



# Consultation Report

Single-use plastic items: Consultation report on expanded polystyrene (EPS)



Queensland  
Government

Prepared by: Office of Resource Recovery, Department of Environment and Science.

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## Executive summary

The Queensland Government released *Tackling Plastic Waste, Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan* (the Plan) on 7 November 2019. A key action of the Plan was the introduction of legislation in 2020 to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, cutlery, plates and bowls, and hot and cold drink stirrers. The ban will help reach the Queensland Government's target of a 20% reduction in plastic pollution caused by these items by 2023.

Targeted discussions occurred through a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), comprised of representatives from peak bodies, impacted stakeholder groups and organisations (see Appendix 1) and an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC).

The Queensland Government has introduced the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020* (the Bill) to enable this ban. The Bill, as introduced on 3 December 2020, does not ban single-use expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food containers and cups. Including these items in the ban was supported through various consultations, including consultation on the single-use plastic ban consultation Regulatory Impact Statement in early 2020; consultation on the Bill through the former Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee (NRAIDEC) process prior to the Bill lapsing due to the Queensland State Election in late 2020; and the NRAIDEC report No. 8. Thorough consultation specifically on banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups had not been undertaken. Including a ban on these items in the Bill, without thorough consultation, would have been inconsistent with the intent of the Bill, which provides that consultation must be done before further single-use plastic items are proposed to be banned.

Between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021, the Queensland Government undertook public consultation through an online survey and targeted retailer consultation to seek the views of community members and businesses about including single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban, in addition to single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers.

Over 3,300 people visited the Queensland Government's website to access information on the proposed ban on single-use expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food containers and cups, with 6,865 people completing the online survey regarding single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups. The majority of the survey respondents were community members (97.5 %) with 2.5 % of business owners also participating. To ensure the views of the retail and business sector were considered, 413 retail representatives were engaged through 312 face-to-face and in-person interviews and 101 online retailer surveys completed.

Results of the survey showed that there was overwhelming support from community members with:

- 98 % of participants supported the general single-use plastics ban
- 98 % of participants supported including single-use EPS takeaway food containers
- 98 % of participants supported including single-use EPS takeaway cups, and
- 97 % supported banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups in 2021 alongside other single-use plastics.

Although not as definitive, results showed that retailers also supported the ban with:

- 72 % of participants supported the general single-use plastics ban.
- 78 % of participants supported including single-use EPS takeaway food containers
- 85 % of participants supported including single-use EPS takeaway cups, and
- 76 % supported banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups in 2021 alongside other single-use plastics.

Following this support, the Queensland Government is proposing to ban EPS takeaway food containers and cups alongside the single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. The ban is proposed to commence no earlier than 1 September 2021.

This support is consistent with previous consultations on both the Queensland Government's ban on single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags and the introduction of the container refund scheme. Globally, nationally and within Queensland, community awareness and concern about plastic consumption and pollution is at an unprecedented level. There is also increasing community pressure and expectations for businesses and governments to do more to address the issues surrounding single-use plastic items. The support for the ban received from the consultation process suggests that people believe there are also intrinsic and intangible benefits to banning single-use plastic items, such as:

- preserving Queensland's natural environment, a socially and culturally significant asset for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations
- the feeling of individual and collective pride of Queenslanders taking decisive action to help the environment
- avoiding unnecessary, short-term resource use that could have long-term consequences for the Queensland environment.

The Queensland Government will continue consultation with the Queensland public, industry and businesses to identify future actions to address plastic pollution and waste and deliver on the actions identified in the Plan.

## Background

The Queensland Government released *Tackling Plastic Waste, Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan* (the Plan) on 7 November 2019. A key action of the Plan was the introduction of legislation in 2020 to enable a ban on the supply of specific single-use plastic items, starting with straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers and, following further analysis extend legislation to include coffee cups, other plastic cups and heavyweight plastic shopping bags.

The proposed ban will help reach the Queensland Government's target of a 20% reduction in plastic pollution caused by these items by 2023.

Between 13 March and 30 April 2020, the Queensland Government consulted publicly on a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS), which outlined options to address issues with single-use plastic items. One option was the introduction of a legislated ban on the supply of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. Consultation on the CRIS was also supported by a 'Have Your Say' communications campaign.

Nearly 20,000 Queenslanders and businesses provided feedback on the proposed ban, which received overwhelming support. There was also strong support for extending the ban to include other single-use plastic items including expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food containers and cups, polystyrene cups and containers, oxo-degradable plastics, takeaway coffee cups, heavyweight plastic shopping bags, fruit and vegetable single-use plastic bags, balloons and balloon sticks, and bioplastic. Further information on the results of this consultation are published in a [consultation report](#).

Following this public support, on 15 July 2020, the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment (Plastic Items) Bill 2020* (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament seeking to ban the supply of single-use plastic items, specifically straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. The Bill was referred to the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee (NRAIDEC) for examination. Submissions to the NRAIDEC also supported the inclusion of EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban. The NRAIDEC report (Report No. 8, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament) recommended that the Bill be amended to include EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the first tranche of banned single-use plastic items.

The Bill was not debated by the Queensland Parliament prior to the 2020 Queensland state election and lapsed. Prior to the 2020 election, the Queensland Government committed to undertake further consultation on including single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the first tranche of proposed single-use plastic bans.

The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, reintroduced the Bill into parliament on 3 December 2020. The Bill was referred to the Health and Environment Committee for examination. In the explanatory speech, Minister Scanlon announced the consultation being conducted to consider EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban. The Bill introduced to parliament did not propose a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups; with consideration for its inclusion following the results of the consultation.

Including EPS takeaway items in the proposed ban provides consistency with the approaches of items being banned in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021, the Queensland Government undertook further consultation to seek the views of community member and businesses about including single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the proposed ban.

This report outlines the outcomes of this additional consultation.

The consultation on EPS items was supported by a "Have Your Say" communications campaign to raise awareness about the proposal to include EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the single-use plastic items ban and through targeted retail interviews and a business online survey. The consultation sought to identify what Queenslanders thought about including single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups, and to provide an opportunity for all perspectives including the community's and the likely impacted business sectors<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/91095>

## Purpose and scope of document

The Queensland Government has continually sought to engage the community, business and industry on the impacts and feasibility of introducing a proposed ban on the supply of specific single-use plastic items, starting with straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers.

The Bill provides for further items to be subject to the ban, following consultation on them.

The Queensland Government sought to conduct consultation specifically for the consideration of including EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban following

- support for the inclusion of single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups; through public consultation conducted between 15 March and 30 April 2020
- continued feedback from the Single-use Plastic Items (SUPI) Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)
- a recommendation by the former Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee (NRAIDEC) in their report tabled on 28 August 2020.

This consultation report outlines the actions taken for this purpose and presents the results. This report complements the [Single-use plastic products ban – Full consultation report](#), tabled in Parliament on 15 July 2020.

The results of this consultation indicate that there is significant support for single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups to be included in the ban on the supply of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers.

## Glossary

The below terms are used within this report

<b>Acronym / Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Bill	<i>Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020</i>
CRIS	Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement
The Committee	Health and Environment Committee
The department	Queensland Department of Environment and Science
EDM	Electronic direct mail
EPS	See Expanded polystyrene
Expanded polystyrene	A plastic material (polystyrene) in which small hollow voids have been introduced during the manufacturing process to produce a lightweight material. A style of EPS food containers often used for serving takeaway food such as fish and chips or burgers are referred to as 'clam shells', while EPS cups are mostly used for hot beverages such as takeaway tea and coffee.
IDC	Inter-departmental Committee
NRAIDEC	Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee
ROQ	See Rest of Queensland
Rest of Queensland	Places survey respondents identified as residing in Queensland other than South East Queensland
SAG	Stakeholder Advisory Group
SEQ	South-east Queensland

# Consultation

## Targeted consultation

To deliver the Queensland Government's intention of introducing legislation which ensures comprehensive understanding and consideration of its economic, social and environmental impacts, mechanisms to enable targeted consultation were established through the formation of a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) and Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) in February 2020. The Queensland Government also sought to understand and recognise the needs of the disability, healthcare and aged care communities in the provisions of the Bill.

The membership of the SAG and IDC is integral to ensuring critical considerations and requirements are identified and discussed. The membership of these groups is listed in Appendix 1.

The SAG primarily:

- provides independent advice to government on environmental, social and economic costs and benefits for businesses and community members
- provides advice to government on potential legislative provisions to help inform the design of a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items, recognising that the timing for the commencement of a ban needs to be realistic to allow for community and businesses to adjust to the new approach
- provides necessary information relevant to a preliminary cost/benefit assessment of options
- assists in the formation of technical working groups or consultation forums, as needed
- identifies, where relevant, areas of national consistency and work of other jurisdictions to help inform messaging and the design of the provisions
- provides advice on communication to businesses, the community and other stakeholders, including information about suitable alternatives.

The IDC provides strategic advice to help inform the development of legislation to ban the supply of specific single-use plastic items. It includes representatives from Queensland Government departments to ensure a whole-of-government perspective is considered.

The SAG and IDC are consulted through digital meetings and continue to provide advice on the approaches that are necessary through to the implementation of the proposed ban in the Bill.

Following the initial introduction of the Bill on 15 July 2020, the SAG supported the inclusion of single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban.

## Consultation through committee processes

Support for including single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the ban was a recommendation of the NRAIDEC in their report tabled on 28 August 2020. This finding represented the support that was evident in submissions received by NRAIDEC.

Submissions to the NRAIDEC and the current committee were received from organisations representing local government, retailers and environment groups. They called for EPS items to be included in the proposed ban and be banned at the same time as single-use straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers.

## Public consultation

Between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021, the department undertook consultation through an online survey as part of the "Have Your Say" communications campaign. The campaign was supported with an electronic direct mail (EDM) and social media posts to increase awareness and encourage participation in the consultation.

The consultation sought views on whether single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups should be banned in Queensland, and whether such a ban should be introduced at the same time as the proposed bans on single-use plastics straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers.

The survey required participants to provide information about:

- demographics (age, gender)
- stakeholder type (business or resident)
- type of business
- how often they are given plastic single-use takeaway containers
- the volume of any plastic single-use takeaway containers they provide to customers
- whether they support the ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers
- whether they agree with a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers
- whether they agree with a ban on single-use EPS takeaway cups

- whether if single-use EPS takeaway containers were to be included in the ban, if it should be introduced in 2021, alongside plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers
- which other single-use plastic products they would like to see action taken on.

Information about the proposed ban and the consideration of including single-use EPS takeaway containers and cups was featured on the Queensland Government’s Get Involved website.

The primary aim of the Queensland Government communications campaign was to encourage the public’s response to the survey. The survey and supporting website information was maintained from 30 November 2020 to 15 January 2021 for the duration of the consultation. Over 3,300 people visited the Queensland Government’s website to access information on the proposed ban on single-use expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food containers and cups. The survey was undertaken by 6,865 participants and was predominantly accessed through direct sources and social media.

The EDM was distributed to participants of the initial consultation on banning single-use plastic items, which occurred between 15 March and 30 April 2020. This communications channel provided information to more than 22,740 participants from the initial consultation, with more than 10,000 people reading the EDM and over 5,000 people accessing additional information from the links provided in it.

The consultation was also promoted through the department’s Facebook page with individual posts published on 1, 7 and 14 December 2020. The posts which provided links to the survey, reached more than 70,850 people, were shared 220 times and received more than 640 comments. Information was also published on the department’s LinkedIn page on 1 December 2020, reaching nearly 1,200 people. Figure 1 includes the campaign materials used on the department’s social media channels and the EDM.

Figure 1. Campaign materials used on the department’s social media channels and the EDM.



## Retailer consultation

Between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021, the department engaged a contractor to consult with the retail and business sectors through in-person interviews and an online survey. The questions asked in these consultation activities were consistent with the questions posed in the public online survey to enable the collective assessment of the results.

This consultation sought to ascertain the level of support on the inclusion of EPS takeaway food containers and cups from retailers that would be likely impacted by the proposed ban, and to identify any specific metropolitan or regional impacts. In-person interviews were conducted in the Greater Brisbane, Logan, Moreton, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton and Mackay areas.

The online survey targeted persons across Queensland who were older than eighteen and either worked in and/or owned a retail business impacted by the proposed ban.



# Results and analysis

Survey participants for both the public and retailer consultation were asked eleven questions to understand the demographics of respondents, estimate single-use plastic consumption, and gauge their views on the banning of single-use plastics. The results of the survey have been analysed by the department and are summarised in this section. For simplicity, all figures have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage, so totals may not add up to 100%.

## Participation in the public survey

The online public survey was completed by 6,865 participants. Approximately 71% of participants identified as female, 28% identified as male, and the remainder did not identify a gender or identified as intersex, transgender, indeterminate or gender diverse (Figure 2).

Participants were asked to indicate their age range. Approximately 38% of respondents were 18 to 35 years of age, with increasingly fewer respondents in the older age brackets. Few respondents (1%) were 17 years or younger (Figure 3).

Approximately 97% of participants identified as residents and the remaining 3% identified as business owners. The business owners participating in the survey represented a broad cross-section of the business sector (Figure 4) including creative industries, trades and professional services (29%), retail, manufacturing and primary production (17%), healthcare and wellbeing (16%), food and beverage (13%), environmental (6%), hospitality (6%), education (4%) and other (10%).

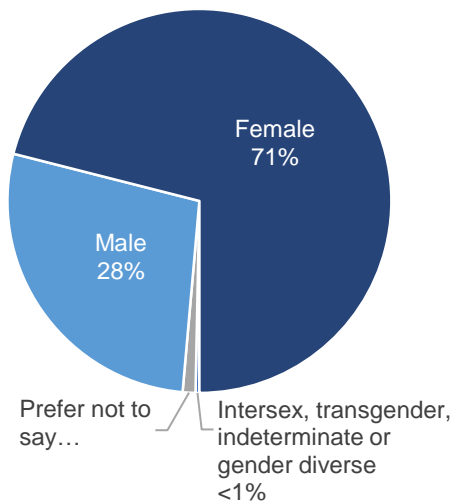


Figure 2: Gender of survey participants

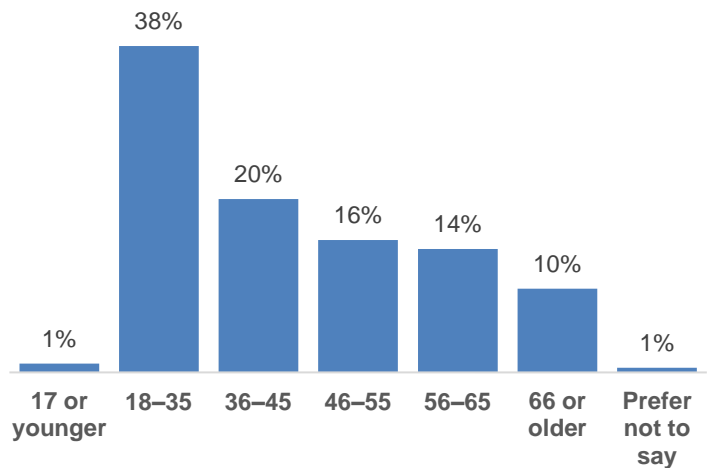


Figure 3: Age of survey participants

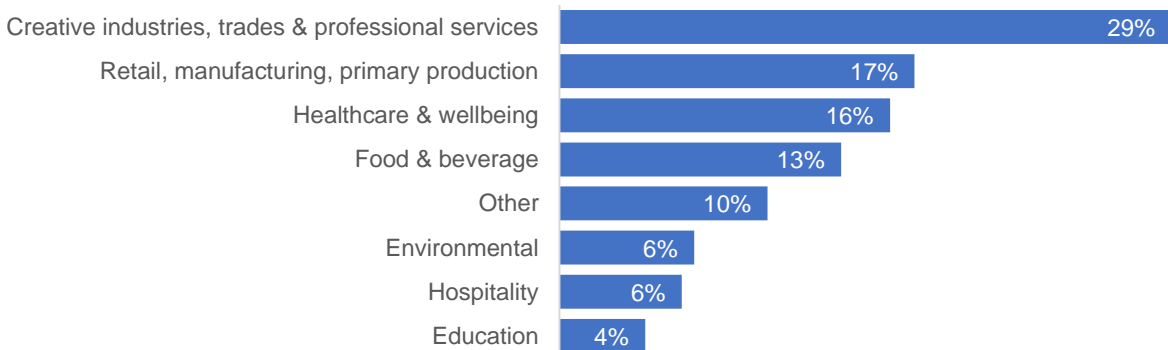


Figure 4: Type of business respondent

## Participation in the retailer consultation

Across Queensland, 413 retailers were consulted with via in-person interviews (312 participants) and an online survey (101 participants).

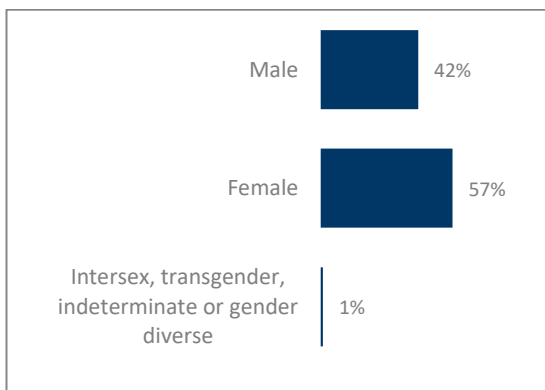
Approximately 57% of participants identified as female, 42% identified as male, and 1% did not identify a gender or identified as intersex, transgender, indeterminate or gender diverse (Figure 5).

Participants were asked to indicate their age range. Approximately 50% of respondents were 18 to 35 years of age, with increasingly fewer respondents in the older age brackets. Few respondents (1%) were 17 years or younger (Figure 6).

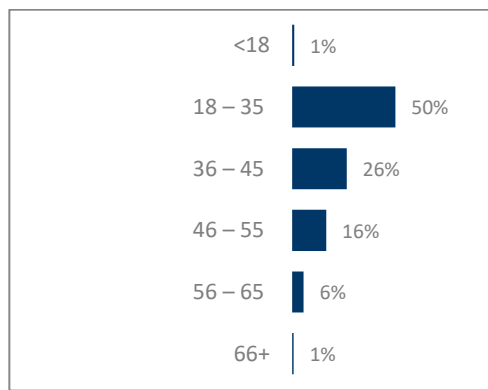
Across the retail category, approximately 43% of participants represented the café/restaurant food sector, 34% the takeaway food sector, 10% the supermarket/grocery sector, with other food categories including pubs/clubs, delivery, fresh produce, pop-up/truck/stall and retail categories including convenience stores, petrol stations and discount/variety stores (Figure 7).

The roles of participants engaged in the consultation included sales assistant (51%), owner (27%), Manager/2IC (18%) and other (1%) (Figure 8).

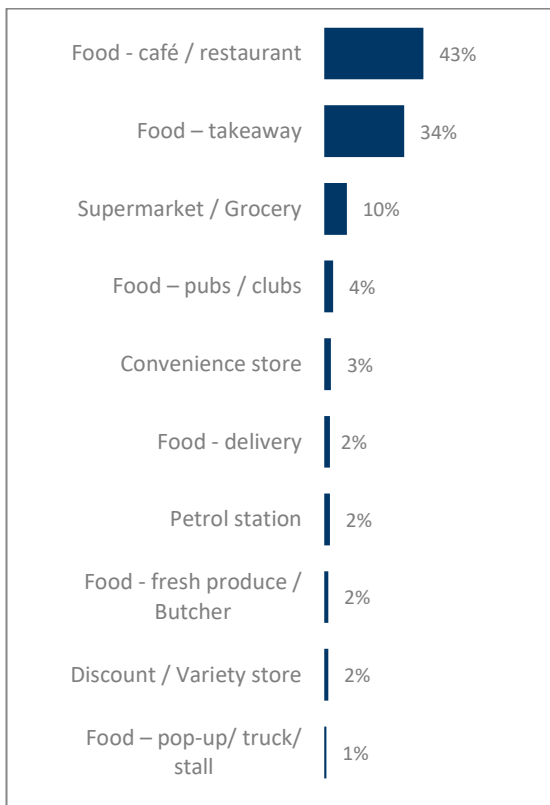
Consultation occurred across South East Queensland (75%) and regional Queensland (25%) (Figure 9).



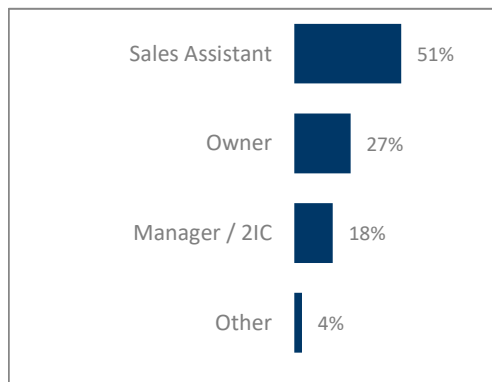
**Figure 5: Gender of retailer participants**



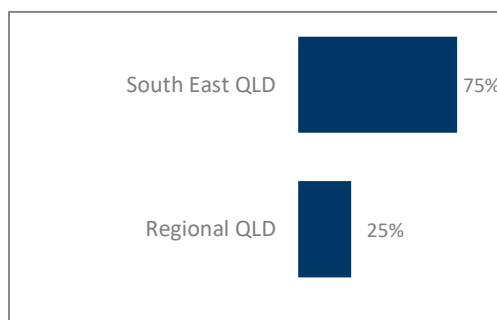
**Figure 6: Age of retailer participants**



**Figure 7: Retailer category**



**Figure 8: Retailer role**



**Figure 9: Retailer region**

## Consumption of single-use plastic items

### How often would you be given any plastic single-use takeaway (food or cup) containers?

Through the online public survey, residents were asked how often they would be given any single-use takeaway (food or cup) containers. The most frequent response was 'once a week' (46% of respondents), followed by 'once a month' (22%) and rarely (16%) (Figure 10).

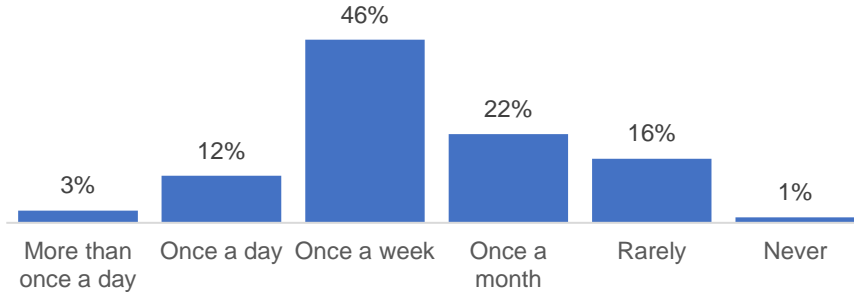


Figure 10: Frequency at which residents are given single-use takeaway containers

### What volume of any plastic single-use takeaway (food or cup) containers do you estimate you provide to customers in a month?

Through the online public survey, participants who identified as representing a business were asked to estimate the amount of single-use plastic takeaway (food or cup) containers they provide to customers in a month. The majority of businesses (66%) answered that they provide none (Figure 11). Approximately 10% of businesses reported that they provide 100 items or more in a month. These include mainly businesses in the retail, food and beverage sectors (e.g. cafes and restaurants).

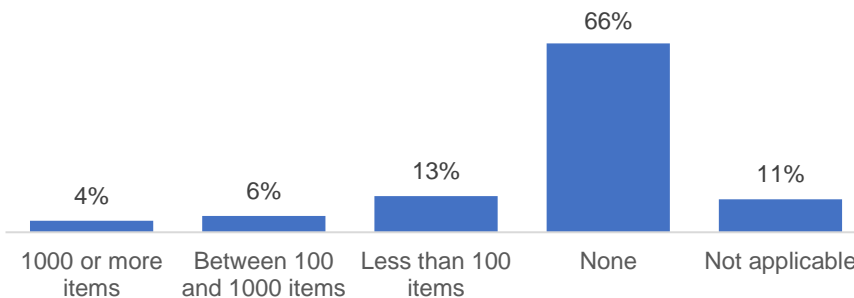
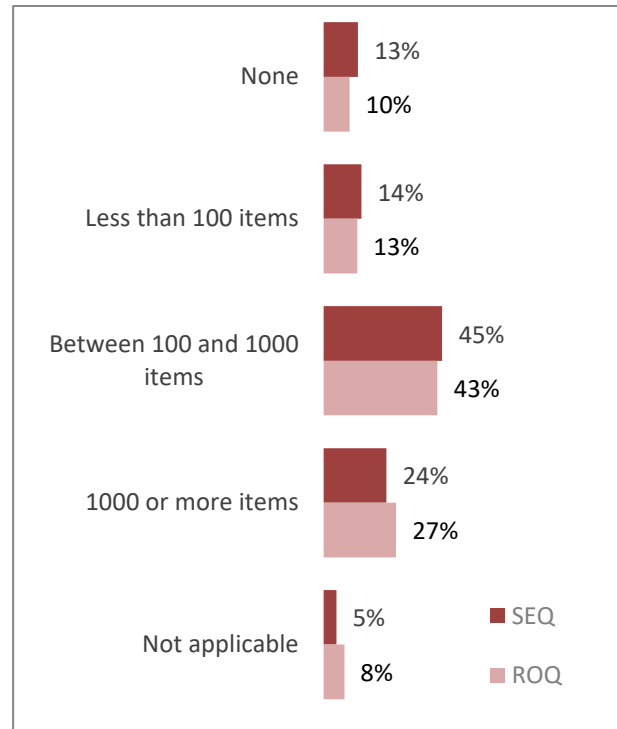
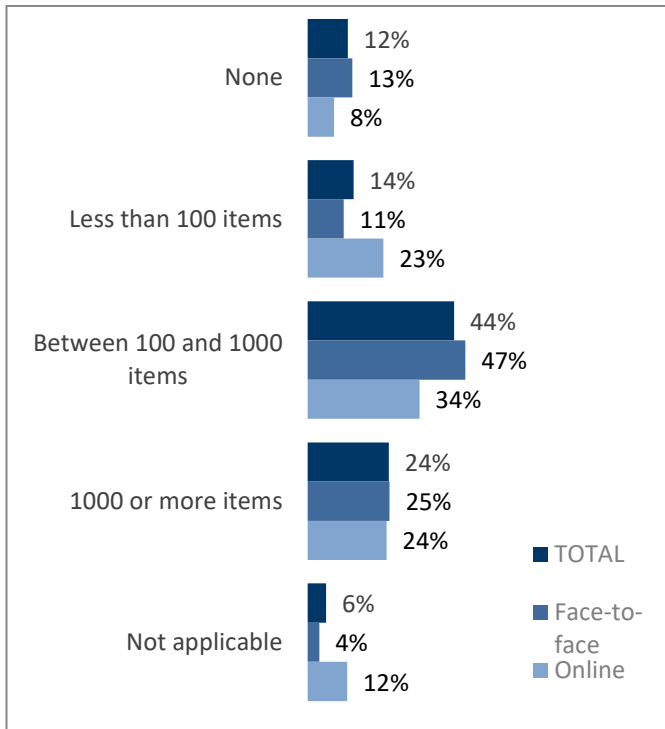


Figure 11: Amount of single-use plastic takeaway containers provided by businesses in a month

The majority (44%) of all businesses engaged through the consultation process estimated they provide between 100 and 1,000 items per month. This was followed by 24% of businesses providing 1,000 or more items, 14% of businesses providing less than 100 items and 12% of businesses providing none and 6% of businesses stating this was not applicable to them (Figure 12).

The provision of single-use plastic takeaway containers by businesses in South East Queensland and the rest of Queensland was similar, with 45% of the businesses estimating they provide between 100 and 1,000 items in a month (Figures 13).



**Figures 12 and 13: Amount of single-use plastic takeaway containers provided by businesses in a month and by region.**

## Support for single-use plastic bans

The next series of survey questions were aimed at understanding the level of support for bans on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, stirrers, and EPS takeaway food containers and cups. The specific questions were:

- Do you support the proposed ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers in Queensland?
- Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers like 'foam/clam shell' boxes used for fish and chips or burgers?
- Do you agree to a ban on single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway cups, like the 'foam' cups sometimes used for tea and coffee?
- If single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway containers (food containers and cups) were to be included in a ban, should it be introduced in 2021 alongside the ban on plastics straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers?

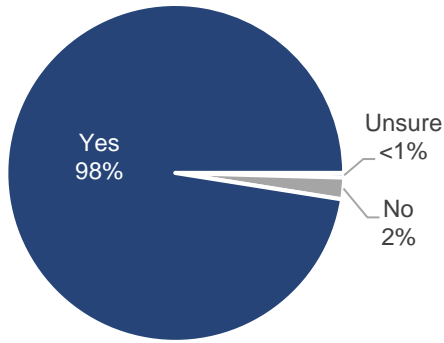
### Public consultation

The overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98%) supported a ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers (Figure 14). This result is consistent with the results of the 2020 consultation on the CRIS in which 94% of 19,622 respondents were in favour of the ban. Females (99%) were slightly more inclined to support the ban compared with males (95%), and those who identified as intersex, transgender, indeterminate or gender diverse (86%). Support for the ban did not vary significantly across the different age groups.

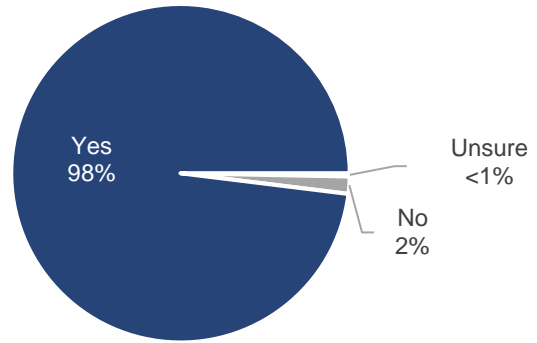
There was also very strong support (98% of respondents) for a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers such as foam/clam shell boxes (Figure 15) and single-use EPS takeaway cups, like those used for tea or coffee (Figure 16).

For both EPS takeaway food containers and EPS takeaway cups, 99% of females were supportive compared to 96% of male respondents, and 86% of respondents who identified as intersex, transgender, indeterminate or gender diverse (86%). There was no significant variance across the different age groups in their support for a ban on EPS takeaway food containers and cups.

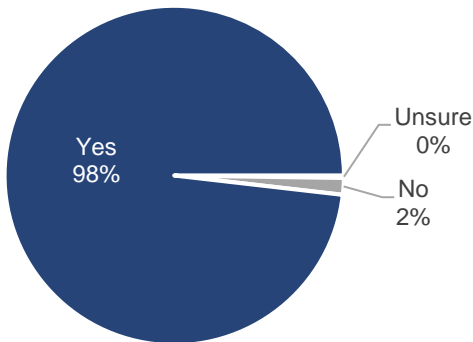
Ninety-seven per cent (97%) of respondents supported introducing a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers at the same time as the ban on plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers (Figure 17). As with the previous questions, more females (98%) supported introducing the bans concurrently compared to males (94%) and those who identified as intersex, transgender, indeterminate or gender diverse (82%). Ninety per cent (90%) of respondents aged 17 or younger supported introducing the ban of EPS takeaway food containers and cups with the other single-use plastic bans compared to 96-97% of respondents in the other age groups.



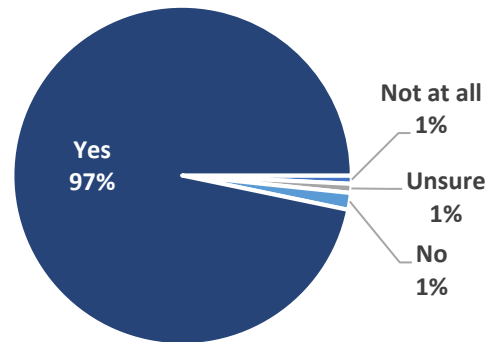
**Figure 14: Do you support the proposed ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers in Queensland?**



**Figure 15: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers?**



**Figure 16: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway cups?**



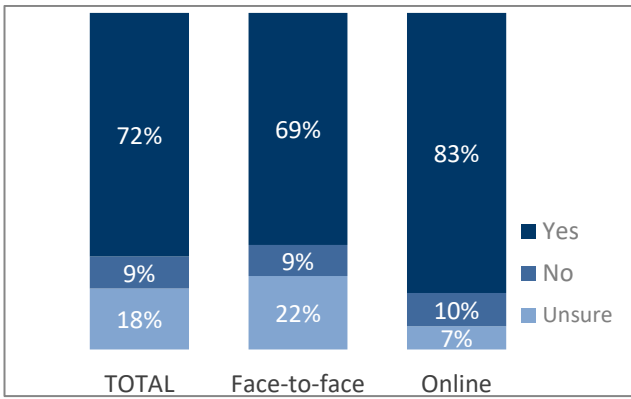
**Figure 17: If single-use EPS takeaway containers (food containers and cups) were to be included in a ban, should it be introduced in 2021 alongside plastics straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers?**

**Retailer consultation**

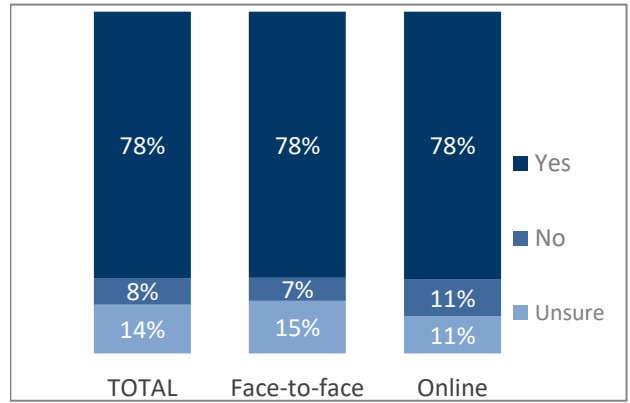
The majority of participants (72%) supported a ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers, with 18% of businesses unsure of their position, noting slight variation between the results from the in-person interviews and the online (Figure 18).

There was also similar levels of support (78% of respondents) for a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers such as foam/clam shell boxes (Figure 19), and a ban on single-use EPS takeaway cups like those used for tea or coffee (Figure 20).

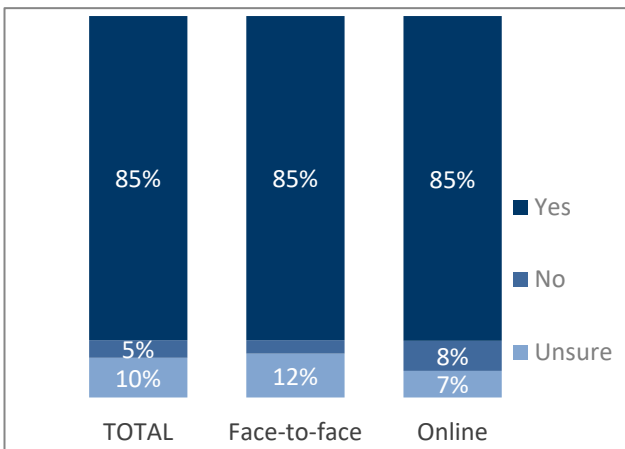
Seventy-six per cent (76%) of all respondents supported introducing a ban on single-use EPS takeaway containers at the same time as the ban on plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers (Figure 21).



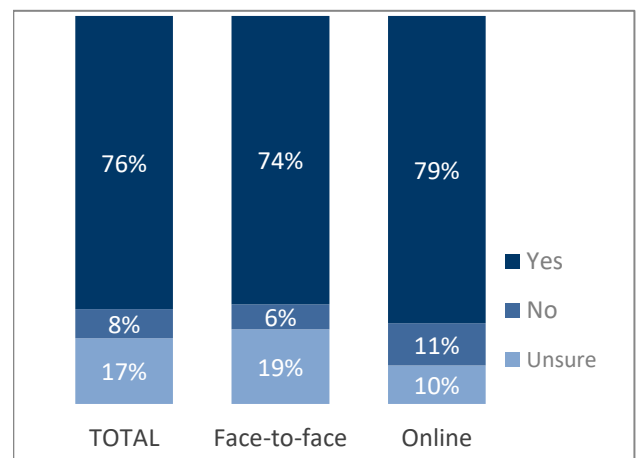
**Figure 18: Do you support the proposed ban on single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers in Queensland?**



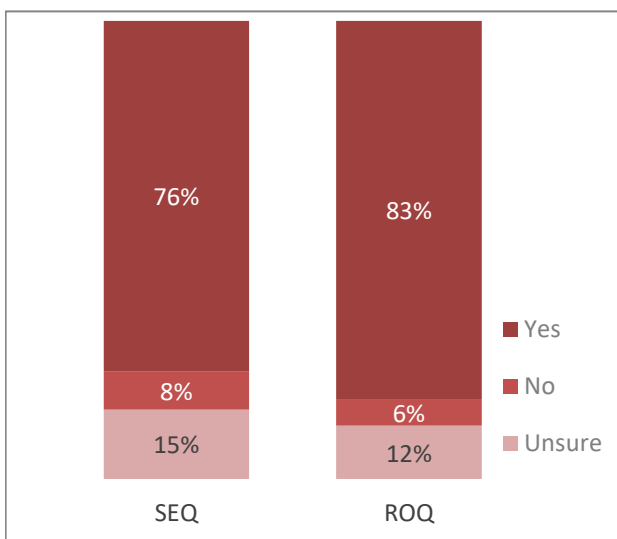
**Figure 19: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers?**



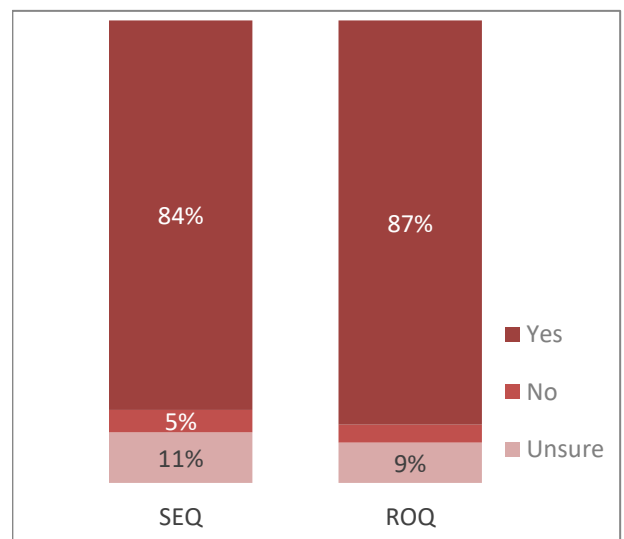
**Figure 20: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway cups?**



**Figure 21: If single-use EPS takeaway containers (food containers and cups) were to be included in a ban, should it be introduced in 2021 alongside plastics straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers?**



**Figure 22: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway food containers?**



**Figure 23: Do you agree to a ban on single-use EPS takeaway cups?**

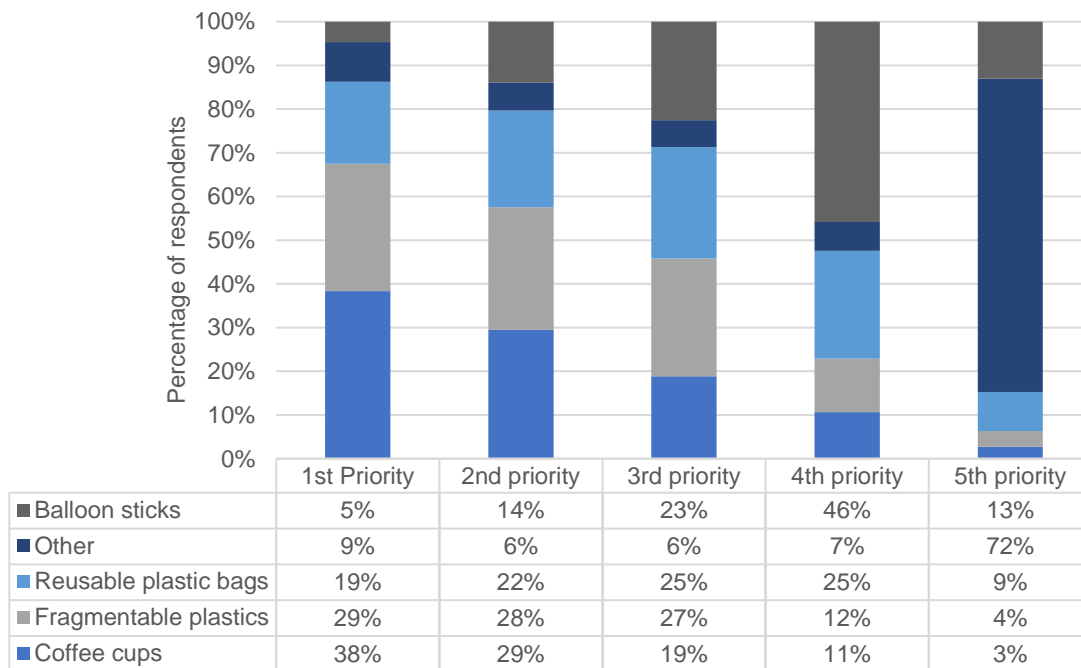
Support for including EPS takeaway food containers (Figure 22) and cups (Figure 23) was slightly greater in the rest of Queensland compared to South East Queensland.

## Potential future bans

To help identify potential single-use plastics for future action, survey participants were asked to rank a list of five single-use plastic products they wished to see action taken on. The five options provided were:

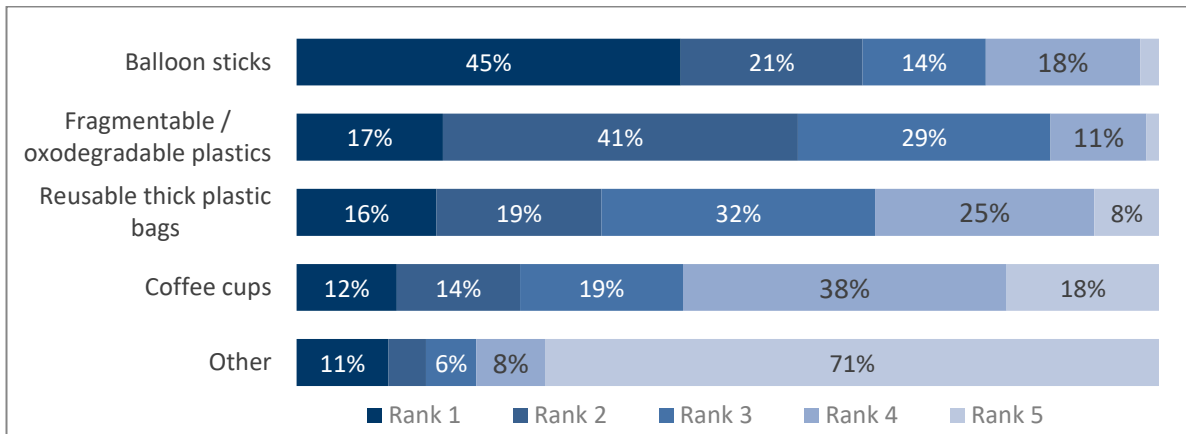
- coffee cups
- fragmentable/oxo-degradable plastics like plastic bags/pouches used for magazines
- reusable thick plastic bags
- balloon sticks
- other (respondents to specify the items).

The public responses to this question are summarised in Figure 24. As a first priority, 38% of respondents identified coffee cups, 29% preferred fragmentable plastics, and 16% supported action on reusable plastic bags. A similar order of preference was established for second priority actions (i.e. coffee cups followed by fragmentable plastics, and reusable plastic bags). As third and fourth priority actions, the top three items nominated by respondents were balloon sticks, fragmentable plastics, and reusable plastic bags).



**Figure 24: Participants’ ranking of single-use plastics they would like to see action on**

The retailer and business responses to this question are summarised in Figure 25. As a first priority, balloon sticks was the highest listed first priority (45%) with the next item identified similarly between fragmentable/oxodegradable plastics (17%), reusable thick plastic bags(16%), followed by coffee cups (12%), which were only slightly higher than other items (11%).

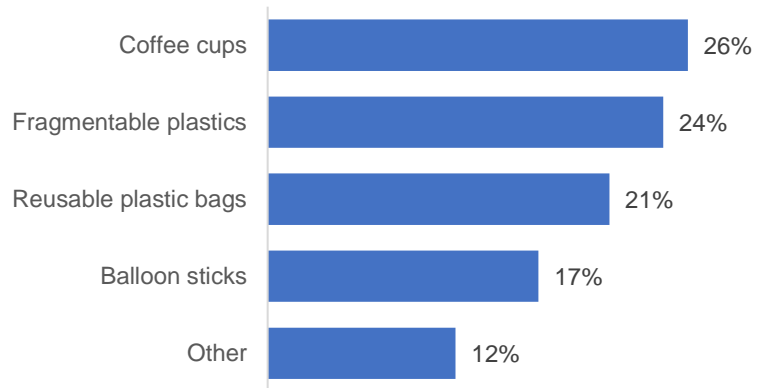


**Figure 25: Participants’ ranking of single-use plastics they would like to see action on**

The same weighted calculation was used for the public consultation and the retailer consultation, to help determine a single overall ranking of the five plastic items. The calculation used the number of respondents ranking an item multiplied by the weighting factors shown in Table 1. The weighted scores were then totalled for each single-use plastic item and the results are presented in Figure 26. This analysis suggests reasonably similar levels of support (ranging from 26% to 17%) for taking action on coffee cups, fragmentable plastics, reusable plastic bags and balloon sticks.

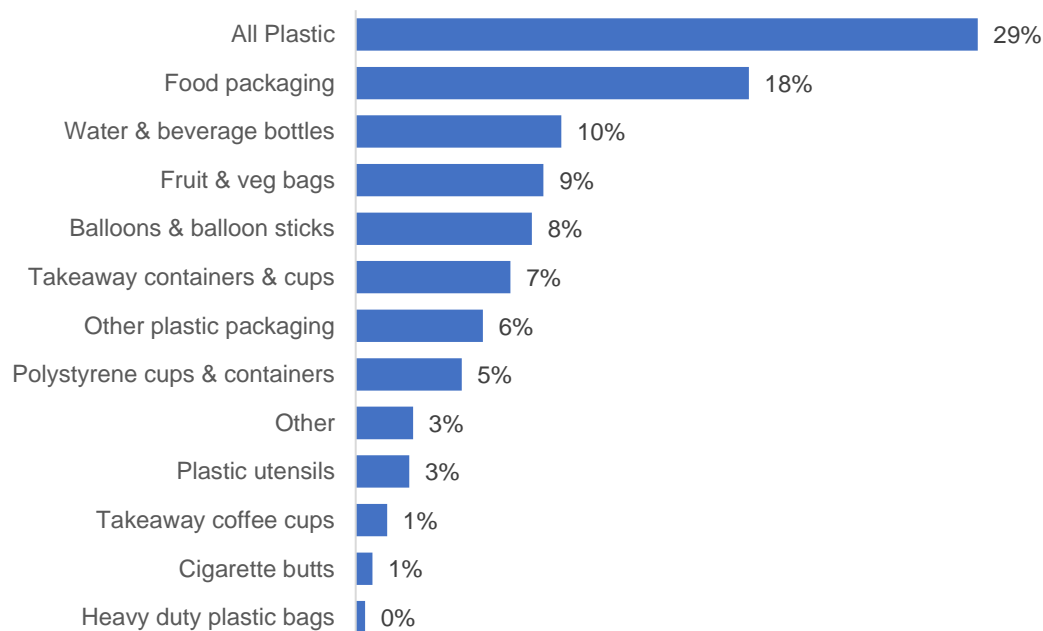
**Table 1: Weighting factors**

Ranking of single-use plastic item	Weighting factor applied
1 <sup>st</sup> priority	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> priority	4
3 <sup>rd</sup> priority	3
4 <sup>th</sup> priority	2
5 <sup>th</sup> priority	1



**Figure 26: Ranking of single-use plastic items based on weighted responses**

There is strong support for a range of other single-use plastic items to be banned in Queensland, with approximately 78% of survey respondents choosing to nominate a range of items. Nominated items are shown in Figure 27 and include several of the five items already identified in the previous question (i.e. coffee cups, thick reusable plastic bags, and balloon sticks).



**Figure 27: Other single-use plastic items nominated by respondents for action**



## Conclusion

The public consultation found that there was overwhelming support for banning single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups at the same time as other single-use plastic items. Although the retailer consultation did not demonstrate as great a level of support as the public consultation, both actions were still well supported.

The Bill introduced into parliament on 3 December 2020 includes a proposed ban on straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. The support for banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups is consistent with the support shown for banning these items, as evidenced during the earlier consultation on the single-use plastics ban, and the submissions made to the parliamentary committees on both occasions that the Bill was introduced.

The Bill provides the legislative authority for the ban. It also provides for further items to be considered a banned single-use plastic item after consultation with the public, based upon the results. The specific consultation on EPS takeaway food containers and cups supports its inclusion, either in the Bill or in future regulation.

Evidence supporting this is provided through:

- the consultation having occurred on banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021
- the ban shown to be supported through the results of the consultation and provided in this consultation report
- the ban being supported by submissions to two parliamentary committees, NRAIDEC and the Health and Environment Committee
- the public has shown strong support for banning EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the previous consultation on the broader proposal to ban single-use plastic items, as reported in the *Single-use plastic products ban – Full consultation report*, tabled in the Queensland Parliament on 15 July 2020
- NRAIDEC recommending the inclusion of EPS takeaway food containers in the first tranche of the ban (recommendation 2 in report No. 8 of the 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament tabled on 28 August 2020).

The legislation introducing the ban is to be reviewed two years after its commencement in order to evaluate the efficacy of the ban in meeting the objective of reducing single-use plastic usage and litter.

The Queensland Government will seek to continue consultation with the Queensland public to identify future actions to address problematic plastic pollution and waste and deliver upon the actions identified in *Tackling Plastic Pollution – Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan*.

## Appendix 1 – Targeted Consultation Stakeholder Advisory Group and Inter-Departmental Committee

### Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group

Australian Food and Grocery Council	Boomerang Alliance
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland	Council on The Ageing Queensland
Local Government Association of Queensland	Master Grocers Association
National Retail Association	Queensland Disability Advisory Council
Queensland Hotels Association	Queensland Tourism Industry Council
Restaurant and Catering Industry Association of Australia	World Wildlife Fund

### Members of the Inter-Departmental Committee

Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors	Department of Education
Department of Employment, Small Business and Training	Department of Environment and Science (host)
Department of Housing and Public Works	Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development
Department of Justice and Attorney-General	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Queensland Corrective Services	Queensland Health
Queensland Treasury	