



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary inquiry to examine bill to reduce plastics waste in New South Wales

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 March 2021

A bill to phase out single-use plastics, polystyrene packaging, products containing plastic microbeads and other plastic products harmful to the environment is the subject of a new parliamentary inquiry – and the community is being encouraged to have their say.

Chair of the NSW Upper House's planning and environment committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, introduced the bill to Parliament in February 2021 on behalf of The Greens.

Ms Faehrmann said, "The Legislative Council referred the bill to this cross-party committee so that it can seek the views of community members, stakeholder groups and experts about the bill's provisions. We will examine the arguments for and against the bill and report back to Parliament on what we see as the best way forward."

"The bill aims to reduce plastic waste, for example single-use plastic bags, microbeads in personal care products and detergents, single-use plastic cutlery, plastic drinking straws, disposable plastic cups, polystyrene food containers and other packaging. To achieve this, the bill sets out targets for plastic reduction, with a plan to eliminate plastics pollution by 2025. It seeks to establish a Plastics Reduction Commission that would report on the management of plastic waste, along with mechanisms to reduce plastics pollution. The Commission would also liaise with industry and government to develop strategies to achieve each of the targets, and would report on compliance."

"There is a growing consciousness across the community, government and industry of the extent of plastic waste and its harmful impacts on the environment and human health. This inquiry provides an opportunity for the full range of stakeholders to express their views and have them heard by Parliament," said Ms Faehrmann.

The committee invites all interested stakeholders to have their say on issues relating to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021, via written submissions. Submissions are due by 3 May and can be lodged via the [inquiry website](#).

Public hearings are planned for late May and early June 2021. The committee will report in October 2021.

The [website](#) also contains further information about the inquiry, including links to the bill and details of public hearings as they become available.

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*For further information, please contact the office of Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC,
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