



POLICY NO: CCC045

SINGLE USE PLASTIC POLICY

August 2019

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Single Use Plastic Policy

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Single Use Plastic Policy

POLICY SUMMARY

This Policy sets out Central Coast Council's (Council) intention to show leadership in the elimination of single use plastics, advocating for legislative change and educating the community on environmentally responsible alternatives.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. To provide leadership in the elimination of single use plastics, advocating for legislative change and educating the community on environmentally responsible alternatives.
2. To build capacity within the community for change in social practices, via:
 - Promoting alternatives to single use plastics
 - Ensuring that all public events and functions held on Council property and public open space promote and practice waste avoidance principles by:
 - Minimising the amount of waste generated
 - Where possible, all food ware used at events such as plates, food containers, cups, cutlery and wrapping should be reusable or biodegradable.
 - Event organisers must ensure that no balloons are used, sold or given out at events.

POLICY BACKGROUND

Australians consume large volumes of single use plastics, which are commonly disposed of to landfill or otherwise become mobile in the environment.

There is a significant body of scientific evidence on the global impacts of plastics on the environment. Plastics are highly visible and mobile in the environment and can impact on both urban and natural ecosystems, through entanglement and ingestion by either land or marine life.

The production of plastics relies on non-renewable resources.

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The achievement of a reduction in the use of single use plastics across the Central Coast is consistent with Central Coast Council's Community Strategic Plan E3 under Environmental resources for the future - Reduce littering, minimise waste to landfill and educate to strengthen positive environmental behaviours.

GENERAL

The production and use of single use plastics is increasing and is causing significant environmental pollution on a global scale. Council has an opportunity to review its own use and procurement of single use plastics and to provide leadership to the community.

Council will implement the Policy according to the following mechanisms:

- Review Council's use of single use plastics and research alternatives
- Implement Council's Procurement Policy and Procedures by avoiding products containing single use plastics when alternatives are available and appropriate
- Implement Council's Sustainable Event Management Policy to limit the use of single use plastics at events held on Council property where possible
- Lobby all levels of government to drive policy change and ban single use plastics
- Engage with the community on alternatives to single use plastics

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURES

Council will support and assist organisations and / or individuals organising an event to comply with this policy, however if there is ongoing poor adherence to this Policy, Council officers may recommend that these events not be supported or approved by Council. Event organisers must monitor their event and collect evidence including photos that illustrate adherence to the Policy, suggestions for improvements and submit to Council at the conclusion of the event. It is expected that event organisers actively promote to all stall holders, event staff and participants the promotion of alternatives to single use plastics and waste avoidance principles.

A single use plastic policy guide will be produced by Council and will be distributed to event organisers holding events on Council managed public land and buildings. This shall be read in conjunction with the Sustainable Event Management Policy.

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Exemptions to this policy will be made for valid health, wellbeing or safety reasons, or where there is no practical alternative or option currently available. All exemptions require prior written approval from Council.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used in this policy:

Code of Conduct means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council.

Council means Central Coast Council.

Events for the purpose of this policy means organised activities open to attendance by members of the general public (whether by payment or not) on Council public land or in Council public buildings with over one hundred attendees. Events include; cultural celebration, public rally, street parade, fun run, community festival, music festival, sporting event or circus.

Single Use Plastic means any disposable plastic and polystyrene items including but not limited to straws, balloons, bags, food / drink packaging, cutlery and plastic sleeves.

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

BREACHES

Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer.

Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes for breaches of the Code of Conduct as detailed in Council's Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years. Any recognised changes to relevant legislation will activate an immediate review of the policy to ensure it remains current.

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RELATED RESOURCES

The following legislation applies to the operation of this Policy:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

Associated Central Coast Council Documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct
- Equity, Diversity and Respect Policy
- Sustainable Event Management Policy
- Procurement Policy and Procedures

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