



SHIRE OF
HARVEY

A Breath of Fresh Air



Policy 5.3.1 – Single Use Plastics Policy

1. Policy purpose

To provide controls and behavioural changes that minimise potential adverse impacts of single use plastics on the community and the environment.

To provide education and community leadership on the issue of single use plastics.

2. Policy scope

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

Events and activities occurring on Shire land, but not managed by Shire Officers, are not included in the mandatory scope of this policy but organisers will be encouraged and supported by the Shire to voluntarily comply with reducing the use of single use plastics.

In November 2020, the Western Australian State Government released Western Australia's *Plan for Plastics*. The plan's approach encourages avoidance of single-use plastics as the preferred action to mitigate the known impacts of single-use plastics on the environment and waste streams.

The *Plan for Plastics* will be delivered over the short (2020 to 2023) and medium-term (2024 to 2026) and will be complemented by voluntary approaches.

Short-term actions include introduction of Plastic Free Places trials with community partners and the development of targeted community education programs to support implementation.

Medium-term actions to be introduced from 2024 to 2026 include the phasing-out of a number of plastics.

3. Policy

Council acknowledges that widespread use, distribution and misuse of single use plastics can have a significant negative impact on the environment. The aim of the Policy is as follows:

- Progressively reduce and where possible eliminate single-use plastic items within all Shire operations;

- Encourage and support events and activities that are held on Shire owned or managed land to voluntarily comply with this policy;
- Comply with all national and state legislation in relation to waste avoidance, generation, recycling and disposal and in line with the Western Australia Plan for 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; and
- Build awareness within the community on single-use plastics.

Suitable alternatives

Suitable alternatives to single use plastic serving materials, packaging and other items shall be:

- Compostable;
- Available; and
- Fit for purpose.

Exemptions

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 at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

4. Strategic objective

The policy aligns to the following strategic objective:



We have a balanced respect for our natural assets and built environment, retaining our lifestyle values and community spirit.

5. Definitions

1. **Single use** means materials that are manufactured for disposable usage and an intended short lifespan;
2. **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”;
3. **Serving material** means any items that are distributed for the intended use as food or beverage serving and/or consumption aids, including but not limited to plates, cutlery, take away food containers, hot/cold beverage cups and lids (including paper coffee cups with plastic lining or lids), drinking straws;
4. **Single use plastic bag** means any plastic bag with handles made wholly or partially of plastic provided to a customer for the purpose of carrying goods. Usually less than 35 micrometres (microns) in thickness;
5. **Compostable** means materials capable of breaking down completely or decomposing to produce a soil product without toxic residue;
6. **Event:** Any planned activity where any structure (permanent or temporary), open area, thoroughfare, fenced or unfenced area will contain a number of persons greater than that normally found in that area or location at one time;

7. **Shire Operations** Anywhere that Shire staff are present at a location or provide a service or function to the community.
8. **Local Law** means the Shire of Harvey Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2017

6. Legislation

Shire of Harvey Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2017

7. Related documents

- Shire of Harvey Events Package
- Policy 4.3.7 – Trading in public places policy for food vendors

Responsible area	Waste and Safety Services		
Responsible officer	Manager Waste and Safety Services		
Responsible team	Waste and Safety Services		
Version control	Date	Approval	Date
Version 1	27/04/2021	Resolution	21/060
Version 2			
Version 3			