

CURRENT STATUS OF PLASTIC LEGISLATION - MARCH 2026

last updated: 19 March 2026

		Status update:	New ban announced on 17/03.	Consultation closed, awaiting govt update. Proposed start dates have passed.	Consultation closed, awaiting govt update. Proposed start dates have passed.	No further bans announced	No further bans announced	Consultation closed, awaiting govt update. Proposed start dates have passed.	No further bans announced	No further bans announced	Consultation ongoing	No further bans announced
		Red font indicates recent updates	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	FEDERAL AUST	NZ
GENERAL	Position on certified compostable plastic		banned, varied in new plan	mostly banned	TBC	mostly banned	mostly allowed, see website	TBC, active paper suggests allowed	banned	some types allowed	recyclable preferred	varied
UTENSILS	Plastic straws		Jul-22	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Mar-21	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Jul-22		Jul-23
	Plastic cutlery		Jul-21	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Mar-21	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Jul-22		Jul-23 incl. integrated
	Plastic stirrers		Jul-22	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Mar-21	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Jul-22		Oct-22
FOODWARE (without lids)	Product stewardship scheme for cups and containers			2030 - details TBC								
	Plastic plates		Jul-23	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Sep-23		Feb-23	Jul-22		Jul-23 *see details
	Plastic bowls without lids		Jul-23	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Sep-23	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Jul-22		Jul-23
	Plastic containers without lids			Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Jul-22		
	Polymer-coated paper plates		Nov-24	Nov-24	Date TBC	exempt	Nov-24	TAS date TBC	Nov-24	Jul-22		
FOODWARE (with lids)	Polymer-coated paper bowls without lids		Nov-24	Nov-24	Date TBC	exempt	Nov-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Jul-22		
	Plastic bowls with lids		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Sep-24		
	Plastic takeaway containers with lids/windows/seals			Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Sep-24		
	Plastic lined paper cartons (eg. noodle box)			Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Sep-24		
	Plastic lid/windows/seals for food containers			Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Sep-24		
	PP or PET rectangular lidded food containers			Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Sep-24		
	Plastic lidded bowls/containers containing hot soupy food		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable & labelled mid 2028			Exempt until Sep 2029		Exempt until Mar 2026	Exempt until Sept 2026		
	Condiment packaging / soy sauce fish		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable and labelled 2030			Sep-25	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC				
	Sauce sachets		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable and labelled 2030				Hobart ban, TAS date TBC				
	Non-compostable produce labels		Ban 2028 TBC	Ban end 2030 - details TBC				Ban postponed	TAS date TBC			
OTHER FOOD PACKAGING	Bread tags / similar rigid tags used to close a bag		Ban 2028 TBC	Ban late 2027 - details TBC			Sep-24	TAS date TBC				Postponed to Jul-26
	Polystyrene (PS) takeaway food/bev packaging			See non-recyclable bans								Oct-22
	PVC pre-formed food trays and containers											Oct-22
	PS and PVC food packaging (pre-packaged)											TBC
	Plastic sticks for lollipops, ice-cream, foods		Ban 2028 TBC	Ban late 2028					TAS date TBC			
	Pizza savers		Ban 2028 TBC	Ban late 2027				Sep-23	TAS date TBC			
	Items in pre-packaged food/bev products		Ban 2028 TBC	31-Dec-24			31-Dec-25	31-Aug-25	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC	31-Dec-25	varied	
DRINKWARE	Plastic beverage containers (eg. bottles) ie. CDS		2018	2017	2012	2018	1977	2023	2023	2020		2025 TBC
	Plastic beverage container lids			recyclable and tether 2030								
	Plastic beverage stoppers/plugs			Unclear				Sep-24				
	Plastic cups for cold drinks		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable & labelled mid 2028				Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Oct-22	
	Plastic cups for hot drinks		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable & labelled mid 2028				Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Mar-24	
	Plastic cup lids & seals		Ban 2028 TBC	Recyclable & labelled mid 2028				Sep-24	Hobart ban, TAS date TBC		Mar-24	
	Business must accept reusable cups			Mid 2028								
EPS	Business must provide reusable cups			2030								
	EPS foodware (eg. clamshells)		Jul-22	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Mar-22	TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Jul-22	2022	Oct-22
	EPS cups		Jul-22	Nov-22	Date TBC	Sep-21	Mar-22	TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Sep-23	2022	Oct-22
	EPS trays (eg. meat, fresh produce)		Jul-23	Ban late 2027	Date TBC		Sep-24	TAS date TBC		Jul-22 / Sep-23	2022	Oct-22
	EPS multi-serve gelato container		unseen	exemption ends 31 Dec 2024	Date TBC	Sep-21	Sep-29	TAS date TBC	exempt	Jul-22	2022	Oct-22
	EPS pre-packaged food/drink (eg. noodle cups)			exemption ends 31 Dec 2024		Sep-21	Sep-25	TAS date TBC	exemption ends 31 Dec 2025		2022	Oct-22
	EPS packaging (loose fill)		Jul-23	Ban late 2027	Date TBC	Sep-23		TAS date TBC			Sep-23	2025 TBC
OTHER FOAMED PLASTIC	EPS packaging (moulded*)			Ban mid 2028	Date TBC			TAS date TBC		Jul-25	2025 TBC	Oct-22
	Expanded plastic packaging (loose fill) eg. EPE, EVA, bio			Ban late 2022				TAS date TBC		Sep-23		
	Expanded plastic packaging (moulded*) eg. EPE, EVA, bio			Ban mid 2028				TAS date TBC		Jul-25		
BAGS	Lightweight plastic shopping bags (<36 microns)		cert. compostable exempt				cert. compostable exempt					
	Heavyweight plastic shopping bags (>36 microns)		Jan-24	Ban late 2027 - details TBC	Date TBC		Reusable Std by Sep-23	Sep-24	TAS date TBC	Jul-22		Jul-19
	Paper bags with plastic laminate		Jan-24	Ban late 2027				Sep-24	TAS date TBC	Jul-22		Jul-23 (<70um)
	Fabric bags		Jan-24					Sep-24		Jul-22		
	Non-compostable produce bags (fruit, veg, nuts, conf)		Ban 2028 TBC	Unclear				Sep-24	TAS date TBC		Sep-24 plus design std Oct-25	Jul-23
	Non-compostable barrier bags (meat, seafood, dairy)			Unclear				Postponed to Sep 2027	TAS date TBC		Oct-26*	
	Plastic flower bags/sleeves		Ban 2028 TBC									
OTHER	Plastic umbrella bags			Ban late 2027								
	Plastics with 'degradable' additives		Jul-22	Ban late 2027			Mar-22	TAS date TBC		Sep-23	TBC	Oct-22
	Intentionally added PFAS / harmful chemicals			Unclear								
	Cotton buds with plastic shafts		Jul-22	Nov-22		Sep-23	Sep-23	TAS date TBC	Feb-23	Sep-23		Oct-22
	Plastic microbeads - personal care & cleaning rinse-off		Jul-23	Nov 2022 and late 2027	Date TBC	Sep-23	Sep-23	TAS date TBC		Sep-23	voluntary code	Jun-18
	Balloon releases			Ban late 2026		Sep-23	Sep-23	banned		Jul-22		
	Balloon ties or sticks			Ban late 2027				Sep-24	TAS date TBC			
	Plastic confetti / table scatters		Ban 2028 TBC					Sep-24	TAS date TBC			
	Plastic bait bags											
	Cigarette butts		Ban 2028 TBC	Unclear								
Washing machine filters in new machines			mid-2028									
Labelling requirements						various items						
Mandated packaging design standards										2025 TBC		

Already banned	Banned soon - regs passed	Proposed for ban - regs not yet passed	Design standards / CDS in effect	Proposed for design standards / CDS
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IMPORTANT: The rules, exemptions and definitions for each state ban vary greatly. Please check each government website for details.

KEY SOURCES	How to get help:	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact NRA	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact NRA	Contact govt	Contact govt
Active plastics policy paper:		Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact NRA	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact govt	Contact NRA	Contact govt	Contact govt
Government website:		Released March 2026	Released Nov 2025	Released March 2023	No recent paper	No recent paper	Released Sept 2024	No recent paper	No recent paper	Design standard draft	No recent paper
Dedicated business website:		ACT City Services	NSW EPA Plastics Ban 2.0	Circular Economy Strategy	QLD Plastic Bans	ReplaceTheWaste SA	TAS Plastics Ban	VIC Plastics Ban	DWER Govt website	National Packaging Targets	NZ Plastics Plan
Passed legislation:		2023 Act	Act - Sch 1		QLD Plastics Ban				Plastics Ban WA		
Other resources:			Existing NSW bans	Darwin by-law	Act - Part 3AA	2021 Regulations		2022 Regulations	2025 Regulations	Packaging reform	