



The Honourable Matt Kean MP  
Minister for Energy and Environment

Our ref: MD21/3958  
Your ref: 21/32897

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC  
Committee Chair  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: [Cate.Faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Cate.Faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Faehrmann *Cate*

Thank you for your letter requesting information about the NSW Plastics Action Plan for the Inquiry into Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021.

As you are aware, the NSW Government has recently released the NSW Plastics Action Plan, which includes the commitment to ban certain single-use plastics. The Plan was informed by more than 16,000 responses to our discussion paper. Under the Plan, the NSW Government has committed to phasing out certain single-use plastic products, including compostable and degradable plastic alternatives. These include:

- lightweight plastic shopping bags
- single-use plastic cutlery, straws and stirrers
- cotton buds with plastic stems
- expanded polystyrene food service items
- microbeads in personal care and cosmetic products.

The NSW Government has also committed to reviewing a number of other items in three years. Items for review include:

- plastic plates and bowls (including lids)
- plastic cups (including plastic lined cups and lids)
- oxo-degradable plastics
- heavyweight plastic bags and barrier bags
- non-compostable fruit stickers.

In deciding on appropriate items to ban the NSW Government considered a number of factors including availability of commercially available alternatives, consultation with stakeholders and the community and feedback on necessary timeframes to ensure a smooth transition for businesses.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is currently working closely with the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to draft the legislation to phase out these items. The NSW Government aims to introduce and pass this legislation in the spring parliamentary session.

Should the Bill pass the Parliament, supply of lightweight plastic bags will be prohibited within six months from passage, with supply of the other items prohibited within 12 months from passage.

The NSW Plastics Action Plan commits to reducing plastic litter by 30 per cent by 2025. This will be monitored using data from the Australian Litter Measure, the NSW Key Littered Items Study and the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project.

I know how passionate you are about these reforms and I look forward to engaging with you further and for your support when this important new legislation is introduced to Parliament later this year.

Yours sincerely



**Matt Kean MP**  
Minister for Energy and Environment

20.7.24

Happy for officials attend committee hearing after drafting of legislation has occurred.