



The Hon. James Griffin MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage

PD21/593

Mr David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

via email: david.blunt@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Blunt *David*

Please find enclosed the Government response to the report entitled *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021* by Portfolio Committee 7 – Planning and Environment for tabling in the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely

**James Griffin MP**  
Minister for Environment and Heritage

Enclosure: NSW Government Response – *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021*

*14/2/22*

*Received at 3:00pm  
Monday 14 February  
2022*



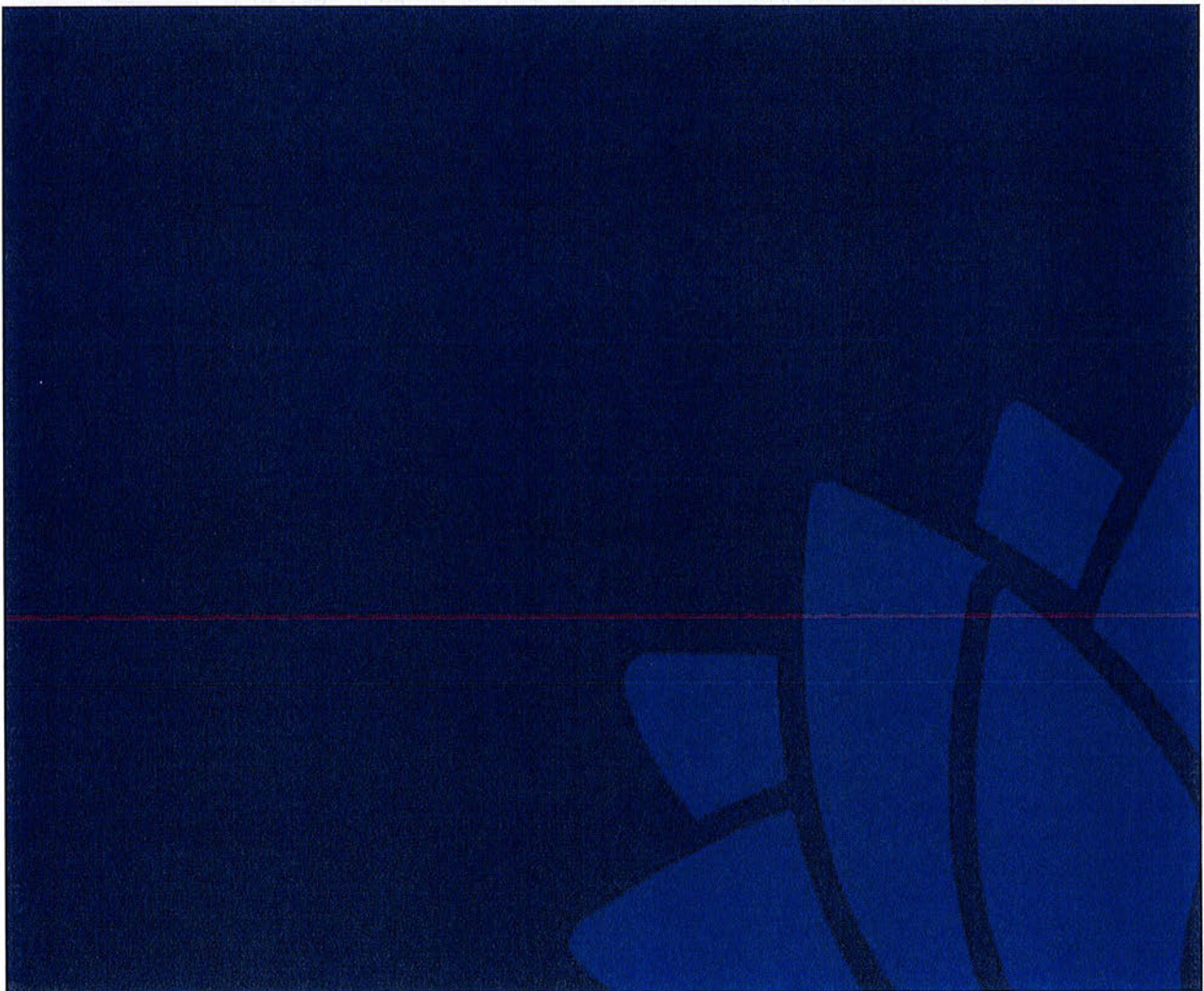
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

## **NSW Government Response**

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Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021

February 2022





## Introduction

The NSW Government welcomes the final report of the inquiry into the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021* (the Bill).

The Government acknowledges the valuable work of Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment in conducting the inquiry. The Government also acknowledges the contributions of the many individuals and organisations that made submissions and gave evidence at hearings.

Since the release of this report the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* (the Act) has come into force. The Act supports commitments outlined in the NSW Plastics Action Plan, including banning a number of problematic single-use plastics.

The Act prohibits the supply of lightweight plastic bags (35 microns or less) from 1 June 2022.

The Act also prohibits other single-use plastics from 1 November 2022, including:

- single-use plastic cutlery, straws and stirrers
- single-use plastic plates and bowls (excluding bowls with spill proof lids)
- single-use plastic cotton buds
- expanded polystyrene foodservice items
- rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.

In considering problematic plastic items to be prohibited, the Government considered the availability of suitable alternatives, the needs of different communities, such as people living with a disability, existing prohibitions in other Australian jurisdictions and the propensity of items to be littered or enter the environment.

The Government also established an Expert Reference Group to provide the opportunity for key external stakeholders to input into the development of the legislation. The group was comprised of members of industry associations, disability advocacy groups and environmental groups, many of whom also provided submissions to the inquiry into the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021*.

## Response to recommendations

The inquiry into the Bill made one recommendation only.

### Recommendation 1

That the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021* not proceed, but that the evidence documented in this report, and the conclusions of the committee, inform the NSW Government in drafting its foreshadowed plastic reduction legislation. Further, that the report inform the House's consideration of the forthcoming legislation.

### Response

The Government supports the recommendation.

Evidence and submissions given by over 95 witnesses to Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment and documented in the committee's report informed the development of the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* (the Act). Contributions and conclusions from committee members similarly informed the drafting of the Act.