COUNCIL OF CAPITAL CITY LORD MAYORS

Submission to the inquiry into plastic pollution

FINAL 22 December 2022

CITIES MATTER

Introduction

The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) appreciates the opportunity of submitting the following to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water.

The CCCLM consists of the Lord Mayors of Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney, and the Chief Minister of the ACT. Together, we welcome the announcement of this inquiry. Capital city governments recognise the high use of plastic items and packaging in our cities. Most capital cities are introducing innovative ways to avoid and responsibly manage the waste and recycling materials generated by plastic products. An outline of these initiatives is included in Appendix 1 attached to this submission.

The CCCLM congratulates the Minister for the Environment and Water on her announcement that Australia has joined the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution and the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, demonstrating Australia's commitment to end plastic pollution by 2040. Australia has a significant opportunity in demonstrating great leadership in tackling this international issue.

We acknowledge that Minister highlights that plastic pollution is a global problem requiring global solutions – we would add that capital city governments are a critical partner in the delivery of many of the solutions to meet Australia's commitment to reducing consumption of plastics.

We would welcome the opportunity of discussing our submission further.

Basil Zempilas
Lord Mayor of Perth
Chair - Council of Capital City Lord Mayors

Summary of recommendations

- The plastics management framework under the *National Plastics Plan* would benefit from stronger targeted actions that deliver significant and measurable change and should consider the appropriateness of compostable plastics as a solution.
- Progress the development of nationally harmonised definitions to support the phase out of problematic single use plastic and to reform the regulation of packaging by 2025, to ensure that all packaging available in Australia is designed to be recovered, reused, recycled and reprocessed safely in line with circular economy principles.
- Where voluntary measures implemented by industry prove to be unsuccessful, the Australian Government should consider the introduction of other mechanisms (e.g., regulatory or fiscal measures) to reduce problematic plastic waste.
- Consider a national approach to dealing with composite materials such as plastic lined paper items, including recycling technology or extended producer responsibility.
- Australian Government action needs to support the growth of end markets for recovered materials, secure demand for materials and prevent import of new problematic plastic items.
- Consider introduction of a national producer responsibility scheme.
- Introduce nationally consistent messaging across sectors to improve consumer awareness.
- Encourage Asia-Pacific neighbours' participation in global initiatives.
- Consideration for recycling methods for other forms of plastic waste (other than packaging materials).

Response to inquiry questions

1. The environmental impacts of plastic pollution particularly in oceans and waterways

It has been well documented that plastic items produced from petrochemical processes can remain in the natural environment for lengthy periods and do not decompose, they simply break into micro-particulates that can still be absorbed into oceanic food-chains and spread. Newer (first-generation) plastic alternatives such as bioplastics can be more safely absorbed back into the natural environment, given they are produced to enable natural decomposition. Whilst the origin of plastics will differ in the length of time they remain in the natural environment, discarding human produced material into the natural environment inevitably leads to physical harm of aquatic animals (suffocation or ingestion of foreign material), degrading of habitats (smothering of food sources) and increased toxicity in the natural state causing insidious health and population decline of species.

Observations from city councils' stormwater systems identify soft plastics (e.g., chip packets, plastic shopping bags) as significant pollutants due in part to their light-weight nature which enables them to be easily transported by wind and once become wet, remain in watercourses or are transported via the stormwater drainage network. The introduction of Container Deposit Schemes in most States and Territories (schemes are planned for 2023 commencement in both Tasmania and Victoria) has resulted in less plastic bottle pollution, presumably due to higher resource recovery rates.

Soft plastics mix with gross organics and are captured by stormwater water quality management devices (gross pollutant traps etc), making it more difficult to compost and divert this waste stream from landfill.

The impact of international plastic waste on Australian shores is highlighted in the Charles Darwin University's article *Plastic waste choking Northern Territory's most pristine and culturally sensitive areas*[1].

2. The effectiveness of Australia's plastics management framework under the National Plastics Plan and related policies to reduce plastic pollution particularly in oceans and waterways

The plastics management framework under the *National Plastics Plan* would benefit from stronger targeted actions that deliver significant and measurable change. Voluntary agreements are not resulting in a shift in plastic packaging being recycled[2], in 2019-20 only 16% of plastics were recycled - a long way from meeting the 2025 target of 70%.

The *National Plastics Plan* should consider the appropriateness of compostable plastics as a solution due to State/Territory governments varying capacity to process compostables. For example, the NSW government has reversed acceptance of compostable packaging under its resource recovery framework, whilst South Australia has its advanced processing infrastructure and well-established organics recycling pathways.

[1] https://www.cdu.edu.au/news/plastic-waste-choking-one-northern-territory%E2%80%99s-most-pristine-areas-and-culturally-significant-areas
[2] APCO Collective Impact Report 2021 https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Collective%20Impact%20Report

South Australia's *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020* is a positive step towards avoiding waste and protecting marine life in a considered and phased 'road- map' approach. The legislation is effective because it acknowledges the convenience culture and balances economic impact, creating time for alternative supply chains to be established, while delivering tangible shifts away from single-use plastics to reusable, recyclable or compostable items.

Most States and Territories[3] prohibit the sale, supply or distribution of single-use plastic drinking straws, cutlery and beverage stirrers, and include, or planning to include items such as polystyrene containers and oxo-degradable plastic products.

The Victorian Government is proceeding to standardise household recycling across Victoria[4]. Compostable packaging (other than caddy liners) is currently on the "do not accept" list for FOGO services in the draft standard bin contents list. Therefore, compostable packaging can only be accepted via general waste streams or within residential home composting systems.

Many businesses have moved to cardboard based products to serve takeaway food in response to consumer perceptions regarding plastic, however as they often are still lined with plastic or other materials to insulate, they are not accepted for recycling and therefore still end up in landfill and could have a greater environmental footprint than plastic containers made from a single polymer. While there is an Australian Standard for certified compostable materials, there is low consumer awareness of the certified seedling logo. Greater awareness would help drive manufacturing and brand accountability to transition to fully compostable materials instead of 'wishful recycling.' There are no penalties applied to manufacturers that position their product to appear compostable when it is not.

Plastic packaging can in many instances protect goods and increase the shelf life of food products[5]. The focus should be placed on reducing excess packaging and materials and ensuring that what is produced can be reused or recycled. Incentives could be applied to extend manufacturers' and producers' drive of the use of materials at the highest demand level and within the same industry that produces the waste, for example, soft plastics chip packets made back into food grade packaging. The solid waste levy is not effective for driving change in low weight, high volume materials like soft plastics.

The products available to buy and use today in Australia are increasingly more complex and made from different composite materials or contain electronic or electrical components. A high proportion of consumer products are also not designed to be reused, recycled or repaired and most packaging items are discarded after a short period of use.

Textiles are a growing waste stream often overlooked, yet a significant proportion are made from fossil fuel derived materials and contribute to deposits of microplastics in our oceans and make up approximately seven per cent of the domestic red bin waste stream.

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[3] Which Australian states are banning single-use plastics? - Australian Marine Conservation Society

[4] https://www.vic.gov.au/Standardising-household-recycling-across-Victoria

[5] https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/plastic-packaging

Recommendations

- Progress the development of nationally harmonised definitions to support the phase out of problematic single use plastic and to reform the regulation of packaging by 2025, to ensure that all packaging available in Australia is designed to be recovered, reused, recycled and reprocessed safely in line with circular economy principles.
- Where voluntary measures implemented by industry prove to be unsuccessful, the Australian Government should consider the introduction of other mechanisms (e.g., regulatory or fiscal measures) to reduce problematic plastic waste

3. The effectiveness of the Australian Government's engagement with states, territories, industry and non-government organisations to reduce plastic pollution particularly in oceans and waterways

Whilst the Australian government's announcement of the $250 million Recycling Modernisation fund is welcomed, capital city governments seek consultation and engagement to help understand and match opportunities to local projects. This would also provide capacity to demonstrate meeting the overall objectives of the fund.

As highlighted in recent media outlets following the recent collapse of REDcycle soft plastics recycling[6, 7], recycling systems are not facilitating a circular economy outcome consistently across all plastic packaging material types that retains resources at their highest value. This is evidenced in all the 2021 *APCO Collective Impact Report*[8] that shows only 16% of plastic packaging in Australia is being recycled or composted against a 2025 target of 70%.

The resource recovery sector requires a more holistic review to analyse material flows and identify where materials are leaking from the system and how to avoid it occurring. Local government can assist with providing detailed operational information and data regarding resident behaviours, collection of recycling, logistics and contamination levels.

The CCCLM is encouraged by recent announcement by the ACCC allowing major supermarkets forming a Soft Plastics Taskforce to explore solutions to address the impacts of the REDcycle suspension of its recycling program.[9]

Collaboration with both product designers and the recycling and resource recovery industry is necessary to ensure that design standards are fit for purpose with clear pathways to resource recovery and recycling at end of life are available. To build the circular economy, CCCLM considers investment in plastic packaging as a priority, this would ensure that material is retained at the highest value for the longest time and fed into ongoing daily high demand markets (food packaging into food packaging). As an example, aseptic packaging is often used to store ultra-high treated (UHT) food, resulting in products suitable for shelf storage for more than six months. This method of packaging food is widely used across Australia and despite the recycling technology existing on almost every continent to recycle this type of packaging there is no such facility in Australia.

6 https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-17/recycle-collapse-proof-plastic-recycling-system-broken/101666054
7 https://theconversation.com/redcycles-collapse-is-more-proof-that-plastic-recycling-is-a-broken-system-194528
8 https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Collective%20Impact%20Report
9 https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/supermarkets-can-cooperate-in-soft-plastics-taskforce-after-redcycle-pauses-recycling-program

Recommendations

- Consider a national approach to dealing with composite materials such as plastic lined paper items, including recycling technology or extended producer responsibility.
- Australian Government action needs to support the growth of end markets for recovered materials, secure demand for materials and prevent import of new problematic plastic items.

France provides an example of a successful producer responsibility scheme. Under the French legislation, producers must set up a collective Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) or manage their waste from their products through an equivalent scheme. Producers are required to a pay contribution, called an "eco contribution", to the PRO to fund the management of waste generated by their products. The fees paid depend on the weight of packaging per material type plus a flat unit fee based on the number of packaging units. The PRO does not collect or manage waste itself but funds existing services such as kerbside collection. Recently, France's packaging regulation has captured waste from online shopping sales as well to ensure collection is also financed.

4. The effectiveness of community campaigns to reduce plastic pollution particularly in oceans and waterways and encourage the use of alternative materials

Standard and consistent messaging nationally across sectors would assist in reducing consumer confusion.

5. Global initiatives underway to reduce plastic pollution particularly in oceans and waterways

The CCCLM is pleased that Australia will participate in the *High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution*[10] and the *New Plastics Economy Global Commitment*[11] which we hope will alleviate the amount of plastic pollution in oceans and waterways. We note that lack of representation of our Asia-Pacific neighbours, and recommend Australia plays a leadership role in encouraging their inclusion via diplomatic channels.

CCCLM supports the Australian Government continuing to advocate on behalf of all Australians for a strong legally binding international treaty on plastic pollution and to consider any impacts this may have at the city and regional level.

6. Any other relevant matter

- Consideration should be extended to other forms of plastic waste other than just packaging – for example, many e-waste items such as small household appliances, toys, power tools etc, are not currently included in the National Television Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS). These items are predominantly made from plastic and often the electrical component makes traditional recycling avenues difficult.
- See Appendix one – Capital City case studies

[10] https://hactoendplasticpollution.org/

[11] https://www.unep.org/new-plastics-economy-global-commitment

Submission to Inquiry into Plastic Pollution

– Appendix 1: Capital city case studies

ACT Government (Canberra)

The *Plastic Reduction Act 2021* (ACT) bans the supply of certain single-use plastic items and establishes a framework for banning more items in the future. The bans apply to all businesses, suppliers, community organisations, events and institutions.

The following single-use plastic items are already banned in the ACT:

- Since 2011:
  - Single-use plastic shopping bags at or below 35 micrometres in thickness.
- From 1 July 2021:
  - single-use plastic cutlery
  - single-use plastic stirrers
  - expanded polystyrene takeaway food and beverage containers.
- From 1 July 2022:
  - single-use plastic straws (with exemptions for those who need them)
  - cotton buds with plastic sticks
  - all oxo-degradable plastics.

The ACT Government continues to consult with Canberrans on additional single-use plastic items to potentially be banned in future, including a proposal to ban the following items from 1 July 2023:

- plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care, cosmetic and cleaning products
- expanded polystyrene products and packaging (with potential exemptions for white and brown goods)
- single-use plastic takeaway containers
- single-use plastic plates and bowls
- heavyweight and boutique plastic bags (greater than 35 microns thick).

Many events in Canberra, such as large community events, markets and music festivals have also gone above and beyond the requirements of existing bans by agreeing to eliminate even more plastic items.

The ACT Government has also released a draft ACT Circular Economy Strategy that sets the vision, strategic objectives and focus areas to take the first steps to making our economy more circular.

The draft Strategy has five focus areas:

- Food and organics
- Built environment
- Consumer goods
- Emerging and problematic waste streams
- Creating space to showcase our commitment to the circular economy

The Strategy is guided by three strategic objectives to support the transition to a circular economy, representing areas where the ACT Government would like to see action:

- Grow extended producer responsibility
- Grow markets for recovered materials and goods, and circular business models

City of Adelaide

The City of Adelaide's Resource Recovery Vision is to be the first city in Australia to achieve 'zero avoidable waste to landfill' ('zero-waste').

Approximately 10,000 residential, and 4,500 non-residential premises are serviced for waste and recycling by the City of Adelaide. An estimated 300,000 users visit the city daily, contributing to the need for public space waste management.

The City of Adelaide's *Resource Recovery (Organics, Recycling and Waste) Strategy 2020–2028* (the Strategy) provides a solid framework to redefine the concept of waste, improve resource recovery and build a circular economy in the City of Adelaide. The Strategy forges a new pathway through the development and delivery of forward-thinking, evidence-based programs and exceptional and timely service.

City of Adelaide is recognised as a leading city on climate action and environmental performance through CDP reporting, a global reporting and disclosure system for greenhouse emissions reduction (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project). Reporting to the CDP since 2016, the City of Adelaide has consistently scored in the leadership category. In addition, the City of Adelaide has been a carbon neutral organisation since 2019-20. In 2020-21 its organisational greenhouse gas emissions decreased significantly (~52%) due to a Power Purchase Agreement with Flow Power to procure renewable electricity for Council operations which commenced on 1 July 2020.

City of Adelaide in partnership with Green Industries SA (Council Modernisation Grant Program) recently installed bespoke multi-stream bins in Rundle Mall, South Australia's premier shopping destination attracting over 22 million visitors annually. Visitors can now put food waste and compostable packaging in the green bin, reducing organic material sent to landfill. This is the first time to scale that green bins have been placed in a public space.

Increasingly the community expects to be able to recycle and compost materials beyond their homes, and 2019 waste audits identified 61% of city street red waste bins were unrecovered resources (41% compostable) which could be diverted from landfill if systems were made available. For Rundle Mall this diversion is estimated to be 17 tonnes per annum and will increase as food and drink retailers adopt more compostable food packaging to meet the incremental requirements of the Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020. South Australia has an advanced composting industry with demand for product. This project will help inform how Councils might make effective organic recovery systems available to community in other public spaces and precincts.

City of Adelaide supports incremental legislative change to reduce plastics pollution like the South Australia's *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*, incentives and or grants that prioritise:

- continued push towards compostable and reusable products no later than 2025
- simplifying the consumer experience through system consistency at home, work, and play
- packaging labelling and bin colours aligned with Australian Standard waste stream colour code
- long term focused support and funding programs for small to medium businesses to prepare and simplify identification of solutions, reduce the financial impact of change, and promote further education around higher order waste and resource management.

Brisbane City Council

In *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017 – 2031*, Brisbane City Council (BCC) has a single waste target to **reduce domestic solid waste disposed to landfill to 250kg per person each year**.

Brisbane is the largest local government in Australia with 26 wards and 27 councillors, and a population of 1.26 million (as of June 2021).

BCC offers a wide range of waste services, programs for residents, all detailed at Clean and green Brisbane.

Specific to plastic waste:

- Fortnightly 240L kerbside recycling bin, which accepts a wide range of plastic containers and bottles
- Offer a free upgrade of the 240L recycling bin to a 360L size.
- Support the Queensland 10C container refund scheme across our waste programs.
- Four Resource Recovery Centres that accepts a range of hard plastic materials
- Encourage residents to reduce their plastic waste as a top priority.
- Reducing litter in Brisbane program, dedicated to keeping the streets, public spaces and waterways clean and litter-free. Part of this program includes litter clean-up kits that residents can borrow across Brisbane.
- Reducing waste in schools education program, that helps Brisbane schools to reduce their waste (including plastics).
- A number of recycling campaigns are in market throughout the year which includes plastic recycling messages.
- Support the Plastic Free July and the National Recycling Week with timely campaigns and initiatives.
- Undertake a series of waste audits across the three kerbside bins, public bins, and landfill site each year to inform future strategy, planning, policy, and programs.
- Until the temporary closure of REDcycle, BCC encouraged residents to return their soft plastics to Coles and Woolworths to be recycled.

City of Darwin

City of Darwin announced a ban of single use plastics on council land from the 1st of January 2019 including disposable coffee cups, smoothie cups, lids, straws, cutlery, stirrers, plates, bowls, takeaway containers and the deliberate release of helium balloons. The single use plastic ban includes conditions for stallholders seeking a council permit to operate at local markets and mobile food vans.

The City of Darwin Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 contains ambitious targets to significantly improve diversion from landfill rates, reduce contamination from kerbside bins and build the capacity for increased recycling and circular economy opportunities at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility.

Community engagement and education is a focus area for City of Darwin in transitioning communities towards alternatives to single use plastics. This has recently involved:

- waste audits to understand behaviours of different segments of the community, which then inform community waste education programs;
- working closely with Plastic free NT on education and support for businesses and their customers in making the switch away from single use plastics;
- upgrades of the Shoal Bay Waste Education Centre and development of curriculum linked waste education programs.

City of Hobart

The City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015-2030 aims to achieve zero waste to the Hobart Landfill by 2030. The city has been committed to implementing this strategy for several years and will be providing programs to increase recycling and reduce waste disposal. The Strategy contains 91 actions and identifies 8 key focus areas:

- Advocating for Change
- Finance
- Education and Engagement
- Organics
- Litter and Illegal Dumping
- Inert Waste
- City Waste and Innovation
- Programs and Services

Included in this policy was the introduction of a ban on single-use plastics within the city. On Monday 9 March 2020, the Hobart City Council resolved to enact the by-law banning the provision of single-use plastic takeaway food packaging and related items. Enforcement of the by-law commenced in 2021, following a period of trader and community education and awareness. It was anticipated that the introduction of the by-law will result in a 600 tonne annual reduction in single-use plastics to landfill. Takeaway packaging is a major contributor to the litter stream in Tasmania. Data from the Environmental Protection Authority Tasmania indicates that up to 50% of the litter stream is comprised of paper and plastic takeaway rubbish.

City of Melbourne

In 2019 the City of Melbourne developed the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, setting a vision for transitioning to zero waste to landfill. Since that time, new State legislation has been enacted setting an ambitious framework to implement a circular economy – an economy where resources are valued, used and reused efficiently, and only discarded when their materials have no further use.

The City of Melbourne has already made significant strides towards the goals set for 2030. These include:

- the adoption of the battery stewardship scheme
- the implementation of FOGO kerbside recycling system for all single unit dwellings
- a 6% reduction in household waste produced
- the inclusion in the City of Melbourne procurement policy 2021 of an environmental sustainability principle that mandates the use of materials that contain reclaimed resources.

These milestones have been achieved through collaboration with residents, visitors, business-owners and those who come to the city to work.

Plastic Pollution and Litter Prevention

Education

Community education is critical for changing behaviour. Raising awareness or “plastic literacy” for all plastic users on the correct use and disposal of plastic products is essential.

The State Government is investing in education by funding education-based projects through the Port Phillip Bay Fund. Recommending a multi-pronged approach including community organisations, mainstream media and formal education.

Councils Litter Environment Action Network (CLEAN) run by Melbourne Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) supports the activities of litter portfolio partners including Local Governments, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Environment Protection Authority, Sustainability Victoria, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, and Keep Australia Beautiful. CLEAN is a network forum of representatives of local and state governments, education and enforcement officers, water catchment management officers and waste management officers.

Organisations such as Keep Victoria Beautiful and Clean Up Australia facilitate programs for community volunteers, beach clean-up groups, friends groups, schools, businesses and Councils to provide educational resources, events and group learning opportunities of the impacts of incorrectly disposed plastic and waste.

The Victorian Government’s Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have recently announced a legislative ban of single use plastics, effective by February 2023. The aim of the initiative is to raise awareness of the issue of plastics and reduce the occurrence of plastic based litter entering the environment.

The introduction of the container deposit scheme in Victoria in mid-2023 will aim to reduce litter by attributing a 10c value to each container. It is projected that a 50% reduction in container litter will

occur as a result of the CDS, which is in line with what occurred in NSW when their scheme was introduced in 2018.

Enforcement

Enforcement of littering offences is an unfortunate component of the littering behaviour change process. For community members who do not follow correct litter disposal processes, or do not respond to education or communication messaging, enforcement becomes a key mechanism in reinforcing expectations of littering behaviour.

Enforcement of littering and dumped rubbish is undertaken by City of Melbourne On-Street Compliance Local Laws Officers under the Activities Local Law 2019, Environment Local Law 2019, Environment Protection Act 1970, and Tobacco Act 1987. In FY 2019/20, 4,905 litter infringements were issued.

Litter Infrastructure

Public Litter Infrastructure

City of Melbourne public litter bin infrastructure consists of fit-for-purpose public bins to support the community in disposing of litter correctly.

Public bins should be clean, well-maintained and site-specific, taking into account who uses a site and how they use it. Types of public litter bins in City of Melbourne include; 2,000 public litter bins, 230 public recycling bins and 550 cigarette butt bins, all of which are available in various sizes and aperture designs. 500 solar smart compaction public bins with smart technology and sensors not only compact the material to increase bin capacity, but also send out notification alerts when the bin needs emptying or servicing.

Stormwater Litter Infrastructure

Within City of Melbourne stormwater litter infrastructure includes:

- 8,000 Grated Stormwater Pits
- 71 Large underground litter traps called gross pollutant traps (GPT's)
- 42 Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) sites including; bio-retention beds, garden bed passive irrigation, and raingardens
- Release nets, or drain socks, attached to the end of stormwater pipes to capture litter, installed as part of the Let's Strain the Drain Program
- Litter racks that trap litter behind large metal grates at the exits of larger stormwater pipes
- Stormwater drains have been diverted away from Docklands Harbour to the Yarra River and Moonee Ponds Creek

Litter Removal

Beyond the efforts of prevention and infrastructure the requirement for services to physically remove litter remain clear.

The City of Melbourne's street cleaning contract delivers services such as street sweeping, dumped rubbish removal, syringe management, footpath and street furniture cleaning. Approximately 6,000 tonnes of material is collected each year, which consists of street sweepings such as silt, sediment and tree debris (70%). The remaining 30% of material consists of dumped rubbish and litter.

The Waterways Litter Collection Service removes all foreign matter that can be safely reached from the shore at 10 marina locations in Docklands, ensuring such items are not present for longer than 24 hours. This service was formally included in the scope of the City of Melbourne street cleaning services contract from 1 August 2021.

Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water currently have several Bandalong Litter Traps located in the Yarra River, Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek, designed to capture litter and other debris caught in water current flow.

City of Melbourne have recently installed five SeaBins within Yarra's Edge Marina. These floating bins are capable of moving up and down with the tide and capture litter drifting around the marina's berths.

City of Perth

While the City of Perth has a relatively small residential population, an estimated 32,867 people in 2021, the population is rapidly growing. Each day the City's daytime population swells to an estimated 205,000. This collection of workers, visitors, students, community and government service users, and people at leisure contribute to the City atmosphere and creates both challenges and opportunities for waste management.

Single-use plastics

The State Government introduced stage 1 of a state-wide ban on single-use plastics in January 2022 for all plastic shopping bags with handles, disposable plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, unlidded food bowls, unlidded food containers, and polystyrene food containers and trays. Disposable plastic cups for cold drinks were banned in October 2022. Stage 2 of the ban will commence in January 2023 for more items including single-use coffee cups.

The City of Perth has supported local businesses, internal staff and events with the transition away from single-use plastics through its waste education program.

The City of Perth is a Council member of Plastic Free July (PFJ) and promotes the initiative each year through information and educational stalls, social media, and online events.

PFJ participants can choose to (1) avoid Single-Use Plastic (SUP) packaging, (2) target takeaway items (such as bags, bottles, and coffee cups) or (3) go completely plastic-free for 1 day, 1 week or the whole month. Last year 4,069 City of Perth residents participated, collectively refusing 8,951 plastic items, and avoiding 39,669kg of plastic to landfill and 31,532kg of recyclable plastic annually.

Waste plan

The City of Perth Waste Plan actions align with the aim to achieve 75% material diversion from landfill target as identified in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (WARR) 2030. To meet the City's obligations under the State's WARR Strategy 2030, enhanced community waste education is required.

The City of Perth's current Waste Plan contains several actions specifically targeting plastics including:

- Updating events guidelines to reduce the use of single-use plastics and to promote the use of reusable items.
- Assisting with the development of a sustainable procurement policy to reduce plastics and to increase the use of recycled products in the City's procurement processes and supply chains.
- Auditing waste generated at City events.
- Developing a Waste Engagement/Communication Strategy to inform key stakeholders and sites of consistent messaging opportunities, CDS, public place recycling and grant funding opportunities.
- Engaging schools and promoting the Waste Sorted Schools program.
- Developing a Local Litter Plan. This will include actions for education, improving data capture.

Furthermore, the City through its memberships, has provided waste education through in person and on-line workshops to the community, including schools.

The development of a Waste Education Plan (WEP) is an action included in the City's Waste Plan endorsed by Department of Water Environmental Regulation (DWER) in 2021.

The below are key stakeholders and targets identified in the City's Waste Education Plan:

- Residents: The City is faced with unique challenges, including its alternative housing stock apportionment with a high percentage of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) compared to Single-Unit Dwellings.
- Businesses: Businesses are seeking assistance to implement source separation systems and educate their staff on best practice waste management.
- Tourists and Visitors: Tourists and visitors, including short term residents, who use public and private facilities and generate and dispose of waste in our city.
- Schools and early learning centres: Waste education at a grass roots level provides learners with a basic understanding of environmental harm caused by poor waste practices.
- Community Groups: Community groups are valuable change agents as they have wide professional and casual networks.
- City Staff: The City's customer service staff are often the first point of contact for residents who are seeking information about waste management in their homes.
- Event Management: The City educates event organisers to be innovative in developing the most sustainable waste management system to meet these objectives. The City also encourages event organisers to reduce the amount of waste generated by the event, maximise recycling and waste recovery, thereby minimising waste taken to landfill.

Litter removal

The City of Perth has a thorough cleaning and maintenance program, with cleaning operations spanning 20 hours a day, seven days a week. The City regularly conducts community litter clean-ups several times a year.

The City has also developed and implemented the following:

- Local Litter Plan 2021 - The Litter Plan demonstrates how the opportunities identified can facilitate the city in meeting the Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Litter Prevention Strategy for WA 2020-2025 objectives. There are several litter initiatives and services currently provided by the City. These initiatives aim to prevent, minimise, and recover litter where possible.
- Clean Machine – trialling on-demand litter collection and cleaning service.
- Illegal dumping – working cross-departmentally to improve illegal dumping reporting, data capture and waste recovery processes.
- Tidy bins - Street litter (tidy bins) are provided throughout the City, where practicable as a dual station (General Waste and Recycling) for resource recovery.

- Refuse Cleaning Device – marine debris - Trialling RCD infrastructure for “Cleaning Claisebrook Cove.”

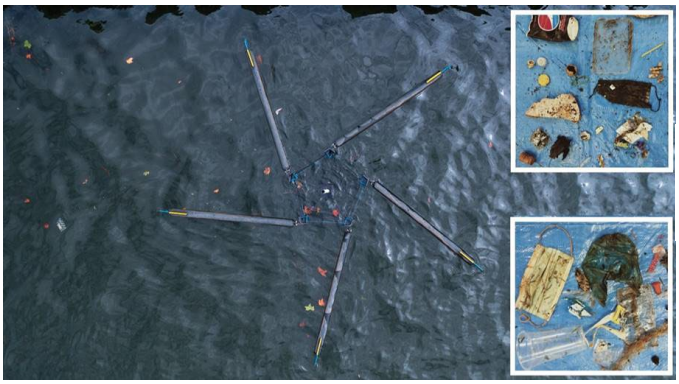


Image: An aerial photo of Claisebrook Cove's new Refuse Collection Device (RCD) with inserts showing litter from its first catch

Key initiatives

- Complete two waste composition audits for both our Single Use and Multi Use Dwellings.
- Update and refresh City Waste and Recycling Information Package to be distributed with all new bins or to new property owners and residents. Key information provided in the package includes:
- Waste items accepted in general, garden organics and recycling bins;
- Information on non-recyclable and hazardous waste; and
- Waste reduction solutions and recycling options.
- Update and refresh the city website to provide the following information:
- Waste education programs;
- Guides on reducing waste at home for residents to download; and
- Provide local businesses who are looking for more sustainable waste management practices with access to waste management information.
- Regular social media updates to remind residents on how to use their bins correctly, safely access and utilise local waste facilities and deal with hazardous/specialised waste disposal.
- Educate by making available to residents, schools, early learning centres and community groups a library of waste management best practice guidance and examples which could include:
- How to avoid plastic while shopping and around the kitchen;
- Thinking reuse rather than single use; and
- Solutions for problem waste.
- City offers tailored services and resources aimed specifically to help strata managers and body corporate educate residents of MUD’s on how to correctly dispose of their waste including:
- Multi-lingual Guides and brochures;
- Fact sheets;
- Bin notification stickers; and
- Bin and wall signage.
- The City of Perth also promotes the Responsible Cafes program to reduce the use of disposable single-use coffee cups.
- The City recently started trialling reusable plastic bags for residents living in apartments to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags for storing and transporting co-mingled recycling.

Enforcement

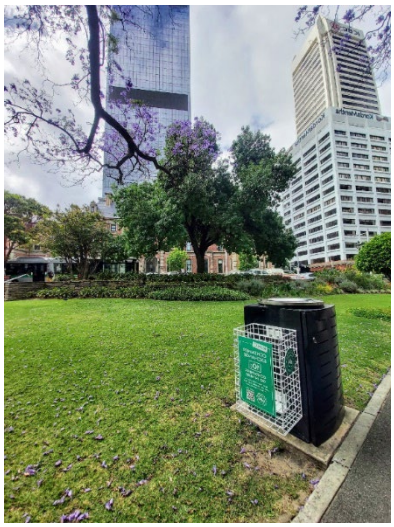
City Rangers can prosecute those who illegally dump, litter and misuse waste and recycling collection services through the Health Act 1911 and through the utilisation of the Local Government Act 1995 (2009 amendment).

Containers for Change

Containers for Change is a state-wide container deposit scheme allowing the community to cash in eligible drink containers for 10-cents each.

In October 2022, the City of Perth introduced the first CBD refund point in Australia. A reverse vending machine has also been installed. Mobile refund capabilities for events and free white-lid 240 litre bins for collecting eligible containers are offered to residents, businesses, schools, and community organisations.

The City has recovered over 14 million plastic drink containers from litter and landfill. Increasing plastic drink container recycling and provided opportunities for social enterprise and benefits for community organisations.



Container exchange point

City of Sydney

Procure recycled

As part of the City's own commitment to develop procurement that drives innovation, influences markets, and creates new opportunities, the City has signed an MoU with 11 other South Sydney Regional Councils to prioritise recycled materials in procurement and work collaboratively towards a common framework for a joint regional procurement to drive end markets for recycled materials in the Sydney metropolitan region.

The MOU proposes that signatory councils agree to work towards:

- Prioritise recycled materials in council procurement
- Identify as a participating council in a regional initiative to increase the use of recycled materials in local government procurement
- Collaborate with other participating councils in working towards a common framework for the regional procurement of recycled materials.

The South Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils is also working closely with NSW Government departments to create a consistent and continuous demand for civil engineering materials containing recycled content. This type of collaboration could be expanded across other sectors to provide industry with certainty of supply and demand.

Face to face and online waste avoidance community engagement

City of Sydney staff regularly engage with the community on waste reduction and avoidance through face-to-face and online events.

Pop-ups on alternatives to single-use plastics

From February to August 2022, in preparation for the NSW single use ban impacting businesses and their patrons from June 2022, City outreach officers delivered 20 community pop-up stalls and 31 online events to engage with residents and visitors about safe reusable alternatives to single use food and drink containers and recycling.

Community pop-up stalls on promoting the single use plastics\

Webinars on alternatives to single-use plastics

To reach a broader audience, City staff held online education sessions about recycling and alternatives to single-use plastics. The 31 sessions attracted 704 registrations and 490 attendees. These included 20 ‘recycling masterclass’ sessions and 10 ‘plastics decoded’ webinars that deep-dived into the different types of plastics, which ones are recyclable in the yellow-lid bin and why it’s important to avoid buying them.