastic waste and pollution and the proposed ban on single-use plastic straws, plates, cutlery and stirrers.

Plastic pollution in our environment affects every aspect of our lives—from the water we drink and the food we consume, to the plants, animals and outdoor places we all love and enjoy.

With half of all plastic produced in the world being designed to be used just once and then thrown away, it's no wonder that single-use plastic products are a significant contributor to the global issue of plastic waste and pollution.

As part of the Queensland Government's ongoing work to tackle waste and plastic pollution, in 2018, we said goodbye to single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags and hello to Containers for Change. Recently, we asked Queenslanders if they thought it was time to phase out other single-use plastic products—starting with single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers after 1 July 2021.



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Nearly 20,000 Queenslanders and businesses had their say on banning these single-use plastic products, and shared their thoughts generally on plastic waste and pollution. Here is a summary of what they said:



94% supported a ban

on single-use plastic straws, plates, cutlery and stirrers



90% agreed that a start date of **1 July 2021** was sufficient time to prepare for the ban

One third supported exemptions to the ban

particularly for people with healthcare or disability needs who require the use of straws



94% are already taking action to reduce single-use plastics, including:

- saying 'no' to plastic straws and stirrers when buying drinks
- using reusable, paper/biodegradable straws, plates and cutlery



80% agreed that **more voluntary action** to reduce single-use

plastics would **help reduce** plastic pollution, supported by education and awareness campaigns

97% are already taking action to reduce plastic waste, including:

- choosing products with less packaging
- choosing products made from recycled materials
- using green shopping bags
- avoiding putting loose fruit and vegetables into plastic bags
- recycling soft 'scrunchable' plastics in REDcycle bins at participating supermarkets

There is **strong support** for **banning other single-use plastic products**, including:

- all plastic utensils
- loose fruit and vegetable plastic bags
- takeaway plastic and polystyrene containers and cups
- balloons and balloon sticks
- heavyweight 'boutique style' plastic shopping bags
- plastic wraps on fresh fruit and vegetable trays



What's next

The Queensland Government will work with stakeholders and groups to develop a plan for implementing the proposed ban on single-use plastic straws, plates, cutlery and stirrers, after 1 July 2021. This includes actions to ensure these products are available to those who need them, particularly those with disability or healthcare needs.

An education campaign will also be launched to let Queenslanders, industry and businesses know what's happening and what they may need to do to prepare.

Down the track, other single-use plastic products will be considered for banning, including:

- coffee and other plastic cups
- heavyweight 'boutique style' plastic shopping bags
- some polystyrene packaging and takeaway food and drink containers
- plastic balloon sticks.



What you can do now

Keep up the great work in reducing plastic waste and the use of single-use plastic products, by:

- purchasing reusable products over disposable products
- choosing products with less plastic packaging
- choosing products made from recycled materials
- recycling as much plastic as you can
- remember 'soft, scrunchable' plastics don't go in kerbside recycling bins but can be returned to REDcycle bins at participating supermarkets
- avoiding unnecessary plastic products like balloons (including plastic clips and sticks), ribbons and tickertape.

For more information on the ban visit www.qld.gov.au/ReducingPlastic

