

**INQUIRY INTO WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE
RECOVERY AMENDMENT (PLASTICS REDUCTION)
BILL 2021**

Organisation: Muswellbrook Shire Council
Date Received: 3 May 2021

Muswellbrook Shire Council submission into the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery
Amendment (Plastics Reduction) Bill 2021

Muswellbrook Shire Council is supportive of this bill because of the positive environmental and economic impacts it will have on our local community. However, there are some issues the bill needs to address.

1. The State Government will need to provide Council with extra support and resources in order to effectively implement many aspects of the Bill. This is because the Bill identifies several required elements that are functions of local councils. This includes Schedule 1 (a), (d) and (i).
2. Schedule 1(d)(4) states that: *“ensuring that, by the end of 2024, all packaging used in the State is recyclable, compostable or reusable”*
This statement needs further clarification – a product may be *recyclable, compostable or reusable* but that does not necessarily mean that any of these methods happen (the product may still end up in the general mixed waste stream).
3. Schedule 1(g) - Council believes this is an important inclusion. However, the first option should be for a product that is not a single-use plastic if possible, and the single-use plastic option is only used if no alternative exists.
4. Schedule 1(h) - A key factor to significantly reducing the amount single-use plastic in use in NSW will be prohibiting the single-use plastic that is manufactured in a different jurisdiction but used in NSW.