

Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020

In September 2020, South Australian Parliament passed the *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*. This legislation is the first of its kind in Australia and a positive step towards avoiding waste.

Clubs are an integral part of the food and hospitality industry in South Australia.

Your Club will play an important role by avoiding waste and offering sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic food service items.

TIMELINE (most recent changes first)

We are now gearing up for the next phase to be implemented 1 September 2024.

Of most relevance to our Members are the bans covering:

Single-use plastic beverage containers (including coffee cups)

Single-use plastic beverage containers (including coffee cups) offer convenience for consumers, but these items and their attachments (such as lids and beverage plugs) have limited recovery and recycling pathways, creating confusion for consumers. In order to tackle plastic pollution, business and industry must transition to more reusable and certified compostable cups, lids and beverage plugs.



Expanded polystyrene (EPS) consumer food and beverage containers

Expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers were prohibited from sale, supply and distribution in South Australia on 1 March 2022. Other expanded polystyrene (EPS) consumer food and beverage containers in the market (e.g. gelato tubs) will be removed and complete the approach intended for this type of plastic. EPS trays used for meat, fruit and other food items for retail sale will be phased out.



Single-use plastic food containers

Fibre and other certified compostable, or non-plastic recyclable or reusable alternatives can replace single-use plastic food containers with various alternatives already available and in use.



Plastic confetti and plastic balloon sticks/ties

Plastic confetti causes preventable damage to the environment and will be phased out in South Australia. The interpretation of what constitutes confetti will be defined in regulations to follow.

Plastic balloon sticks/ties will be phased out.



Other items to be phased out are:

Plastic Barrier Bags

These will be phased out, enabling the market to switch to compostable alternatives, certified to Australian Standards for compostability [AS4736-2006 and AS5810-2010]

Thick supermarket or boutique-style plastic bags

There are alternatives for these and the timing of this ban allows retailers to source alternatives and inform customers.

Plastic bread tags

Plastic bread tags can be replaced with non-plastic alternatives, as has already been introduced by at least one major bread producer.

Earlier Phases

September 2023

Single-use plastic bowls and plates were phased out, as well as plastic pizza savers.

March 2022

From 1 March 2022, expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers were prohibited from sale, supply or distribution in South Australia.

Oxo-degradable plastic products were also be prohibited from sale, supply or distribution as well as manufacture or production in the state. Oxo-degradable plastic products have additives which enable the plastic to break down into tiny fragments ('microplastics') which do not completely decompose.

March 2021

From 1 March 2021, single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers (including bioplastic options) were prohibited from the sale, supply or distribution in South Australia.

There is an exemption for the sale, supply and distribution of single-use plastic straws for people with a disability or medical needs.

There is an exemption for single-use plastic straws attached to products such as juice or milk boxes to be excluded from the list of prohibited items.

REGULATOR

Compliance and enforcement in South Australia will be by the Environment Protection Authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Replace The Waste](#)

Government of SA information site

[Plastic Free SA](#)

Informative site including explanation on certification and labelling of products and 'greenwashing' where ambiguous claims and environmental imagery is used to misguide your purchases

[Green Industries SA](#)

For alternatives, our Corporate Partners at HCH - HOSPITALITY CATERING HARDWARE - have a wide selection of BioPak products available.

Check out the range [HERE>>](#)