



City of Ryde

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# **Reduce Single-Use Plastics Policy**

# REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS POLICY

## Document Version Control

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## Change History

Version	Review Date	Author	Reason for Change
1.0	30/4/19	Business Infrastructure Department	Initial Creation of Document adopted by Council on 30/4/2019 Trim D19/42065
1.1	April 2021	Business Infrastructure Department	Policy reviewed, no substantive changes. Updated to new template

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## 1. Policy Statement

City of Ryde Council demonstrates leadership to improve and protect the health of our waterways and environment by banning plastic straws and balloons, phasing out single-use plastics and educating the community and businesses to enable change.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all City of Ryde operational activities and Council-sponsored events and impacts on the community and businesses in the Ryde local government area.

## 3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate leadership by reducing the usage of single-use plastic in the local government area. This will be achieved by:

1. Prohibiting the use of plastic drinking straws and balloons in all Council Operations and Council-sponsored Events
2. Prohibiting the use of plastic bottles (alternative water sources must be considered), ready-to-eat plastic serving containers and utensils, and single-use plastic bags at Council Events
3. Phasing out the use of plastic bottles, single-use plastic serving containers and utensils, and single-use plastic bags, at all Council operations and Council sponsored events with a final ban date of 29 February 2020
4. Minimising the environment impact of any products, supplies and promotional materials used in all Council Operations and Council-sponsored Events
5. Providing leadership in the community and local businesses to reduce the use of single-use plastics, particularly plastic straws and single-use plastic bags within the local government area through changes to policy and practice, and developing an education plan and resources to assist

## 4. Principles / Responsibilities

The principles underpinning the policy are that:

- Plastic does not biodegrade, instead it breaks into small micro-plastics;
- Plastic pollution detrimentally impacts on the health of our waterways, oceans, ecosystems and on marine life;
- The pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with single-use plastic use place an inequitable burden on future generations and does not align with principles of ecological sustainable development;

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- Single-use plastics, which are used abundantly and only for a brief periods of time, add significantly to the waste stream and to the amount of plastic pollution in the environment; and
- The waste hierarchy should govern the use and disposal of resources: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and then dispose.

## 5. Implementation

The intent of the policy will be delivered through the following mechanisms:

- The development of an action plan and education program focused on Council, the community and local businesses to influence change in social practices;
- The development of waste-wise event guidelines and a preferred supplier list for events;
- Promoting alternatives to single-use plastics to assist in influencing the business and retail community to provide products and services that do not rely on single use plastics;
- Implementing responsible procurement practise and influencing supply chains;
- Ensuring outcomes align with Council policies, such as the Sustainable Procurement Policy, and that guidelines include requirements leading towards the elimination of single-use plastic in Ryde LGA.

## 6. References and Legislation

- Local Government Act, 1993
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, 2007

### Definitions

- **Single-use plastics** include any petroleum-based disposable plastic and polystyrene items such as straws, balloons, bags, sachets, cutlery and food and drink packaging designed to be used once and then discarded.

### Exemptions

- Exemptions in relation to certain items may be required that represent a significant WHS risk until alternative options can be sourced.

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## 7. Review Process and Endorsement

- This policy should be reported to Council annually.

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