



More single-use plastic items getting the flick

The Queensland Government is taking action to fight plastic waste and pollution with more single-use plastic items to be banned.

Consultation with the community, industry and businesses has shown strong support for these items to be banned from 1 September 2023:

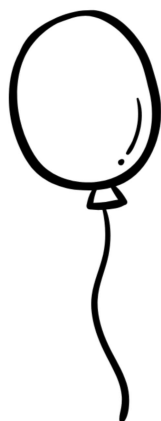
- cotton buds with plastic stems
- expanded polystyrene loose packaging
- releasing helium balloons into the air
- plastic microbeads in rinseable personal care and cleaning products.

To further encourage sustainable practices, a minimum reusability standard will be introduced for heavyweight plastic shopping bags at the same time.

Many retailers and households have already taken steps to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics, and together, we can continue to build on this positive momentum.

[More information](#)

No more lighter-than-air balloon releases



From 1 September this year, releasing lighter than air (helium) balloons into the air in Queensland will be banned.

Helium balloons can travel long distances, often ending up in waterways where they may choke or be eaten by wildlife such as turtles and sea birds. Balloon string or foil attachments can also entangle wildlife.

The sale, purchase and supply of helium balloons is not being banned, just make sure they don't escape into the environment.

To mark your special occasions, consider sustainable alternatives to helium balloons such as bubbles, kites, bunting or streamers.

[More information](#)

Food and garden organic waste collections for South East Queensland

The Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic Garden Organic (South East Queensland) (GROW FOGO SEQ) fund has been introduced to provide support to South East Queensland councils to implement or expand kerbside food organic and garden organic collection services.

Organic waste makes up around half of what Queenslanders throw away each week in their red lid kerbside bin. Diverting organic material from landfill presents many environmental and economic benefits, from significantly reducing landfill methane emissions to generating valuable new products such as compost.



[More information about the GROW FOGO \(SEQ\) fund.](#)

Grants to grow vibrant green spaces and community gardens



Through the Community Sustainability Action grant program, the Queensland Government is funding 42 community groups and organisations with \$900,000 to revitalise neglected and unused areas into vibrant green spaces.

These grants, ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000, will allow community-driven initiatives to repurpose abandoned spaces, creating opportunities for residents to grow their own produce and transform their neighbourhoods.

Projects include the installation of composting and recycling infrastructure at community facilities, the restoration and rehabilitation of local green spaces, and the establishment or expansion of suburban community gardens.

These initiatives rejuvenate unused spaces while promoting sustainability and strengthening a sense of community.

[More information](#)



Bagged recyclables are not for recycling bins.

Keep your recycling loose when it goes into your yellow lid bin.

Plastic bags can't be recycled through your yellow lid bin.

Funding and grants

Find out about the latest assistance that is available for waste resource and recovery activities.

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