

REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS POLICY

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.

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.

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

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, eco-systems 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;
- 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

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- The waste hierarchy should govern the use and disposal of resources: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and then dispose.

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.

References - 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.

Review Process and Endorsement

This Policy should be reviewed annually and endorsed by Council.

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