

Beyond Cups: Challenging single-use plastics

The Queensland Government is acting against single-use plastics with the 'Beyond Cups' innovation challenge. The challenge aims to support sustainable solutions to transform the way we make, reuse and recycle common items like takeaway cups and lids, and bowls made from similar materials.

The state's leading innovators and entrepreneurs have submitted their solutions and are being assessed by a panel of experts.

Successful companies will have a chance to join a bootcamp, potentially leading to a commercial readiness program and financial support to implement their proof-of-concept projects.

The Queensland Government has provided up to \$500,000 in funding, with additional support from industry partners.



[Follow the progress of the challenge here.](#)

Plastic Free July



You can be part of [Plastic Free July](#) by choosing to refuse single-use plastics. From using a reusable coffee cup to hosting a plastic free event, every step makes a big difference.

The Queensland Government continues to work towards banning additional single-use plastic items. From September this year the following items will be added to the existing ban in Queensland:

- ▶ cotton buds with plastic stems
- ▶ expanded polystyrene loose packaging (peanut style packing)
- ▶ plastic microbeads in rinseable personal care and cleaning products
- ▶ the release of lighter-than-air balloons.

In addition, a mandate on minimum reusability standards for heavyweight plastic shopping bags will be introduced.

[More information on how we are tackling plastic waste.](#)

Changes to clean earth disposal at landfills

From July 1 2023, the levy exemption previously granted for clean earth will be removed.

Clean earth is one of the most commonly disposed waste types, however it is a valuable resource that can be used in other ways.

Following the removal of the exemption, clean earth will be subject to the general waste levy rate of the corresponding levy zone.



This policy change aims to incentivise businesses and industry to develop the necessary capacity and processes to divert this resource away from landfill. It also provides an opportunity to explore alternative methods and innovative approaches for using clean earth, benefiting both the environment and business operations.

[Read the frequently asked questions on the revised clean earth disposal regulations here.](#)

Exciting upgrades unveiled at Visy's recycling facility

Visy's recycling facility on Gibson Island has received a \$48 million upgrade, thanks to a \$16 million investment from the Queensland Jobs Fund.

The project has created over a hundred jobs during construction and added 11 new green collar positions on-site. The upgrade includes a cutting-edge paper optical sorting plant and an enhanced embedded energy facility, diverting an additional 39,000 tonnes of material from landfills annually.

These advancements align with sustainability goals and support a circular economy. Visy is also investing \$700 million in expanding its recycling and remanufacturing operations across Queensland, with upcoming facilities set to create over 100 ongoing jobs.

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