



CURRENT STATUS OF PLASTIC LEGISLATION - SEPTEMBER 2024

IMPORTANT: The rule, exemptions and definitions for each state ban vary greatly. Please check each government website for details.

| last updated: 23 Sept 2024 | status | bans in effect, no further bans announced. Some exemptions end soon. | New paper released. Closes 1 Nov. Some exemptions end soon. | expect ban plan soon | bans on hold until further consultation and harmonisation work | final regulations passed. Ban rollout underway. | consultation open, closes 1 October 2024 | plastic lined plate exemption ends soon | ban rollout underway. New exemptions announced. | consultation underway, regulation of packaging expected by 2025 | Bans in effect. Stage 3 delayed likely mid-2026 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUST | NZ |
| GENERAL | Items in pre-packaged food/bev products | exempt | exemption ends 31 Dec 2024 | | exemption ends 31 Dec 2025 | exemption ends 31 Aug 2025 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | exemption ends 31 Dec 2025 | varied | | some integrated included |
| | Position on certified compostable plastic | banned | banned | | varied | varied. Mostly accepted | | banned | varied. Mostly accepted | | varied |
| UTENSILS | Plastic straws | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 |
| | Plastic cutlery | Jul-21 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 incl. integrated |
| | Plastic stirrers | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-21 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Oct-22 |
| FOODWARE (without lids) | Plastic plates | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-23 | | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 *see details |
| | Plastic bowls without lids | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-23 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 | | Jul-23 |
| | Plastic containers without lids | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Polymer-coated paper plates | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | 2025 | exempt | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | TAS 2025 TBC | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | Jul-22 | | |
| | - cert compostable allowed? | no | no | | exempt | yes | | no | no | | |
| FOODWARE (with lids) | Polymer-coated paper bowls without lids | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | 2025 | exempt | exemption ends 31 Oct 2024 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 | | |
| | - cert compostable allowed? | no | no | | exempt | yes | | allowed if fibre based | | | |
| | Plastic bowls with lids | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-24 | | |
| | Plastic takeaway containers with lids/windows/seals | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-24 | | |
| | Plastic lined paper cartons (eg. noodle box) | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-24 | | |
| OTHER FOOD PACKAGING | Plastic lid/windows/seals for food containers | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-24 | | |
| | Condiment packaging / soy sauce fish | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-25 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Sauce sachets | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Non-compostable produce labels | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-25 | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | Jul-23 see details |
| | Bread tags / similar rigid tags used to close a bag | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Polystyrene (PS) takeaway food/bev packaging | | | | | | | | | | Oct-22 |
| | PVC pre-formed food trays and containers | | | | | | | | | | Oct-22 |
| | PS and PVC food packaging (pre-packaged) | | | | | | | | | | mid-2026 TBC |
| | Plastic sticks for lollipops, ice-cream, foods | | TBC (see paper) | | | | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Pizza savers | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-23 | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| DRINKWARE | Plastic beverage containers (eg. bottles) | 2018 | 2017 | 2012 | 2018 | 1977 | 2023 | 2023 | 2020 | | 2025 |
| | Plastic beverage container lids | | TBC (see paper) | | | | | | | | |
| | Plastic beverage stoppers/plugs | | TBC (see paper) | | | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Plastic cups for cold drinks | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Oct-22 | | |
| | Plastic cups for hot drinks | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Mar-24 | | |
| | Plastic cup lids & seals | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-24 | Hobart ban, TAS 2025 TBC | | Mar-24 | | |
| EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS) | EPS foodware (eg. clamshells) | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-22 | TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Jul-22 | 2022 | Oct-22 |
| | EPS cups | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Mar-22 | TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Sep-23 | 2022 | |
| | EPS trays (eg. meat, fresh produce) | Jul-23 | TBC (see paper) | 2025 | TBC | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 / Sep-23 | 2022 | |
| | EPS multi-serve gelato container | currently exempt | exemption ends 31 Dec 2024 | 2025 | Sep-21 | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | currently exempt | Jul-22 | 2022 | |
| | EPS pre-packaged food/drink (eg. noodle cups) | | exemption ends 31 Dec 2024 | | exemption ends 31 Dec 2025 | Sep-25 | TAS 2025 TBC | exemption ends 31 Dec 2025 | | | |
| OTHER FOAMED PLASTIC | EPS packaging (loose fill) | Jul-23 | TBC (see paper) | 2025 | Sep-23 | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-23 | 2025 | |
| | EPS packaging (moulded*) | | TBC (see paper) | 2025 | | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-25 | 2025 | |
| | Expanded plastic packaging (loose fill) eg. EPE, EVA, bio | | TBC (see paper) | | | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-23 | | |
| BAGS | Expanded plastic packaging (moulded*) eg. EPE, EVA, bio | | TBC (see paper) | | | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-25 | | |
| | Lightweight plastic shopping bags (<36 microns) | cert. compostable exempt | | | | cert. compostable exempt | | | | | |
| | Heavyweight plastic shopping bags (>36 microns) | Jan-24 | TBC (see paper) | 2025 | Reusable Std by Sep-23 | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Paper bags with plastic laminate | Jan-24 | TBC (see paper) | | | | TAS 2025 TBC | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Fabric bags | Jan-24 | | | | | Sep-24 | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Non-compostable produce bags (fruit, veg & dry goods) | | TBC (see paper) | | | | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | Sep-24 | | Jul-23 |
| OTHER | Non-compostable barrier bags (meat & other) | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Sep-25 | TAS 2025 TBC | | TBC | | |
| | Plastics with 'degradable' additives | Jul-22 | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | Mar-22 | TAS 2025 TBC | | Sep-23 | TBC | Oct-22 |
| | Intentionally added PFAS / harmful chemicals | | TBC (see paper) | | | | | | | | |
| | Cotton buds with plastic shafts | Jul-22 | Nov-22 | | Sep-23 | Sep-23 | TAS 2025 TBC | Feb-23 | Sep-23 | | Oct-22 |
| | Plastic microbeads - personal care & cleaning rinse-off | Jul-23 | Nov-22 | 2025 | Sep-23 | | | | Sep-23 | voluntary code | |
| | Balloon releases | | TBC (see paper) | | Sep-23 | | | | Jul-22 | | |
| | Balloon ties or sticks | | TBC (see paper) | | TBC | | | | | | |
| | Plastic confetti / table scatters | | | | | Sep-24 | TAS 2025 TBC | | | | |
| | Plastic bait bags | | | | TBC | | | | | | |
| | Cigarette butts | | TBC (see paper) | | | | | | | | |
| Washing machine filters | | TBC (see paper) | | | | | | | | | |
| Mandated packaging design standards | | | | | | | | | 2025 | | |

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|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Already banned | Banned soon (regs finalised) | Proposed for ban / under consultation | Design standards in effect | Proposed for design standards |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

KEY SOURCES

- [ACT City Services](#)
- [NSW plastics ban 2022](#)
- [Circular Economy Strategy](#)
- [Official ban website: ReplacetheWaste SA](#)
- [VIC Plastics Ban](#)
- [Official website for business \(NRA/DES\)](#)
- [New ban discussion paper](#)
- [DWER Plan for Plastics](#)
- [National Packaging Targets](#)
- [Official website for business \(NRA/DWER\)](#)
- [National Waste Policy](#)
- [National Plastics Plan](#)
- [NZ Plastics Plan](#)
- [Darwin by-law](#)
- [Hobart by-law](#)
- [* See government website for detailed exemptions](#)