

Single-use plastics bans

Frequently asked questions for community groups and events

Can we still supply takeaway coffee?

Yes. Takeaway coffees can still be served. Community groups can use disposable coffee cups made from lined paperboard that are certified as compostable, and paperboard lids. Remind and encourage your community to bring their own reusable cups

If we aren't selling the food or beverage, can we still serve using banned items?

No. The Plan for Plastics bans apply to all items, whether they are provided free, sold, or part of a fundraising activity. Check the [Information for community groups fact sheet](#) for steps to ensure your group complies with the bans.



What's the difference between takeaway and eat-in food?

Eat-in food is intended to be eaten at the premises where it is supplied, including restaurants, food courts, markets or anywhere food is typically consumed on the premises.

- Takeaway food is typically consumed soon, away from the premises, after purchase without any
- further preparation, ingredients or components.

Food is **not** considered takeaway food (and therefore its packaging is not included in the ban) when:

- it is typically used as an **ingredient or component** of another dish (e.g. olives, cheese, salami, sauce, dip, a plain bread roll)
- it needs **further preparation, cooling or heating** before being consumed (e.g. a cold meat pie)
- it is **not typically consumed whole or in one sitting** (e.g. a multi-serve tub of yoghurt, multi-pack of cookies or bread rolls, bulk pack of fruit pieces, large cake).

What's the difference between pre-packaged or pre-packed food?

A pre-packaged food or beverage product arrives at the premises fully enclosed in a container or packaging. It is not removed from this packaging before being supplied to the end consumer, for example, a sandwich, salad or yoghurt made and packaged at a bulk food manufacturer and then delivered to be placed on the shelf. The ban does not apply in this instance. Please consider the most appropriate packaging for your circumstances and avoid using plastic where possible.

Pre-packed takeaway food is prepared in advance of an order or selection onsite, placed into foodware and put on display for later selection. For example, pre-packed takeaway food is a salad packed on the premises and placed on display for a customer to purchase later. Plastic lids and windows may still be used for pre-packed food to so customers can see what they are selecting.

For pre-packed food, the packaging base must comply with the ban, but the lid or window can contain plastic, if desired. However, if the takeaway food was only packed following an order or request from a customer, then the whole item (lid, window and base) must comply with the ban.

What else can I use instead of single-use plastic items?

There are many alternatives that can be used instead of single-use plastic items such as:

- Party decorations – non-plastic and reusable party and event decorations like bunting are available as alternatives to balloon releases.
- Celebrations – bubbles, flags, kites and flowers. Memorials could include planting trees, floating flowers, candles and music as alternatives to balloon releases.
- Dinnerware – reusable plates and bowls made from stainless steel, ceramics, silicone, bamboo or heavier plastics. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) paper, cardboard, sugarcane, bagasse, aluminium foil and bamboo.
- Cutlery and stirrers – reusable cutlery made from stainless steel, bamboo, silicone and heavier plastics. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) paper, wood and bamboo.
- Cups and bowls – washable and reusable cups that are made from glass, stainless steel, ceramics, silicone, bamboo or heavier plastics. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) lined paperboard certified as biodegradable.
- Straws – reusable drinking straws made from stainless steel, bamboo, silicone, glass and heavier reusable plastics. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) wheat and bamboo.
- Carry bags – bags made from poly-fabric, cottons, jute, bamboo, hessian, bamboo and nylon. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) paper bags. Bags can also be replaced with boxes and trolleys, or goods can be carried by hand.
- Food and beverage containers – washable and reusable food containers made from glass, stainless steel, ceramic and silicone. Single-use disposable options such as (but not limited to) paper, cardboard, sugarcane, bagasse, aluminium foil and bamboo.

