

# SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BY-LAW

## INTRODUCTION



The Hobart City Council voted on 4 March 2019 to pass a **single use plastics by-law**, aiming to restrict the use of single use plastic takeaway food packaging.

This information pack has been prepared to assist businesses that may be impacted by the by-law, and provides information and resources including:

- A copy of the single use plastic by-law
- A fact sheet on the By-law
- A Frequently Asked Questions sheet
- A detailed list of alternative products currently available to be supplied in Hobart
- A calculator for businesses to quantify impacts of the by-law

Takeaway food packaging is a major contributor to the litter stream in Tasmania. Data from the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania indicates that up to 50% of the litter stream is comprised of paper and plastic takeaway rubbish.

### BY-LAW SNAPSHOT

The by-law applies to single use plastic take away food packaging which is smaller than one litre (1L) in volume or an area equivalent to A4 (210 mm by 297 mm) in size. All packaging larger than these dimensions is excluded.

Non-plastic take away food packaging is not impacted by the by-law.

- The by-law does not apply where a retailer provides or sells food packaging supplied by the customer (e.g. re-usable coffee cups or Tupperware containers); or the customer was not provided food packaged by the retailer (e.g. a bottle of soft drink).
- The by-law only applies to businesses that provide or sell food in packaging that is to be taken from the premises and consumed.
- The by-Law does not apply to food consumed on the premises where it was purchased.
- The by-law does not apply to non-food packaging and consumption related items.
- The by-law is planned for implementation in late 2020.

It is envisaged that businesses will have six months to a year after the enactment of the by-law to comply with new packaging requirements. By providing information now, the city is providing businesses with a significant lead in time to make adjustments prior to the by-law being enacted and regulated.

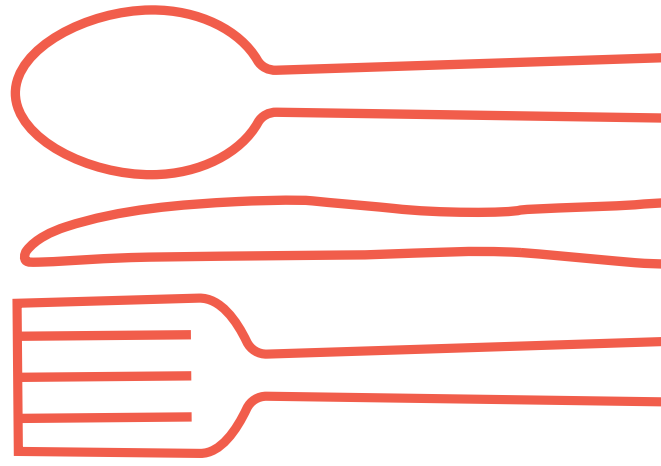
Our research indicates that over 50% of Hobart's food and beverage businesses already comply with the new by-law and as such should not be further impacted.

Hobart will be the first Australian City to introduce such a by-law, and has received widespread support and commendation, including from peak bodies such as the Local Government Association of Tasmania, the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, and numerous Councils around the country who are looking to follow Hobart's lead.

While Hobart is the first Council to formally consider this in Australia, there is a real movement towards limiting single use plastics globally, indicated by:

**European Union** – By 2021 bans will apply to single-use plastic items such as cutlery, plates, straws, cotton bud sticks, balloon sticks, and expanded polystyrene cups and food containers.

**National Waste Policy** – At a 2018 Meeting of all State Environment Ministers, national targets were



agreed, including endorsing a target of 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025, and to halve food waste by 2030.

**Tasmanian Government** – In June 2019 the Tasmanian Government released a Draft Waste Action Plan that includes targets such as 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025; to have the lowest incidence of littering in the country by 2023, and; to work with government and businesses to phase out problematic and unnecessary plastic by 2030.

The implementation of the City's single use plastics by-law will ensure the City and its businesses are well prepared to comply with impending state and national targets and policies.

The City has a proven record of showing leadership in the field of waste management and recycling and has set a goal of working towards zero waste to landfill by 2030, consistent with the City's Waste Management Strategy 2015-2030.

Questions related to compostable packaging and waste reduction strategies may be directed to the Cleansing and Solid Waste Policy Coordinator on **03 6238 2711** or **coh@hobartcity.com.au**

Further information and questions about the by-law may be directed to the Manager Environmental Health on **03 6238 2711** or **coh@hobartcity.com.au**

