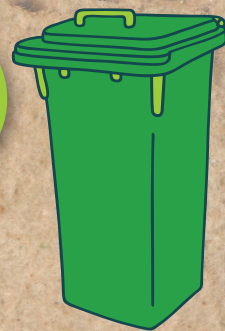


## FACTSHEET #8

# #RECYCLERIGHT

## REDUCING SINGLE USE PLASTIC



**Single use plastic containers and packaging are often used for just a few minutes but are designed to last a lifetime.**

Australians throw away 3.5 million tonnes of plastic each year, but currently, only about 9.4 percent makes it's way to a recycling facility. Be part of the solution - choose to refuse single use plastic. There are many more sustainable options available, when purchasing items and in September 2021, the Queensland Government started the ban on the supply of single-use plastic.

## PROTECTING THE CATCHMENTS BY

### QUEENSLANDS SINGLE USE PLASTIC ITEMS BAN

- Support from the community, retailers and industry organisations, the supply of the following single-use plastic items have been banned in Queensland:
- Straws, cutlery, bowls, plates, stirrers, expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups.

While single-use plastic straws and cutlery are banned, they can continue to be attached to shelf-ready, pre-packaged products. Examples include a juice box with an attached single-use plastic straw or a yoghurt with an attached single-use plastic spoon.

#### Choose to refuse!

The single-use plastic items ban will make a huge difference, but we all still have to choose to refuse other pesky plastic items.

#### BYO bottle, bag, containers and cutlery!

'Bringing your own' is a great way to avoid single use items altogether, whether they be made of plastic or compostable alternatives.

- Have ready to take with you a reusable water bottle, cutlery, bag and containers.
- Choose to dine in at your local cafe to avoid single use items or bring your own reusables if you are taking away.

#### Reuse, repurpose, recycle!

Reusing, repurposing, and recycling plastics correctly is important to ensure these items do not enter the waterways.

- Take soft plastics to RedCycle collection bins at your local Coles and Woolworths Stores.
- Get involved with collecting containers for change.

#### Keep helping solve the plastics problem!

We can all help by:

- Purchasing items with less packaging, are recyclable and made with recycled content.
- Check out the Australian Packaging Covenant, and consider contacting manufacturers to suggest or encourage improvements to their packaging or products.
- Participate in initiatives such as; Clean Up Australia Day and Take 3 for the Sea.

There are so many more helpful resources available to assist you to learn more about reducing single use plastic in your household. Check out some of them below.

- Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan
- Single-use Plastic Items Ban
- Australian Packaging Covenant
- Planet Ark - Recycled products directory
- Mareeba Waste & Recycling - Recycle Right
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation - I refuse to single use



Before disposing of anything, have you considered ways to reuse, repair or donate unwanted items?  
Visit [msc.qld.gov.au/council/water-and-waste/recycling](https://msc.qld.gov.au/council/water-and-waste/recycling) for further information.