

BACKGROUND

The foundation for this policy is based on significant evidence that:

- Plastic pollution is a major cause of global environmental degradation and species decline
- The pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with Single Use Plastics use place an inequitable burden on future generations
- The production of plastics relies on non-renewable resources
- Plastic pollution persists in the environment and has detrimental effects on human health
- There is growing community concern on the use of Single Use Plastics, and
- Viable alternatives exist to replace single use plastic products with reusable or compostable items.

OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of this policy are to ensure that–

- 1 All Council run events on Council land and public spaces adhere to a Single Use Plastic Policy
- 2 Event organisers must prohibit the sale and/or distribution of single use plastic products and single use such as sachets, polystyrene, plastic bags, plastic straws and/or balloons

POLICY STATEMENT

Council will take a leadership role in the elimination of Single Use Plastics by eliminating single use plastic at events and markets, advocating for legislative change, and influencing and enabling responsible consumption practices throughout the community.

This policy applies to all Wollongong City Council employees and contractors planning, organising, supporting or approving events for Council events on Council land.

Plastic products required to meet health and safety requirements or where there is no other practical alternative product or distribution method available are exempt.

Council officers will support and assist organisations or individuals organising an event to comply with this policy, however, if there is ongoing poor adherence to this policy, officers may recommend that these events not be supported or approved by Council.

Events on Council managed land will need to commit to comply with the policy before Council sponsorship for that event is approved.

POLICY REVIEW

This Management policy forms part of the four-year rolling policy review schedule for Management policies and will be reviewed within four years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Definitions

- **Event:** Any planned activity where any structure (permanent or temporary), open area, road way, fenced or unfenced area will contain a number of persons greater than that normally found in that area or location at one time. This activity may affect the location surrounding the area prior to, during or after the event.
- **Civic Event:** All events that are organised by Council staff.
- **Plastic:** non-biodegradable polyethylene made from petrochemical compounds.
- **Single Use Plastic Bag:** A plastic bag, polybag, or pouch is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film, nonwoven fabric or plastic textile.
- **Single Use Plastic Products:** Any disposable plastic material including balloons, straws, plastic sleeves/plates/cutlery and packaging such as polystyrene food containers

Implementation

Wollongong City Council will implement this policy according to the following mechanisms:

- Implementing responsible procurement practices and influencing supply chains
- Lobbying all levels of government to drive policy change and ban single use plastic bags
- Providing leadership in the community through policy and practice
- Influencing the business and retail community to provide products and services that do not rely on Single Use Plastics
- Building capacity within the community for change in social practices via:
 - Promoting alternatives to single use plastic
 - Researching and developing strategies to enable the community to live without Single Use Plastics
- Ensuring all Council run events on Council land and public spaces adhere to the Single Use Plastic Policy

Policy

Organisations or individuals organising events conducted on Council land, in buildings or on roads managed by Council must:

- Refrain from distributing single use plastic bags eg participant event bag
- Refrain from using single use plastic bags and plastic packaging for promotional purposes
- Refrain from the distribution of straws
- Refrain from balloon use and distribution
- Avoid all unnecessary plastic packaging and plastic single use plates and cutlery
- Re-use event materials where possible (including event signage and promotional banners and flags)
- Play a key role in educating and guiding their event audience on plastic wise practices, including promoting re-usable bags and water bottles
- Provide a waste management plan that demonstrates an “Avoid, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” commitment
- Ensure that the event or market site is left litter free and the site is returned to pre-event condition
- Any site remediation required will be at the expense of the event organiser

SUMMARY SHEET

Responsible Division	Environmental Strategy & Planning
Date adopted by Executive Management Committee	25 September 2018
Date of previous adoptions	
Date of next review	25 September 2022
Responsible Manager	Manager Environmental Strategy & Planning
Authorised by	Director Planning & Environment