





**Murrumbidgee**  
COUNCIL

# Single Use Plastics Policy

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
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# Contents

- 1. Purpose ..... 3
- 2. Scope ..... 3
- 3. Definitions..... 3
- 4. References ..... 4
- 5. Content..... 4
- 6. Review ..... 4

## 1. Purpose

Murrumbidgee Council is committed to progressively reducing, and where possible eliminating, single use plastics by 2026. This policy applies to Council operations, including implementation of responsible procurement practices and influence of supply chains, and Council-managed events including, but not limited to, official functions, civic events, community forums, listening posts, workshops, meetings, training events and parties. The policy also incorporates advocating for change and working with the community to build awareness and behavioural change on single use plastics. This policy outlines how Council will lead, and work together with our community to achieve this commitment.

## 2. Scope

The scope of the policy aims to encourage improved planning and consideration of plastic waste, from the procurement phase, to use and finally disposal.

Exemptions may be granted for plastic products that are required to meet medical and safety requirements or where there is no other practical alternative product or distribution method available.

Events and activities occurring on Council land, but not managed by Council, are not included in the mandatory scope of this policy, but shall be encouraged and supported by Council to voluntarily comply.

## 3. Definitions

Council	Murrumbidgee Council
Council managed land	Land owned by the State (i.e. Crown Land) or a third party that Council manages day to day.
Council Officers/Public Officials	Includes Councillors, employees whether they are permanent or temporary employees, volunteers, and contractors.
Council Operations	Anywhere that Council staff are present at a location or provide a service or function to the community.
Council Owned Land	Land owned by Council.
Council Sponsored	Activities or events that receive financial or in-kind assistance from Murrumbidgee Council.
Events	A gathering of people for an organised activity.
Plastic	The Oxford Dictionary defines plastic as “a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, PVC, nylon, etc., that can be moulded into shape while soft, and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form”. Includes plastics labelled as degradable or biodegradable.
Single use plastic items	Includes any disposable plastic and polystyrene items including, but not limited to, stationery packaging, cleaning items, balloons, cutlery and food and drink packaging designed to be used once and then discarded.

## 4. References

- National Packaging Targets 2025
- NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 (WARR Strategy)
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014
- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) Waste Strategy 2017 – 2021

## 5. Content

Under the Murrumbidgee Council Community Action Plan 2022 – 2026, item 2.2.2.1, Murrumbidgee Council have committed to continuing collaboration with RAMJO on Council's Waste Management Strategy.

To achieve our commitment by 2026, Murrumbidgee Council will work to:

- progressively reduce and, where possible, eliminate single use plastic items within Council operations;
- encourage and support events and activities that are held on Council-owned or managed land or receive Council sponsorship to voluntarily comply to reduce single use plastic;
- reduce and, where possible, eliminate single use plastic items for all events held on Council-owned or managed lands from 2023;
- comply with all National and State legislation in relation to waste avoidance, generation, recycling and disposal;
- advocate all levels of Government regarding reductions in the use of single use plastics;
- implement procurement practices and influence supply chains to avoid soft plastic packaging wherever possible;
- influence the local business and retail industry sectors to provide products and services that do not rely on single use plastics;
- build awareness within the community on the importance of reducing single use plastics;
- support the National Packaging Targets; and
- develop and implement an action plan to progressively reduce single use plastics.

Exemptions will apply for plastic products that are required to meet medical and safety requirements, or where there is no other practical alternative product or distribution method available.

## 6. Review

This policy:

- To be reviewed within the first year of the new Council term;
- May be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative or State Government policy changes occur).