



**LET'S STOP IT
AND SWAP IT**

Single-use plastic ban NSW 2022

Stakeholder Toolkit

June 2022



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Tile: 'Plastic ban What you need to know.JPG'

Purpose of this toolkit



This toolkit includes information and background FAQs about the NSW single-use plastic ban that starts with a ban on lightweight plastic bags (35 microns thick or less) on 1 June 2022, followed by a number of other single use plastic bans on 1 November 2022.

The NSW Government is running an awareness campaign ‘Stop it and Swap it’ and we would love it if you could promote these changes too. The campaign page is available [here](#).

We have included range of communication materials for you to share with your communities and stakeholders to help spread the word about the bans, including:

- newsletter content
- web content
- social media tiles and posts to support the 1 June 2022 ban
- social media tiles and posts for the lead-up to 1 November 2022 ban

All of the comms materials, italicised throughout this toolkit, are available to download in this [Google Drive](#).

The facts



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- From 1 June 2022 lightweight plastic bags of 35 microns thick or less (including compostable and bioplastic alternatives) will be banned in NSW.
 - From 1 November 2022 more bans will come in, covering single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene food ware and cups, and rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.
 - The bans follow the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* passed in November 2021.
 - Single-use plastic items and packaging make up 60% of all litter in NSW.
 - The NSW single-use plastic ban will prevent almost 2.7 billion items of plastic litter from entering the environment in NSW over the next 20 years.
 - The NSW Government has engaged the National Retailers Association to deliver a comprehensive retailer education and awareness campaign about the bans.
 - The NSW Government is also running a consumer awareness and education campaign: Stop it and Swap it.
 - More information about the single-use plastic bans is available [here](#)

What is banned?

The NSW Government is banning certain single use plastic items in 2 stages during 2022.

Banned from 1 June



Lightweight plastic shopping bags

Banned from 1 November



Expanded polystyrene foodware

Single use plastic plates, bowls and cutlery

Single use plastic straws and stirrers

Exemptions will apply in certain settings to allow the supply of single-use plastic straws to people with a disability or medical need.

The ban also applies to single-use plastic cotton buds and microbeads in certain rinse-off personal care products.

Spreading the word – Newsletter content

For you to adapt and use



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it
Bags_1080x1080.jpg'

Lightweight plastic shopping bags a thing of the past

Remember to pack your reusable shopping bags when you go to the shops as lightweight plastic shopping bags are now a thing of the past in NSW (as of 1 June 2022).

The state's ban on the highly littered item is the first in a series of single-use plastic phase-outs that will see a number of other items added to the list.

A second ban from 1 November this year will include single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene food ware and cups, and rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.

Single-use plastic items and packaging make up 60% of all litter in NSW.

These plastic bans will prevent almost 2.7 billion items of plastic litter entering our environment in NSW over the next 20 years.

At **XX*** we encourage you to use either cloth or tote bags as a great alternative to the now banned lightweight shopping bags.

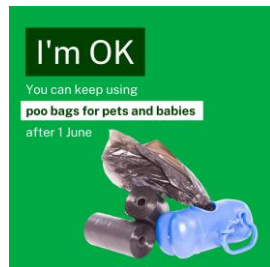
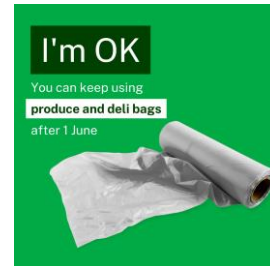
More information about the single use plastic ban is available [here](#).

*(insert your organisation name)

Newsletter content: 'Plastic ban Newsletter shell content.docx'

Spreading the word – Web content

For you to adapt and use



Carousel tiles: 'Plastic ban slider 1-7.png'

Lightweight plastic shopping bags now banned

Lightweight plastic shopping bags are now banned in NSW as of 1 June 2022.

A cloth or a tote bag is a great alternative, so remember to take your reusable shopping bags with you next time you visit the shops.

The NSW Government ban is the first in a series of single use plastic phase-outs.

From 1 November these items will also be banned: single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene food ware and cups, and rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.

Single-use plastic items and packaging make up 60% of all litter in NSW.

These plastic bans will prevent almost 2.7 billion items of plastic litter entering the NSW environment over the next 20 years.

More information about the single use plastic ban is available [here](#).

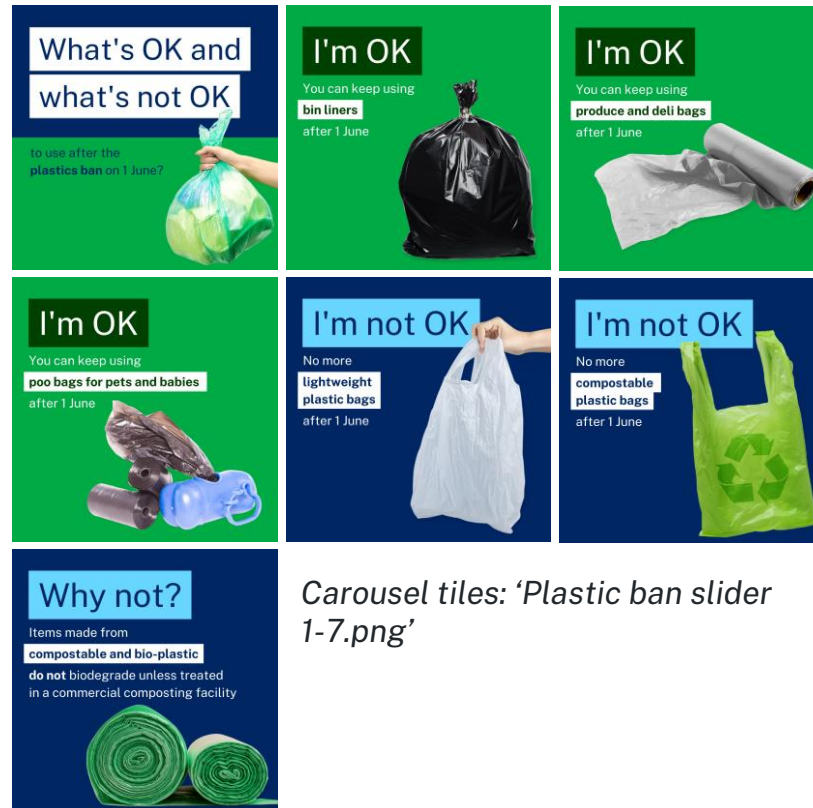
Web content: 'Plastic ban Web shell content.docx'

Spreading the word – Social tiles & posts (1 June ban) For you to adapt and use

Here are some examples of the social tiles for you to share, available in this [Google Drive](#), so you can spread the word about the lightweight plastic bag ban. *More tiles, including GIFs, will be added into this Drive shortly.*



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it Bags_1080x1080.jpg'



Carousel tiles: 'Plastic ban slider 1-7.png'



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it_1080x1920px.jpg'

Suggested post

Stop it and Swap it!
Support the lightweight plastic ban in NSW 👍 Say goodbye to lightweight plastic bags and hello to reusable shopping bags 🛒
Find out more at <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-heritage/plastics-action-plan/stop-it-swap-it> 🖱️

Social media content:
'Plastic ban Social media shell content.docx'

Spreading the word – Translated social tiles & posts (1 June ban) For you to adapt and use

Here are some examples of the translated social tiles and posts for you to share, available in this [Google Drive](#), so you can spread the word about the lightweight plastic bag ban in Arabic, Greek, Vietnamese and Chinese Simplified and Traditional.



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it Bags_1080x1080 - Arabic.jpg'



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it Bags_1080x1920px - Chinese (Simplified).jpg'



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it Bags_1200x1200px - Chinese (Traditional).jpg'

FACEBOOK COPY #1 To help save our environment, lightweight plastic bags are now banned in NSW. See how easy it is to swap.	FACEBOOK COPY #1 Để giúp bảo vệ môi trường của chúng ta, các túi nhựa loại nhẹ hiện đang bị cấm tại NSW. Hãy xem việc thay thế túi nhựa dễ dàng như thế nào.
FACEBOOK COPY #2 To help save our environment, lightweight plastic bags are now banned in NSW. See what it means for you.	FACEBOOK COPY #2 Để giúp bảo vệ môi trường của chúng ta, các túi nhựa loại nhẹ hiện đang bị cấm tại NSW. Hãy xem điều này có ý nghĩa gì đối với quý vị.
FACEBOOK COPY #3 Lightweight plastic bags are now banned in NSW. See how to help protect our environment.	FACEBOOK COPY #3 Các túi nhựa loại nhẹ hiện đang bị cấm tại NSW. Hãy xem làm thế nào để giúp bảo vệ môi trường của chúng ta.
CAMPAIGN TAG LINE (included in the creative) Let's stop it and swap it.	CAMPAIGN TAG LINE (included in the creative) Hãy ngừng sử dụng túi nhựa và thay thế nó.
SOCIAL HEADLINE Plastics ban NSW	SOCIAL HEADLINE Lệnh cấm túi nhựa của NSW
LINK DESCRIPTION From 1 June 2022	LINK DESCRIPTION Từ ngày 1 tháng 6 năm 2022

Social media content: 'Plastic ban Social translation - Vietnamese.jpg'



Tile: 'Plastic ban Stop it and swap it Bags_1080x1080 - Greek.jpg'

Spreading the word – Social tiles & posts

(1 November ban) For you to adapt and use

These are social tiles available for you to use and share – they are saved in this [Google Drive](#) - to spread the word, later in the year, about the upcoming 1 November single use plastic ban. *More tiles will be added into this drive later in the year.*



Tiles: Plastic Ban Plates-Bowl, Containers, Cutlery-Fork, Cutlery-Spoon, Straws_1080x1080

Suggested post for each tile (tiles can also be used as a carousel)

It's time to get ready to go plastic-free! 🙌

NSW is banning the supply of single-use plastic 🚫

🚫 From 1 November 2022: plastic straws, cutlery, plates and other foodservice items 🍴🥄

Find out more at

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-heritage/plastics-action-plan/stop-it-swap-it> 📄

Social media content: 'Plastic ban Social media shell content.docx'

Background FAQs



Banned and not banned	
What plastic bags are banned from 1 June 2022?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lightweight plastic bags (35 microns or less) including compostable and bioplastic alternatives.
What plastic bags are <i>not</i> banned from 1 June 2022?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic bags thicker than 35 microns (found in some supermarkets and boutique stores). Barrier bags – bin liners, vegie/produce bags, nappy bags, pet-waste bags.
Are other single-use plastics banned from 1 June 2022?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, only lightweight plastic bags (35 microns or less) are banned from 1 June 2022. More items will be banned from 1 November – these include single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and cutlery including forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, plastic plates and bowls, also polystyrene food service items such as clamshells and cups.
1 November 2022 ban	
What plastic items are banned from 1 November that I need to get ready for?	<p>From 1 November 2022, the following items will be banned including their compostable and biodegradable alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic single use cutlery (spoons, knives, forks, sporks, chopsticks – any utensil used for consuming food) Plastic single use plates and bowls (excludes bowls with a spill proof lid whether separate or attached) Plastic single use stirrers Plastic single use straws (with exemptions for people with a disability or other medical need) Plastic single use cotton buds and plastic microbeads in rinse off personal hygiene products Expanded polystyrene foodware including bowls, cups, clamshell containers and plates. Includes any plastic item made in whole or in part of expanded polystyrene used to serve food or beverages

Background FAQs



Compostable and bio plastics	
Are compostable items included in the bans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Yes – The bans on problematic and single-use plastic items apply even if these items are made from biodegradable, compostable, or bio-plastics. This includes those made from Australian certified compostable plastic.▪ These so-called alternatives do not biodegrade unless they are specially treated in an industrial composting facility, creating just as much of a problem as conventional plastics.
Who does the ban apply to	
Who does the ban apply to?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A person must not supply a banned item in NSW while carrying on a business or activity including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail or hospitality businesses such as restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, takeaway food outlets, party supply stores, discount stores, supermarkets, market stalls, online stores, and any other commercial business• Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and wholesalers supplying the banned items in NSW – penalties doubled for this sector• Anyone undertaking an activity for charitable, sporting, education or community purposes for example, a community group, charity, government body, not-for-profit organisation, education provider, sporting group or religious body supplying banned items as part of a meal service or during fundraising events.▪ Businesses (such as distribution centres and online stores) can supply a banned item to a person outside NSW, but we recommend checking for similar bans in other jurisdictions.
Reporting plastic use	
Where can I make a report if a business is still using lightweight plastic bags?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reports can be made through the Enviroline by calling 131 555 or info@epa.nsw.gov.au▪ A Report to EPA application will be made available through the EPA website for citizens to report supply of prohibited plastic items: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Background FAQs



Existing stock	
What can I do with existing banned stock/ is there going to be a buyback of existing stock/?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Businesses should speak to their suppliers if they have large amounts of stock. Suppliers may accept returns or exchanges.▪ Businesses can also seek to transfer existing stock to a local recycler or another state (noting similar possible plastic bans in other jurisdictions).▪ The EPA will not be purchasing existing stock of prohibited items, however small businesses can register with the NSW EPA for help to recycle existing banned lightweight plastic bag stock by filling out this form.
Council and other stakeholder events	
Are Councils responsible for ensuring compliance at events?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The EPA is the sole regulator and will monitor and enforce the bans.▪ Local Government will not be responsible for actively monitoring compliance and enforcement of the bans at events.▪ However, public authorities including councils, must ensure they don't supply any of the prohibited items, as this is an offence and fines may apply. This includes offering to supply the items or making the items available.
What alternatives can be used at events?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Where possible, we encourage you to move to reusable alternatives.▪ If you decide you still need disposable items, talk to your suppliers about alternative options that are not prohibited such as paper, wood or bamboo.▪ Keep in mind that the bans on problematic and single-use plastic items apply even if these items are made from biodegradable, compostable, or bio-plastics. This includes those made from Australian certified compostable plastic.

Background FAQs

Enforcement	
How will the ban be enforced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The NSW Government will be focusing on education, awareness and information in the first instance to encourage compliance and behaviour change.▪ The NSW Government is working with businesses and organisation to ensure they understand their obligations and has engaged the National Retailers Association to deliver a comprehensive retailer education and awareness campaign about the ban.▪ The EPA is the sole regulator and will monitor and enforce the ban and will be responsible for enforcing the Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021.▪ The Act provides a broad range of enforcement tools including the ability to issue penalty notices, prosecute for offences and to issue compliance notices to suppliers or occupiers.
What are the penalties?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The NSW Government will be focusing on education, awareness and information in the first instance to encourage compliance and behaviour change.▪ On the spot fines (penalty notices) for retailers and other businesses supplying lightweight plastic bags are \$1,100 for individuals and \$5,500 for corporations. If the business is a manufacturer, producer, wholesaler or distributor of the prohibited item the fines are \$2,750 for individuals or \$13,750 for corporations.▪ Significantly higher penalties apply if a matter goes to court, with fines for retailers and other businesses of up to a maximum of \$11,000 for individuals and \$55,000 for corporations.▪ If people persist in handing out lightweight plastic bags after the EPA has issued them a notice to stop supply (a stop notice), the court can impose fines of up to \$55,000 for an individual (plus an additional \$5,500 for every day the individual persists in handing out lightweight plastic bags) and \$275,000 for a corporation (plus an additional \$27,500 for every day the corporation persists in handing out lightweight plastic bags).▪ Court imposed penalties are doubled for manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors or suppliers of lightweight plastic bags.

Useful websites – more information

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- **Campaign page - information on the plastics ban:**
<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-heritage/plastics-action-plan/stop-it-swap-it>
 - **Specifically for retailers, businesses, community organisations & not-for-profits:**
<https://dpe.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/plastics-ban-nsw>
 - **Enforcement of the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* and the EPA's regulatory role:**
[https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/plastics-plan.](https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/plastics-plan)
 - **The NSW Plastics Action Plan:**
<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-energy-and-science/plastics-action-plan>

For more information about the NSW Plastics Ban



VISIT

Campaign page - info on the plastic ban:

dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-heritage/plastics-action-plan/stop-it-swap-it



CALL

**NRA retail/
business
hotline:**

1800 844 946

EPA Enviroline:
131 555



EMAIL

Businesses:

sustainability@nra.net.au

Policy and other queries:

plastics@epa.nsw.gov.au

EPA media team:

publicaffairssection@epa.nsw.gov.au