



**ACT**  
Government

# Phasing out single-use plastics

## YourSay community submissions

October 2019



## This document outlines community submissions received during the consultation period

**Community submissions** were considered to be submissions received through the YourSay website or by email from an individual or family. These are distinguished as follows:

- **YS** Community submissions received through the YourSay website
- **Indsub** Community submissions received through email from an individual or family

**Organisational submissions** are published separately on the YourSay website. This includes submissions received from peak industry and environment bodies, advocacy and political groups, businesses and government.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS1</b>	Agree that all plastics listed on p21 should be phased out. Behaviours need to change, and they have to start changing now.
<b>YS2</b>	Discussion paper says Gov is committed to less plastic waste at events, yet prior to the last Night Noodle Markets I tried to get information on whether I could take my own re-usables. No info available so I asked on the event FB page, got no official response, just response from other community members saying it wasn't hygienic. I went ahead and took my own plates/bowls/cutlery. My family generated almost no waste that night. But it felt like Breaking the rules. At bag check - -what about the cutlery?? We saw no willingness or encouragement by organisers/govt. All stall holders we tried were thrilled to use our plates! Many of us are ready to do this. Others need information - like that me taking my plates will not somehow contaminate all the other food!!
<b>YS3</b>	For years I have been reducing our family's (5 people) waste. Our weekly landfill waste is the size of a soccer ball. We also reduced our 'recycling' after finding out that items in co-mingled bins are not genuinely recycled - An obvious place to start: - recycle glass rather than crushing for fill. If co-mingled stream is too contaminated, allow drop off of clean glass & with CDS items, for genuine recycling. (love to have a place to take my glass jars. don't need 10c) - provide industry incentives/targets/minimum requirements for recycled component in plastics so there is a market for plastic collected in kerb-side bins and it is actually recycled.  Major difficulty for us using less plastic is milk bottles. Govt could support return to glass bottles and collection/wash/reuse system.
<b>YS4</b>	ACT recycling of soft plastics like offered by coles/woollies should be available more widely. So many unnecessary soft plastics in supermarket packaging create huge amount of bulk waste in household rubbish. Reducing excess packaging in supermarkets as a priority. Most is thrown in the bin as soon as it gets home (eg. plastic packaging around a plastic container of fruit or veg, a box around a plastic bag of cereal, a plastic bag around 10 smaller plastic bags of chips). There is so much waste in supermarket packaging. Ban straws. Only recyclable coffee cups. Wooden cutlery or plates and cutlery that can be washed and reused. It would be very difficult to get rid of all take-away plastic containers as there are limited alternatives (these can be recycled anyway).

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS5	<p>I would love to see a ban on wrapping and packaging for vegetables in plastic. It would be great if apples and mandarins didn't come in a plastic tub wrapped in plastic.</p> <p>Please don't get rid of plastic straws at this point, alternatives are not yet good replacements for them.</p>
YS6	<p>Firstly, I think we should return all plastics and packaging to the supermarket they were purchased from. This would hopefully force producers/manufacturers to reduce their use of plastics. This must be done before we can look at the re-use.</p>
YS7	<p>I would be very happy if the ACT Government would make it very very expensive to use/buy single use plastic. The issue of plastic pollution arises from a disposable culture. Generally, as a society we are disconnected from our waste plus single use items are easily and cheaply available. In a perfect world all single use items would be very very expensive. Prohibition is not realistic in the short term, but imposing a levy on the buying and selling of such plastic in the ACT, could be a great option. The money collected could be used to incentivise businesses that use/sell alternatives (to single use plastic) and also to contribute to the cost of cleaning up plastic in the environment.</p>
YS8	<p>I would like to raise one thing: disabled people have been clear that single use plastic straws help them. Please consider a 'straw on request' rule instead. We should not add to the barriers disabled people face to participating in society. Apart from that I completely support the ban</p>
YS9	<p>I think we should also include plastic bags that are currently not part of the ban and make people use reusable green bags made from cotton/synthetic material instead.</p> <p>Many people use fruit and vegetable bags as shopping bags to get around the bag ban. These should definitely be banned.</p> <p>Everything on the list wanting to be banned should be banned also.</p>
YS10	<p>It will be difficult to eliminate the thin plastic bags in which meat or fish is wrapped. But in Europe they've started already decades ago having these plastic bags made of compostable material. Why can't this be done in Australia?</p> <p>As to plastic bottles: the present collection scheme in the ACT is inefficient. Only certain bottles can be returned and that at only a few locations. Again, in Germany every supermarket has a machine where one can return all bottles purchased at the supermarket with the choice of a refund or donating the money to charity. If Aldi can produce such machines in Germany why can't their branches here in Australia?</p> <p>Also, we need convenient collection points for rags (clothing no longer good enough for charity shops) which can now be recycled into new material.</p>

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YS11	<p>I will be happy to support such bans IF, AND ONLY IF, alternatives are offered that don't involve the customer having to pay extra for such alternatives, having to remember to bring your own reusables, etc.</p> <p>Think biodegradable I mean wouldn't it be better if you allowed us to have free, single-use BIODEGRADABLE plastic bags? Surely you have given any thought to that. No?</p>
YS12	<p>Please get rid of single use plastic as soon as possible and either recycle or burn the rest safely.</p>
YS13	<p>I think we should focus on cutting back on coffee cups because buying reusable ones isn't onerous and would be good for businesses who sell them in turn.</p> <p>I support banning businesses from using the disposable items in order to force consumers to use reusable items.</p> <p>Changes I have made - educating myself on recycling and being stringent with it; using reusable containers rather than disposable plastic like glad wrap or ziplock bags; using a reusable straw; buying a reusable coffee cup; using reusable grocery bags.</p> <p>All of the above has been a simple habit change of little cost and effort that everyone can do.</p> <p>I think the changes need to be normalised which can be achieved through wider education, enforced industry change and as a result change in trend.</p>
YS14	<p>All plastic ever created is still on this earth in landfill or in our oceans. Now is the time to make a change and do something about it. Single use plastics can be replaced by biodegradable options and the public can be educated on why this is important and how to make simple changes. Let's sacrifice our "convenience" for the environment and for the better.</p>
YS15	<p>I support the banning of single-use plastics in the ACT. We led the way with the plastic bag ban and the population adapted; they will likewise adapt to the phasing out of straws, disposable cutlery and the like. I would like to see this ethos extend towards plastic packaging of other products such as single-serve drinks and snacks, with measures to encourage companies to switch to glass, aluminium and cardboard packaging and other alternative materials. Our governments have a responsibility and duty to lead the changes necessary to halt the destruction of our planet - through legislative change we can spur economic and industrial adaptations to reform our unsustainable habits.</p>
YS16	<p>I agree with the list on page 21 of the discussion paper, however I think that ear bud should be added immediately - and disposable nappies, sanitary items and food packaging should be a part of the discussion - with a view to developing a longer term strategy to deal with those items.</p> <p>We have committed to reducing our household plastic and over the past 5 years we have used cloth nappies, reusable sanitary items (cloth pads and 'moon cup', reusable containers to the markets to purchase food items, shop at the ANU food coop for food/cleaning products and only buy very limited pre-packaged food. These are all very practical and with support many others can do the same.</p> <p>I am an event manager at ANU and I have also started to ensure that my events are as waste free as possible.</p>

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YS17	<p>Phase out other cups too (as opposed to just coffee cups), for example- bubble tea plastic cup and plastic straw for bubble tea;</p> <p>Encourage companies like laboratories and hospital that throw away plastic bag from product packaging to recycle those plastic bags.</p>
YS18	Just stop interfering in our lives.
YS19	How about cloth nappies and ban single use disposable nappies?
YS20	<p>Have you considered disposable nappies in regards to single use and it's impact?</p> <p>Reusable modern cloth nappies are a great alternative. However it can be daunting to begin with and a large cost.</p> <p>It would be great if there was a rebate program set up to help cover the initial cost. (As done by the Casey council in Victoria)</p>
YS21	<p>Regarding the list of disposable products being excluded from the recommendations, I believe many of these should be included in the banned items list. There are many alternatives to plastic food packaging and bottles such as packaging made from glass, bamboo, hemp, and even avocado seed. With items such as nappies and women's sanitary products there are brands that are more biodegradable than others. Perhaps some kind of grading system could be implemented to determine which nappies/pads are more biodegradable and those on the worse end are not allowed to be sold in the ACT. Lastly, cotton buds, there are brands available that are made from bamboo, so you could recommend that these be made more readily available and ban plastic ones.</p>
YS22	<p>Perhaps charging for single use plastics, sometimes I need a plastic straw when my neck is playing up and I can't move my head properly. Sometimes I need a plastic fork cuz the metal or wood ones give me sensory issues. I agree there needs to be more awareness etc about single use plastics, but banning them completely doesn't seem helpful.</p>
YS23	Bring back plastic shopping bags
YS24	<p>Single use plastics should be banned. Although businesses need to be supported to do this. Financially viable options need to be available, so too do more recycling options for soft plastics.</p> <p>It's also not enough to use 'biodegradable' plastics, as many consumers don't have compost etc.</p>
YS25	<p>Providing accessibility for people living with a disability is maintained (e.g. allowing plastic straws), then I 100% agree with phasing out single-use plastics. Over the past few years, I have made attempts in my own life to reduce single-use plastics, but it would be easier if shops were encouraged to provide sustainable alternatives. I support the effort to increase recycling options.</p>
YS26	Really important and a good first step to eliminating single use plastics in Canberra. We have a lot to learn from Europe and I hope other Australian cities follow.
YS27	I would like to see single use plastics reduced to almost zero. In particular the automatic provision of straws needs to be stopped. They can easily be optional.

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YS28	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions ought to be a higher priority than reducing litter or saving space in landfill. If plastics reduce food wastage or displace more energy intensive containers, like ceramics or glass, we should go with the plastics. Litter and landfill are still problems, but they are not existential problems. Let's focus efforts on the real threat for now.
YS29	Surely no plastic waste from the ACT actually ends up in the ocean. According to the world economic forum 90% of the worlds oceanic plastic waste comes from 10 rivers <a href="https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/90-of-plastic-polluting-our-oceans-comes-from-just-10-rivers/">https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/90-of-plastic-polluting-our-oceans-comes-from-just-10-rivers/</a> I am all for reducing waste, but this seems like a token gesture that will mainly inconvenience people and won't actually do anything.
YS30	I would love to see a single use plastic ban as suggested. The ACT needs to lead Australia on this, and show the nation that it's possible (and necessary!). I already use my own light weight reusable produce bags and silicon straws, and it's been a REALLY easy change.
YS31	I've had a look at the paper and my views haven't changed: If a plastic item is not made of at least 50% biodegradables, it should be banned. Taking a hard stance on environmental issues is the best way to see significant progress.
YS32	Thanks for asking. Anti-straw campaigners didn't before target quadriplegics & disabled. Quads' only form of personal agency may be drinking. For them, biting down on a straw to control flow is imperative to avoid inhaling fluids, (risking inhalation pneumonia & death). Fortunately, dishwasher-safe straws with detachable bendy silicon mouthpieces are now available online. But you'd have to ask quads if they work.  I walk/bus so squish a silicon keep-cup into my small handbag. If catering events, I hire crock/cutlery. I drop food to the frail or new parents, in alfoil containers with bamboo cutlery. I rarely use wheely bins bar the green waste. But I monthly fill a 27 L 'Maze' bag with garbage on the Goulburn St-Jamison lane. 40 years ago we saw no waste at sea. Now it's everywhere.
YS33	Please don't ban plastic straws. Many disabled people need them and there are no good alternatives that are heat safe, choking friendly etc.
YS34	It's important to make recycling easy and cheap, but it's frustrating that the duty of recycling is entirely lumped onto end consumers.
YS35	Single use plastics are a terrible blight on the environment. I think this is a great proposal but could go further and include more items, like cotton buds, thicker plastic bags and food packaging. One only needs to stand in a supermarket and really focus on all the plastic that our food is packaged in and it becomes quite a shocking realisation. Particularly wrapping fresh produce in plastic which is completely unnecessary and should not be allowed. The use of thicker bags, like the ones used by supermarkets and other retailers should also be banned. This practice still results in lots of bags being used and thrown away. If they are to replace by paper bags it should be mandated that they must made from 100% recycled paper. Essentially, I think it is a great plan but could go further.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS36	<p>Q1. I agree with the inclusion list and would also like to see reusable plastic bags above 35 microns banned as well. I would also like to see a phase-out of plastic in consumer goods (plastic beverage containers, food packaging etc) with immediate ban on plastic for fresh fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>Q2. I support regulatory approaches, including licencing as well as educational approaches for consumers.</p> <p>Q5 and Q6. I do not buy anything has single use plastic (and do my best to avoid ALL packaging) , I refuse plastic cutlery and straws (by bringing my own steel straw and reusable cutlery), bring my own produce bags and grocery bags shopping, shop at bulk food shops and only buy fresh produce that doesn't have packaging.</p> <p>Q8. More affordable bulk food shops - currently very expensive.</p> <p>Q7.</p>
YS37	<p>I still recite "Stupid, XXXX, Ridiculous, Bag, Ban, Crap" as I stuff 6 bags in to my pocket every time I visit the supermarket. The green candidates have been either last, or (in the case of the ACT elections) left blank, on every one of my ballot papers since that stupid [REDACTED] ridiculous bag ban was forced upon us.</p>
YS38	<p>I think single use plastic should be reduced where practical, and the ACT and local businesses should take any opportunity to provide sustainable alternatives to single use plastics.</p>
YS39	<p>Some take away places already favour other materials - eg compostable sugar cane mulch plates. But the bins available in many food courts here in the ACT are only 'landfill' or plastic/glass recycling. If this initiative is to be any more than tokenistic, it needs to include bins for composting compostable items (fitting into an expanded ACT Green Bins scheme), and bins for recycling of paper-based items at all places where these containers are sold.</p> <p>Otherwise, we'll be just sending different types of materials to the litter stream or landfill. And in the case of compostable containers, this will mean the generation of unnecessary greenhouse gases.</p>
YS40	<p>No plastic is "single use". All plastic can be recycled. The issue is that different types of plastic require different methods to recycle and a given area may not have the needed equipment to do so, so they just declare the plastic to be "single use" leading to everyone just tossing it.</p> <p>Rather than just banning everything, invest in recycling infrastructure so that more plastic can be recycled.</p>
YS41	<p>Please seriously consider the forced reduction of unnecessary single use plastic in fruit and veg in supermarkets. It is so wasteful and a big win! And I believe this proposal in its entirety is fantastic, small personal changes for the absolute grater good! Go ACT</p>
YS42	<p>Fully support this initiative and applaud the ACT Govt for this action.</p>

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YS43	<p>All alternatives to all single-use plastics (including 'reusable' plastic shopping bags) should be considered and introduced following a transition period (say, of no more than 6 months) to allow for an education campaign and to clear existing stocks (banning reordering of plastic stocks during the final 3 months of the transition period).</p> <p>The focus of the campaign would be on accustoming users to the idea of buying, cleaning and reusing non-plastic alternatives (as occurred in times past), and to briefly encapsulate the benefits to the environment and economy. People need to be acquainted with the idea of external costs to the environment of plastics use, which aren't at present recovered in the price we pay for plastics. Investigate stainless steel straws as alternative to paper.</p>
YS44	<p>I note that disposable nappies are not being considered as part of this study, however there is scope for it to be included now.</p> <p>There are 152 approved long day care centres in the ACT. Assuming that 20 placements at each use 5 nappies p/day, providers are using 76,000 nappies p/week. This equates to 3.42 – 4.18t of disposable nappies going into ACT landfill each week, should all 152 childcare providers use disposables.</p> <p>Regulated usage of cloth nappies for childcare providers would have a significant impact on the reduction of landfill. This waste reduction methodology is manageable by ACT businesses &amp; will not have an impact on the ability of families, the elderly or the disabled to choose &amp; control how they manage their individual requirements at home or in other care situations.</p>
YS45	<p>This is an important step to take in our community. Single use items (particularly plastic) are unnecessary and adjusting our habits to support this is very manageable.</p> <p>The most important items to focus on are plastic straws/cutlery and lightweight fruit and vegetable bags as the exclusion of these would require minor adjustments.</p> <p>Within our household we avoid many single use or short life items. Most of which we have swapped out for a similar item that can be used a number of time e.g. reusable sandwich bags and beeswax wraps over single use wraps. The only challenge with these items is the initial upfront cost. Households can overcome this by purchasing these items slowly over time. In the long run these items even save money.</p> <p>I'm excited we are moving in this direction.</p>

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YS46	<p>It's fantastic to see this initiative! I'd like to see more education/promo about the fact that we can recycle single use plastics in the bins outside coles and woolworths. Since I've started doing this it means that I only have to put out the landfill bin once a month if that.</p> <p>Out of the discussion paper's list of plastics to concentrate on, all of them are important. To me, I'd like to see more action on polystyrene and the fruit and veg bags. There's already a lot of cafes offering paper straws which is good and hopefully will continue, so I think it'd be worth focusing on the polystyrene and bags problem. More discounts for keep cups / surcharges for the polystyrene cups? Offer paper bags for fruit and veg instead?</p> <p>Thanks for doing this!</p>
YS47	<p>Whether it is single-use or multiple-uses plastics, they are still plastics and required considerable amount of time to decompose. It is a greedy marketing fad saying that 'keep cup' or the BYO-like will help the environment. According to studies and researches, it is only when one BYO cup have been used consistently for more than 22 times that we breakeven the benefits. The problem is that we have multiple BYO cups sitting at homes &amp; offices, none are used frequently and due to be binned. We are creating a bigger plastic problem if promote BYO cups, e.g. paid-plastic-bags in our landfills after free-bags-ban. Alternatively, paper made cups are a sustainable and decomposable material. Government should support recycled paper cups, cutlery, plates etc. I personally love the paper straw.</p>
YS48	<p>Ban single use plastics!!! I am for a complete ban on all usage of non-biodegradable substances, due to the vast quantity of humans beings on the planet. The planet simply cannot cope with non-sustainable approaches to human consumption and consumerism. In order to gain a real change in production, we need to ban usage of plastics where possible and where we continue to allow us of plastics in manufacturing, we should introduce a tax that reflects the real cost of waste recovery, effective waste disposable, and restoration of all environmental impacts caused.</p>
YS49	<p>Please consider adding the following to your banned list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- little soy sauce filled fish from sushi shops &amp; all portion control single use sauce containers e.g. tomato sauce</li> <li>- air filled plastic cushion packaging commonly used inside parcels for shipping instead of newspaper or recyclable materials. This is not bubblewrap but air filled plastic pockets about the size of a magnum ice cream</li> <li>- plastic takeaway containers commonly used by Chinese/indian takeaways</li> <li>- toothpicks when they come individually wrapped in plastic</li> <li>- All plastic based election campaign materials e.g. corflute</li> <li>- clingwrapped fresh produce unless it is cut (e.g.for hygiene)</li> <li>- plastic wiper guards/bags 4 carwashes-make them reusable and borrowed from the store</li> <li>- fad items used by supermarkets 2 get kids hooked E.g. tokens</li> </ul>
YS50	<p>Businesses shouldn't offer any plastic bags: not automatically, not for free, nor asking would you like one, they should only available if a customer requests it and then the business should give a recycled paper bag (which are trendy and hipster anyway)</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS51	Plenty of scope to ask small, medium and large food outlets that do takeaway and home delivery to reduce their outer plastic packaging. Recycled paper bags or compostable bags for the main carrier bag (some large brands do paper well, small businesses don't at all it's all plastics).
YS52	Despite its convenience, S.U. plastics have become too greater problem to ignore. The responsible thing to do it ban as much of it as possible. Humans have lived without plastic before. I'm sure in the future plastic will be thought of as a product just like asbestos... a toxic product that will be banned. The affect it is having on the earth is startling and by banning it, we drive innovation in better solutions.
YS53	Single use plastics must be banned immediately across the world. Alternatives are readily available. There is no excuse for the continued use of single use plastic.
YS54	Ban single use plastics. It's a no brainer.
YS55	I support the ban on all items proposed (straws, cutlery, bags coffee cups etc). The only exception is straws for people with disability- everyone else can use their lips. We are such a wasteful community, it doesn't take much to put a reusable coffee cup or water bottle in your bag, or to BYO shopping and produce bags. But it is much harder to avoid/reduce plastic packaging and this needs to change. (Eg I don't need/want fruit and veggies packaged in plastic but sometimes I have to buy them). Industry needs legislation for this to happen though. Recyclable isn't enough as it doesn't happen. Should also be looking for alternatives for disposable nappies and feminine hygiene products.
YS56	<p>We strongly support phasing out single-use plastic items, where reasonable alternatives exist, such as those items listed in the discussion paper. We are confident the community and businesses will come to accept any (extremely modest) lifestyle changes over time. We applaud the leadership of the ACT Government on this issue.</p> <p>We are both SCUBA divers and are gravely concerned about the levels of plastic pollution in the marine environment. Much of it is visually disturbing and detracts from the scenic amenity of coast areas and beaches. More importantly, plastics break down into very fine pieces and percolate through marine food chains. It's almost a cliché now, but ingested plastic is a major threatening process for organisms.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS57	<p>Act NOW. Ban all p21 inclusions, plus excess packaging (currently excluded). Top 4, disposable coffee cups, bottled water, straws, takeaway containers.</p> <p>I take own shopping and fruit/vege bags, &amp; keep-cup. I refuse packaged fruit/veges, and straws, and re-cycle/ reuse. I purchase least packaged food, and recycled product. Written complaint to Rashays Restaurant and boycott due to appalling use of plastic - ignored.</p> <p>Alternatives: bamboo, sustainable paper and cardboard.</p> <p>Raise price on plastic bags so consumers value plastic more and reuse. IMMEDIATELY ban bottled water. Use taxing and tax breaks to mute negative reaction.</p> <p>Increase profile of Responsible Cafe initiative cafes.</p> <p>Commonwealth and ACT Government department's cafes should have NO disposable cups – either china/keep cups</p>
YS58	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes - agree with your list of items to be considered. They are all equally important.</li> <li>2. Action is needed ASAP/now.</li> <li>3. NA</li> <li>4. NA</li> <li>5. Yes, always pack reusables (bags, water bottle, coffee cups). Say no/avoid straws, disposable cutlery etc. Avoid supermarkets/purchases where items like fruit and veg are unnecessarily covered in plastic.</li> <li>6. Carry own water bottle, keep cup, reusable shopping bags. I use reusable cutlery at work and don't get takeaway with throw away cutlery.</li> <li>7. The main problem that I can see with banning single-use plastics is with purchasing water, sometimes you forget to bring your own bottle, or people may not be able to afford a reusable one, then what? They can't buy a drink of water?</li> <li>8. Not sure, but great paper, well presented, great stats and graphic design</li> </ol>
YS59	<p>I support very strong action on this. Disposable nappies are a big problem, as are coffee cups and single-use water bottles. Recycling is only a small part of the answer. I believe we need advertising campaigns to address the public perception (deliberately created by many commercial interests) that "convenience" is the most valuable thing, e.g. with those fiddly little coffee pods, or dried noodle soups in their own single-use styrofoam bowl. Are those things really more convenient than spooning coffee out of a jar, or making ramen in a saucepan? Not really! Tamper-proof seals are another problem. There must be a better alternative than a glass jar which is then encased in plastic. We need disincentives for companies, supermarkets, etc, on the continual increasing of their packaging.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS60	<p>1) The items listed that should be focused on are good. However, I would like to see a push for the reduction in food and beverage packing or other FMCG. While these would take a lot longer to phase out, and would likely need an initiative at the national level, they will never be removed unless there is evidence of local government desire to remove these from our waste chain. I recommend some consideration of food and FMCG-related plastic packaging.</p> <p>5&amp;6) I currently live a single-use plastic free lifestyle. The majority of my groceries are purchased from farmers markets and bulk food stores (scoop and weigh) and stored in jars. I still purchase goods in glass and metal containers from supermarkets.</p> <p>7) Convenience will be limited, but that is an adjustment people will accept with time.</p>
YS61	<p>I dont have much input other than to say I would love to see the ban extended to all single use plastics.</p>
YS62	<p>While for the most part this seems like a good idea, there needs to be some leeway for people with special needs who may require things like plastic, bendable straws. Many people who need these are unable to use paper straws as they tend to produce too much saliva which then destroys the straw too quickly. Paper straws also cannot be bent in the same way as plastic straws which many people with additional needs require.</p> <p>What is the alternative for produce bags. As most produce is sold by weight, the alternative needs to be lightweight as well as sanitary so that dirty bags don't contaminate the scales and potentially other people's produce purchases. Most produce needs some sort of bag so that it doesn't roll around trolleys or baskets and become bruised or squashed.</p>
YS63	<p>Putting a ban on single use plastic straws continues the trend of treating people with disabilities as unvalued members of our community.</p> <p>At this time there is no safe or effective replacement that can be used to replace the single use plastic straw. These straws are needed by many people with disabilities to be able to eat, drink and take medications. Please see <a href="https://pwd.org.au/plastic-straw-ban/">https://pwd.org.au/plastic-straw-ban/</a> for a further explanation.</p> <p>I do believe in bettering our environment and planet, but an outright ban on these products can put our friends with disabilities at risk.</p> <p>Please reconsider.</p>
YS64	<p>Plastic Cotton Tips or Buds and buy Bamboo ones they are available.</p>
YS65	<p>Phase them out, I back it</p>
YS66	<p>Great initiative. Agree with everything &amp; feel it is a good starting point. We can expand the ban from there.</p>

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YS67	<p>I can't express how much I hate this bent against plastic.</p> <p>Some cocktails are impossible to drink without plastic straws. The silly paper straws just get wet and mushy very quickly.</p> <p>Don't even get me started on the wood cutlery. Plastic cutlery was bad enough - the wood stuff is even worse. The knives don't cut, the forks just break instantly.</p> <p>And there's no way you're taking my take-away coffee away from me. I've never even seen a proposed solution for replacing these that doesn't sacrifice convenience.</p>
YS68	<p>another great-sounding project. however, it needs to be done correctly;</p> <p>first, define "plastic" ie chemically; does it include rubber?</p> <p>next define the purpose eg save money or turtles</p> <p>next start with major items such as polystyrene packing, and don't exempt food packaging, which is surely the largest problem.</p>
YS69	<p>generally seems fine apart from the inclusion of 'barrier' bags - how do I carry meat and similar products home? I don't want blood from fresh meat contaminating other foods and clothing etc</p>
YS70	<p>I commend the government on this initiative but would like to see it taken further.</p> <p>Last year during several nights' stay at Calvary Private Hospital, I found that water was only supplied in disposable plastic bottles and on going home my small packet of meds was placed in a plastic bag measuring 27 x 40 cm. I would like to see hospitals encouraged to reduce their waste by using alternatives to plastic water bottles and plastic bags.</p>
YS71	<p>I believe, we as consumers should be responsible for the items we buy and reduce as much as possible our plastics consumption. I started on my own campaign last year, to reduce as much as possible the items I buy without plastic - these include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>purchasing butter in a paper wrap</li> <li>making my own yoghurt</li> <li>buying fruit and vegetables that are not in a plastic tray</li> <li>buying meat from the butcher instead of from a supermarket which has a plastic tray</li> </ul> <p>Changes I hope to make soon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>looking at other items to purchase that are wrapped in paper instead of plastic - eg toilet paper</li> <li>using a soap bar instead of liquid soap in a plastic pump</li> </ul> <p>I would also like to know - if I have a choice between buying an item in glass as opposed to plastic - which item is more easily recycled?</p>
YS72	<p>Single use plastics are a burden forced upon the consumer. We don't want to buy everything we need wrapped in plastic, but it's the only choice we are given. I have added soft plastic recycling to my list of household chores, but I have little trust in its effectiveness - we don't even know if our recyclables are actually being recycled. I want to buy less plastic and work hard to do so, but it's unavoidable. To live in a plastic free household would require a significant time commitment - I'd have to work part time or not at all!</p> <p>Get rid of all single use plastics. I don't want them!</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS73	Please ban the single use plastic as it is very dangerous to the environment. I would encourage the government to provide incentives to companies which are coming forward to produce or import below single use cutlery and plates from avocado seeds and lentils. (Mexico and India) <a href="https://youtu.be/r4Cc5zmy0eY">https://youtu.be/r4Cc5zmy0eY</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/6_NnIHCHlgs">https://youtu.be/6_NnIHCHlgs</a>
YS74	Plse phase them out asap.
YS75	I have stopped buying plastic wrap. We didn't have it in times past, and you can manage without it. Often use greaseproof paper. Or cover a bowl with a plate. Put food in a bpa free plastic container to store. Use brown paper bags where possible. Use recycled aluminium foil.
YS76	Please phase them out, people will adjust!
YS77	Very much needed. People are getting lazy as they have cheaper options available. If there is NO option, people will get use to NOT using single use plastic. Yes for BAN!!
YS78	thank you for encouraging public views. I believe that all plastic straws should be banned as there is no need for these. paper straws do the trick. also, we should look at stopping the hospitals from having plastic water bottle for patients. there are jugs of water which can be used. another saving is stopping plastic bags completely from the supermarkets. hesian bags should be on offer to buy as there is no plastic involved in their production. lastly, the small plastic bags at supermarkets should be stopped and have paper bags...some fruit markets are already doing this.
YS79	Products containing plastics (eg whitening toothpaste) should have clear labelling so consumers can choose not to purchase these products. Actively encouraging use of packaging made of organic material (eg cornstarch) instead of plastic bubble wrap, cellophane etc. Banning balloons as well. As an employee at and ACT hospital, cracking down on staff who still will throw recyclables in the bin as it's closer than a recycling bin on the other side of the room (and not using flimsy plastic bags to collect office waste)
YS80	All single use plastics should be removed from use. We have one planet with which to live. We share this planet with many other species. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the lands, seas and air. Placing a ban on all single use plastics is a good start to reducing the negative impact we have on our environment. I support a ban on single use plastics in Canberra and will support businesses and organisations that do the same.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS81	<p>Thanks for taking action on single use plastics. Re your questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes I agree with the items considered. Two to add: takeaway food containers and plastic net bags used to package citrus fruits in supermarkets.</li> <li>2. Urgent action is needed for environmental reasons. I support bans like the plastic bag ban.</li> </ol> <p>5/6. I use green bags, metal straws, no bags for fruit/veg and refuse to purchase plastic-wrapped food. All practical and simple to do. Canberra needs reusable, standardised takeaway food containers and legislation requiring businesses to accept customer use of them. Canberra needs to ban plastic wrapped fruit &amp; veg except for fragile items like berries, and ban extra plastic wrap e.g. grouping tins of baked beans - already in tins and could be sold singly!</p>
YS82	End single use plastics; and foster the development of a proper Australian recycling industry
YS83	If you get rid of plastic that's fine but you need to think about takeaway food as well & replace it with another option like bamboo
YS84	<p>I DON'T KNOW WHY IT IS SO HARD, JUST TOTALLY BAN SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS,PLASTIC STRAWS INITIALLY AND PHASE OUT THE REST OF POLLUTANT CRAP LIKE THROW AWAY COFFEE CUPS AND PLASTIC CUTLRY .</p> <p>FORCE CHANGE OR NOTHING CHANGES.</p>
YS85	I'm so happy to see this in the highlights of this month! This is one of the most important issues right now. We need to stop producing ALL single use plastic NOW. I personally try to live a waste free life wherever possible and will often refuse to purchase a product because the packaging cannot be recycled or reused. It's 2019. There are better ways. We can be better. It's your job to guide people on how. We have been selfish for too long and now that we have caused all this damage, we MUST undo it and bring the world back to how it should be. I would be so very proud of this country if we banned single use plastic.
YS86	<p>I think its great the ACT is leading the way in looking at this we should be banning all single use takeaway food containers and cutlery that isn't biodegradable all non biodegradable straws AT A MINIMUM!!</p> <p>There is further we could go but this is an easy step as there are already alternatives - look at what the national folk festival just did as an example</p>
YS87	<p>It is useful to focus on single use plastics as a whole and highlight (say) straws as an example. Otherwise the message gets lost and cafes serve (for example) juice with a paper straw, but in a plastic single serve container. Action is needed right now. And I would support a total ban. I take my own fabric food bags and containers to places like "Naked Foods". I carry a water bottle, camping bowl and spork with me to food festivals. People who are shopping for large families may not have the time or money or level of organisation required to bring their own containers. They could have their groceries home delivered by companies required to pack in (say) recycled paper bag or refundable/returnable containers. Challenges - perceptions that plastic provides better hygiene and laziness.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS88	<p>It all depends on what you call unnecessary single use Some people would say everything, which I don't agree with.</p> <p>And if something is banned there needs to be a suitable replacement that meets hygiene requirements.</p> <p>Judicious use is better than dogmatic banning of everything.</p>
YS89	<p>Don't phase it out. Get out the axe and make a sudden break. There are plenty of biodegradable options out there. Put together a list of biodegradable suppliers, send to all retailers, give them six months...then chop! No more plastic garbage. Don't delay, there is no need to draw it out when the solutions are readily available now.</p>
YS90	<p>There was a time when single use plastics were not available and there were not any problems. Solutions need to be found that will meet the triple bottom line of environmental, economic and cultural sustainability. While some consumers will be willing to change, others will be in opposition to the convenience of single use plastics being phased out; it's unreasonable to expect blanket positive acceptance of such a change. The opportunity for alternatives to single use plastics being produced IN AUSTRALIA will enable manufacturing industry creation which promotes employment. The impost on the environment for many species will eventually affect humans with micro plastics being found in food products being ingested. I am in full support of the elimination of single use plastics.</p>
YS91	<p>I agree that single use plastics are a serious threat to the future of the world. Some however are sometimes very useful, eg disposable cutlery, plates, cups. Lacking the background knowledge, I do not understand why these items cannot be made of RECYCLABLE plastic and then recycled. If this is technically possible, then surely it should be done. Or is cost a problem? And if so, then how serious a problem? It would help if your discussion paper clarified this point.</p>
YS92	<p>Plastic straws should be phased out totally. For people who do need a straw, bring your own stainless steel one which can be washed and reused Charge at least \$2.00 for a plastic shopping bag. 15 cents is ridiculous and people don't think twice about paying \$1.50 for the bags in their trolley. If it hurts their hip pocket they will soon remember to bring their own bag.</p>
YS93	<p>I fully support the elimination of the use of single-use plastics.</p>
YS94	<p>I support a ban on single use plastics including all plastic bags, cutlery, take-away food containers and coffee cups. Alternatives include beeswax cloths, silicone food covers, paper straws and plates, and bamboo cutlery. I also support regulations to reduce and eventually eliminate unnecessary plastic wrappings of foodstuffs in supermarkets. There is no reason to put bananas in a plastic bag. As with the current plastic shopping bag ban, consumers quickly adapt and take their own (cloth) bags.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS95</b>	just do it. its obviously the right thing to do. people will get used to it. there must be an adjustment in attitude, design, use and waste ASAP. the planet cant wait for us to ease into this.
<b>YS96</b>	Should be banned. Properly biodegradable products are out there, so these should be used if there is a necessity for portable packaging
<b>YS97</b>	Please ban single use plastics especially straws and knived and forks... suppliers will not change unless forced to... plastic is so cheap.
<b>YS98</b>	They should be eliminated asap, particularly cutlery, plates, straws, cups etc.
<b>YS99</b>	<p>Just ban all of it.</p> <p>Post photos of dead and bloody animals at all fast food outlets.</p> <p>OK, maybe that would scare the children. But they do have to learn, it will be their world soon enough.</p> <p>Good luck</p>
<b>YS100</b>	There should be more effort into making recyclable plastic bags with biodegradable materials. If some smaller stores can do this why don't the big supermarkets follow suit instead of selling those horrible big plastic bags. This is just another money making venture for supermarket chains and did NOT eliminate the use of plastic bags as originally planned.
<b>YS101</b>	We should ban selling single-use plastics including cups, folk, spoon, knife, spoon and bowls, ban plastic shopping bags. no more plastic!
<b>YS102</b>	<p>I agree that we need to reduce, and hopefully eventually eliminate, single use plastic products. I re-use the thick plastic style shopping bags bought from the supermarkets and buy all my fruit and vegetable loose rather than use the plastic bags provided. I try and avoid fruit, vegetables and other items that are pre-packaged. I've noticed that supermarkets usually provide brown paper bags for mushrooms and wonder whether this could be extended to other products.</p> <p>I'm still confused about which of the take away coffee cups and lids are recyclable and although I have a couple of plastic re-use cups I rarely remember to take one with me when I am going out.</p> <p>I have been using 'compostable' plastic bags as bin liners. I might try lining bin with newspaper or even nothing!</p>
<b>YS103</b>	<p>There are many environmentally friendly options to replace single use plastic. Part of the problem at times is cost. Single use plastic products are generally cheaper than the environmentally friendly option. Governments subsidising the cost of these items would assist more businesses to make the change to environmentally friendly products. Promotion of local Canberra businesses supporting or providing environmentally friendly options should also be supported by local government.</p> <p>Awareness campaigns are also important as many people do not realise the impact that single use plastic is making on the environment. Also targeting schools to use only environmentally friendly options would help to guide our future generations into making better choices for the environment.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS104</b>	<p>I think the ACT should do everything possible to eliminate use of single use plastics. While there will be transition costs &amp; changes in habits, these are worth making for the future of the species with whom we share our planet. I am a keen composter and I find it very confronting digging up plastic that is still durable &amp; colourful after years in my hot compost be. It is terrible the decades &amp; hundreds of years of backlogged waste we have generated - all for just a moments convenience. Our old value system is completely wrong &amp; the ACT should lead the way in eliminating single use plastics. It should also work with supermarket &amp; other retailers to change packaging. E.g. the amount of plastic wrap in an IKEA product is astonishing.</p>
<b>YS105</b>	<p>If we are really serious about reducing the impact that plastics have on the environment then all, not just some, single use plastic products that have viable alternatives should be phased out. This needs to include things like pads and nappies for which there are very good alternatives. It shouldn't matter about how convenient the product is in its single use form, it should only be based on the availability of alternatives. I cloth bum my kids and myself (female), use stainless steel straws etc and the cost saving is immense as is the amount of waste that we put in our bin each week.</p> <p>If there is no current viable alternative, like with many medical devices, then we continue to use the single use item until we have a viable alternative.</p>
<b>YS106</b>	<p>I believe that paper bags should replace the plastic bags at all supermarkets that supply them for fruit and vegetables and that there should be no more 15c bags to be purchased only. Would be nice to go a step further to try to get companies to stop their plastic packaging. People need to become more aware of this issue. The public is not educated enough of how bad plastic is. We are killing our environment as well as sea and land life. A study has also proven that we are now consuming plastic in our diet which will lead to more ill health. Education is extremely important for the government to show what plastic is doing eg to our sea life. People need a visual affect to get the message.</p>
<b>YS107</b>	<p>Q1: Do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed on page 21 being considered as part of this paper? If so, which items do you think are the most important to address (e.g. plastic bags, straws, cutlery, disposable coffee cups, takeaway containers)? Alongside those with a green tick it should include: All plastic beverage containers, all plastic packaging. On another note biodegradable and compostable bags should be quality checked and 1) the time taken for break down (months or years), and under what conditions (e.g. in landfill, in a lake) explained clearly.</p>
<b>YS108</b>	<p>It is very common to see people tear off single-use plastic bags for small amounts of fruit and vegies selected from bulk (unpackaged) displays. If I must use a bag for awkward-to-carry produce (e.g. baby spinach leaves, rocket, unwashed spuds) I use the paper bags provided for buying and storing mushrooms. I suggest retailers be encouraged to offer paper bags in various sizes and scrap those thin plastic bags.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS109	I strongly support the reduction of single -use plastics. The damage done to our environment by the use of these items - or rather the throwing away of these items, must be dealt with. I grew up at a time when these items did not exist and we all managed very well. I have managed to reduce plastic waste in my own home to some degree. One item I think should be looked at is doggy poo bags. Canberra has many dogs and there must be millions of these little bags going into landfill. I have changed to compostable bags but, am aware that the conditions required for the decomposition to occur does not exist in my compost bin. I put them in the bin at the dog park or my own garbage bin. I don't know what the solution to this is. Doggy poos not picked must wash straight into our water ways.
YS110	1. Some people have physical need to use straws, e.g. residents in nursing homes/hospital patients, etc. If no clear alternative is presented, phasing these out could be a problem. Plastic food packaging (e.g. takeaway containers) should be included on the list. 5. I make sure to use re-usable coffee cups. When shopping, I take my own bags, and don't use small plastic bags for fruits/vegetables. Most unavoidable instance is pre-packaged vegetables, e.g. most supermarkets only sell rocket lettuce pre-packaged. 6. Paper/cardboard straws are useful. Metal ones are slightly cumbersome and impractical. Paper bags for fruit/vegetables at supermarkets are helpful. 7. See above re: straws. 8. Incentives for businesses to phase out single-use plastics/phase in alternatives.
YS111	Single use plastic bags need to be banned ASAP and before the end of the year, replaced with paper bags. All plastic bags need to be banned and replaced with paper bags. We a destroying our environment with plastic and need to act NOW not in the future.  BAN ALL PLASTIC BAGS NOW
YS112	Ban all single use plastic. It is madness not to. The planet can't deal with it and we WILL die because of stupidity and short sightedness. I was around when it didn't exist and we managed perfectly well. We also had better immune systems. I travel a lot in developing countries. Firstly, most food is unpackaged and I don't get sick from all the imagined bacteria. Secondly, because of poor waste management, single use plastic is a real problem. Thirdly, people are getting used to tourists not accepting single use bags, refusing straws and having their own spoon rather than using plastic. Plenty of options. Individuals need to take responsibility. Ban stickers on fruit while we are at it. They are completely useless!!!!
YS113	I think that the ACT should be a strong leader in eliminating these items from public use asap.
YS114	Good idea perhaps the fast food people, basically McDonalds could come up with ideas to stop most people tossing littering in the streets. Most of the rubbish around the Canberra roads are fast food containers. Perhaps a tax on all people who buy.
YS115	All single-use plastics should disappear as soon as practicable - there are other things that can take their place.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS116	I am in full support of phasing out single use plastic. Given that plastic beverage containers make up the biggest share of the ACT litter stream I think they should be included in some way in this process. This could include incentivising alternatives (such as more public fountains to replace bottled water) and/or charging a deposit high enough that a large proportion of bottles will be returned (and subsequently re-used if possible, or recycled).
YS117	I think Canberra Times should re think the use of single use plastics on the distribution of the Chronical.  personally I don't both reading the paper which is dropped at my address weekly. In fact I simply wrap the plastic off the paper and throw the plastic in the garbage bin and the paper in the recycling bin
YS118	Support the ban on single use plastics. Change of habits like bringing your own bag or provided good alternatives, paper straws makes it achievable. Would like to see food such as fruit and vegetables be not wrapped in plastic as well as meat.
YS119	I think all the items you have listed should be phased out quickly. There are always alternatives... there are disposable "plastic" cups made out of cellulose which are biodegradable and/or compostable. We can use bamboo disposable cutlery. Reusable coffee cups should be mandatory for take away hot drinks. Paper straws are suitable for most people (I understand that there are some people who need to use plastic straws - stroke sufferers, disabled - so you need to consider these). I use mesh bags instead of the thin plastic bags for fruit & veg, but these are expensive at the moment, possibly they will get cheaper with wider use. Soft plastic recycling offered by supermarkets is a great thing, however there should also be some consideration of reducing excess packaging.
YS120	I certainly agree with phasing out certain single-use plastic products, especially those that litter our streets and roadways, such as fast-food containers, coffee cups & plastic stirrers. However, I would like to see some plastic products available for those who use them responsibly (of course, I know it is hard to determine who will do so). If used responsibly, plastic bags are NOT really "single use" but rather are re-used for household trash, including such things as nappies or the contents of a litter box. If we don't have plastic bags for disposing of such things, what are we supposed to use? I have been hording plastic bags (fruit/vegetable bags, but also the heavier weight bags I have to pay for) so that I can scoop the litter box a couple times/day and dispose of contents.
YS121	I strongly agree with the consumer single use plastic items listed on page 21 of the discussion paper being phased out. I think education is going to be key when banning these items, as people will need to be explicitly told WHY it is an issue to them personally. I feel that the most important thing to ban is Polystyrene, straws, cutlery and takeaway containers. I believe immediate action is required so that retailers, manufacturers and importers have ample time to consider viable options and more damage isn't done while we work out what to do. Many other countries have already found solutions. If we want to be seen as a progressive territory/nation, we will need to make bold moves like these soon or risk being left behind and our reputation (and planet) being further damaged.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS122	<p>I am strongly in favour of phasing out single use plastic. It is shocking the amount of plastic waste we create and the sad reality of how long it will remain on this planet. My husband and I have taken numerous steps to reduce our plastic consumption, like bringing reusable grocery bags to the shops, using our own keep cups for coffee, and reusing cling wraps etc. These are all simple changes each of us can make into a habit of doing. The problem is that, sadly, our society has become lazy and we are so used to the idea of plastics. By making people aware of the environment cost of plastics, we will hopefully start to cringe at the excessive use of plastics in our society (the one that got me the most is 'organic' produce wrapped in a bubble, put on a styrofoam tray and cling wrapped).</p>
YS123	<p>I have moved here from south Australia &amp; in South Australia they have not had plastic bags for years . It has worked you go to the shops everybody takes there own bags as if you dont have a bag it is your problem how you get your shopping home . You will need to buy a material bag . I could not understand why Canberra has not banned plastic bags , way behind in the times.</p>
YS124	<p>Always the Government is way behind in thinking and acting.  Always it's the people who care that make the changes and drags the government and industry along. If government made the sale of these products illegal you have solved everything.  People are very resourceful, the few who are bothered by the removal of single use plastics will soon find alternatives to the products they once thought necessary and/or others will cater for their needs appropriately. The plastic bag campaign is only successful because caring people changed, bags are still available. But you will pick holes in this strategy because you are skilled in debate, scared of change and like to pretend you are in control. Because you think we have got infinite time and resources to play with within this scenario.</p>
YS125	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) I think plastic bags (single AND multiple use) should be a priority as alternatives exist; foam containers, coffee cups, straws and unnecessary produce and product packaging should all be phased out.</li> <li>2) Retailers should be forced to supply or stock alternatives (paper bags etc) and not just hand bags out. I would by a sustainable if shops actually stocked it.</li> <li>5) I try to buy biodegradable where possible, it's just not cost effective sometimes though</li> <li>6) Bamboo toothbrushes, biodegradable cotton buds, keep cups, biodegradable dog poop bags - they just need to be easier to obtain though.</li> <li>8) Retailers in Canberra need incentives to stock plastic free products. Market ACT as a testing ground for new products: village market style supermarkets; byo container; takeaway container swap schemes</li> </ol>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS126</b>	<p>I'm very supportive of a reduction in plastic use and phasing out single-use plastics, and the scope of the discussion paper (not that I had the time to read it in detail). Indeed I was very happy to see examples in Queensland of utensils made from wood.</p> <p>Additionally, I think Canberra also needs more places to recycle soft plastics, other than the handful of supermarkets (eg Coles).</p> <p>Consideration should also be made for how to deal with the need to garbage-bin liners. People don't want a dirty container kept in the house, and thus currently have liners. An alternative to having to wash the inside bin would be great, eg recyclable liners.</p>
<b>YS127</b>	Great idea to phase them out!
<b>YS128</b>	Phase single use plastics out. The market will find better environmentally replacements, it just needs a push. A government ban is a good incentive to innovate.
<b>YS129</b>	Ban it
<b>YS130</b>	<p>After reading your discussion paper i wonder why we allow thick plastic bags at all. The focus on single use plastic bags is a start. People will begin to be aware that plastic is a serious environmental issue. However, allowing use of thick plastic bags does not really change the behaviours enough. There are still negligible consequences for leaving bags in the car or at home.</p> <p>What alternatives should be available? Cheap natural fabrics like hessian make more sense. Or do we need to fund research into cheap alternatives as well as programs to support new businesses or the transition of present businesses producing plastic bags. Without incentives to find alternatives business will continue as it is.</p> <p>Our waste disposal system will be one of the beneficiaries of banning single use bag</p>
<b>YS131</b>	<p>Ban all plastics. Reward businesses who use recycled materials. Give businesses options and tools to limit their use.</p> <p>Shopping centres are the worst and should be targeted.</p> <p>Ban all platics. Use hard core marketing facts about how much ends up in landfill and the sea. We make the tip too easy for people to waste and consume!</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS132	<p>Agree on all the suggested banned single use items but i do think we need to include beverage containers as you have listed them as one of the major contributors to plastic production and pollution. I think we need to reconsider what is meant by 'ban' you might say we are banning these items but in reality we need to ensure that ban is enforced. Stores should not be allowed to sell them and there should be harsh penalties for those who breach this as well as for those caught littering which again is not policed.</p> <p>Replacing single use plastics is not difficult and is something we have started doing this year. There are health benefits too and i think the general public needs to be educated and sold on the idea that replacing single use items is not an inconvenience.</p>
YS133	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourages food and beverage business to discount to customers who bring their own containers</li> <li>2. Ban plastic straws and encourage business people to charge customers who ask for plastic straws</li> <li>3. Charge tax from food and beverage business who use plastic straws and plastic containers</li> <li>4. Invest in advertisements how serious problems effect our community, our country and our world caused by using plastic products. Advertising in schools, public transports, public areas, media, etc for a long period enough to make sure children and adults understand how serious the problem is to our next generation.</li> </ol>
YS134	Ban single use plastics.
YS135	Plastics that do not breakdown into harmless substances in the environment after a specific period of time should be completely banned. Also the current practice of retailers charging for plastic bags in the ACT is a scam which only adds to the bottom line profit of those retailers and doesn't address the problem. Our parents' generation had it correct with paper bags, re-usable glass bottles (for milk & drinks), and so on.
YS136	I would like all single use plastics to be banned. While this may present some difficulties in the short term, people will adjust - just like we have for the shopping bags.
YS137	I would like to add phasing our single use plastic cups, for example at bubblers in Doctor waiting rooms. I also think reusable alternatives to nappies and sanitary products could be made more easily available and subsidised in the ACT. Otherwise I think it's a great initiative!
YS138	I walk and ride around a lot of the ACT and I don't see much rubbish so I do not see a problem with single use plastics. If you have solved the important issues for the ACT - like good schools and health care, cheap and reliable utilities, public safety, clean streets, as well as safe roads - can you please take a holiday instead of trying to find more ways of increasing the cost of living and imposing further regulation on the ACT.
YS139	I went to Europe few weeks ago and found that Europe is doing so much greater than us in terms of using single use plastic. Unlike here, I had not be able to take away my coffee because the cafes just simply don't stock single use stuffs. Paper box for take away food and definitely not plastic. Thought Australia can learn from it. Cheers

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS140</b>	<p>Yes, phase out single use plastics!</p> <p>People won't change their behaviour until legislation changes the rules, then most people adapt very quickly, although probably not without complaining in the process.</p> <p>Many changes can be made to reduce the amount of single use plastic consumption eg fruit and veg can be packaged in paper bags for carrying home; reusable coffee cups are readily available and just need to be remembered to be brought along for take-away coffee; drinks can be consumed without straws by the majority of people; beeswax wraps are an excellent, long lasting cover for food storage instead of plastic wrap (and make good presents).</p> <p>Schools/government departments/community can be engaged to lead the way. Public awareness campaigns can prepare people for the changes</p>
<b>YS141</b>	<p>There are alternatives to single use plastics so they should be used, even if they cost more. Our environment and future is more important than a few dollars.</p>
<b>YS142</b>	<p>I have cut out purchasing single-use plastics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase glass/ metal food containers. Tastes great to eat from!</li> <li>- Spend a small amount of time meal planning so I don't have to buy take away meals in plastic containers.</li> <li>- Carry metal cutlery around at all times (some are small and easily fold away)</li> <li>- Refuse straws</li> <li>- No cling wrap or plastic films used.</li> </ul> <p>I make bees wax wraps, take calico bags to the shops, re use jars (just put them into the dishwasher)</p> <p>It's all about a cultural change. Forget about practicability for the minority. If we don't support the environment it can't support us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take people to the tip face and show them what actually happens to the household rubbish.</li> <li>- Are we really having our recyclables recycled? Ban plastic bags and plastic food wrap on fruit.</li> </ul>
<b>YS143</b>	<p>Single-use plastics take a huge toll on the environment that is so unnecessary. When I get take away food it seems so superfluous to have a plastic container inside a plastic bag even though there's only one plastic container inside the bag. The sooner we ban this waste the better.</p> <p>One should consider, however, that some people with disability may require a straw in order to be able to drink.</p>
<b>YS144</b>	<p>I highly support ACT's initiative to reduce plastic use through providing incentives to use plastic alternatives and imposing financial penalties upon plastic. For instance, regulatory intervention imposes taxes upon the sale of plastic cutlery, bin liners and food packaging to encourage use of alternatives and compostable products.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS145</b>	<p>I strongly support the push to phase out single-use plastics in the ACT, and believe the ACT could be lead Australia in this space. The highest priorities - and the easiest to tackle - would be straws and stirrers, and lightweight fruit and vegetable bags. I would also suggest that foam trays, such as often used to sell vegetables, could easily be eliminated.</p> <p>And I have one further suggestion. In fact, I urge you to bring this in as soon as possible.</p> <p>While it can be argued that many single-use plastics are useful, there is one that benefits noone: stickers on fruit and vegetables. They are useless and either end up in compost with peels, or are immediately picked off and trashed, ending up in landfill.</p> <p>Banning these items would be a very easy win for the environment and consumers.</p>
<b>YS146</b>	<p>It is ridiculous to say that 'single use' plastic bags are banned when they are being replaced with non degradable plastic bags. Supermarkets , clothing stores, retailers e.g. target are all either selling or giving plastic bags to customers. When the ban came in, toughened paper bags should be offered or charged 15c. Like in Bunnings, cardboard boxes should be available for customers to use. There are plenty of paper bags with handles that are available on the market. Supermarkets can use greaseproof paper instead of cling plastic in the deli area. Are there cheaper versions of glass jars/containers that can be manufactured instead of using plastic containers. Do we really need to use straws at all? A simple design change can remove the need for straws but legislation is needed.</p>
<b>YS147</b>	<p>I think you should include plastic water bottles and nappies in the discussion now even though you've chosen not to. We lived without plastic water bottles for decades. And nappies. Just give them a longer phase in time or whatever to placate all the baby crying whingers. More bubblers, more toilets, more park benches.</p>
<b>YS148</b>	<p>I support the banning. While this will be an inconvenience, we will soon come to accept the fact their are alternatives and fell good that we have taken action.</p>
<b>YS149</b>	<p>Education needed to show Canberrans and all Australians how to stop relying on plastics, by adopting different strategies and alternatives. Encouragement of environment friendly alternative options.</p> <p>Then ban the sale, provision and use of single use plastics, especially take away coffee cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, food packaging, wrapping of fruit, vegetables, meats etc</p>
<b>YS150</b>	<p>I would like the ACT to be the first jurisdiction in Australia to genuinely and comprehensively ban ALL single-use plastics.</p> <p>Future generations will despise us for not showing the strong leadership we should have on the current climate change we are in, and towards which we are not sure.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS151	<p>1. I completely agree that the listed items should be phased out. I would also like commercially wrapped fresh produce in supermarkets to be phased out also. I think it is not required.</p> <p>2. I don't know enough about regulation policy to make a suggestion. However, as a scientist working on bioremediation, I can not stress enough the urgency of the situation. We need to phase out the use of single-use plastics as quickly as possible.</p> <p>5. I don't buy packaged produce, limit the amount of packaged goods and refuse plastic straws, cutlery, cups etc. I don't give my money to shops using a lot of plastics.</p> <p>6. I quite like the biodegradable and wooden/paper cutlery and straws available. I also like reusable cups.</p>
YS152	<p>I'm all for minimising the use of single use plastic wherever it's possible.</p> <p>Let's start with ACT Government and try not use plastic cups, plates, cutlery in our functions, morning teas, farewells. Let's be a role model first and they ask community to follow.</p> <p>People were happy and living quite comfortably before single use plastics. It's going to be a huge change for some people as they were born and raised in the era of single use plastic. A long term strategy is required for changing habit that should focus on letting people know how to survive without single use plastics.</p> <p>If EU parliament can pass a legislation for whole of Europe to get rid of single use plastic (straws, cutlery, cotton buds and balloon sticks) by 2021, why a small jurisdiction like us can't do it?</p>
YS153	<p>As stated as one of the recommended actions as part of the plastic bag ban - more regulation, monitoring and action needs to be taken on actually making sure businesses are following this law. Over time, I see more and more businesses using plastic bags again not in accordance with any of the exceptions. If you move towards banning plastic take away food/coffee etc, this will also need to be actually regulated for it to work. There should be also be easy options for the public to report businesses that are not complying.</p> <p>Regulation is a massive and necessary part of making changes as reducing plastic is still not on the radar for so many people.</p> <p>It will also be important to have positive advertising/promotion of the alternatives e.g. own cups/containers/bags + maybe rewards/discounts</p>
YS154	<p>I think that single use plastics should be banned and t hat the ACT should be building a sustainable circular economy. This should include a state of the art recycling plant which could be for the ACT but also waste from the adjoining regions.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS155</b>	<p>Many single use plastic, like straws, are essential for many in the disabled community. Banning single use plastics (even with a caveat for medical use) not only makes lives harder in terms of these life saving tools availability, but if the general public aren't buying them prices could potentially skyrocket which would impact those who are disabled quite heavily. The government should focus more on getting businesses (especially big businesses) to reduce their waste, promoting clean energy, and supporting research into biodegradable materials. Campaigning against single use plastics is moving responsibility to individuals instead of the actual big polluters.</p>
<b>YS156</b>	<p>1: Agree.</p> <p>2a: support small-scale plastic processing eg <a href="https://davehakkens.nl">https://davehakkens.nl</a></p> <p>2b: small-scale projects that others can copy and refine.</p> <p>3: I am not a manufacturer.</p> <p>4. I am not a business. See Answer 3.</p> <p>5. I refuse as much film as possible. I collect film (e.g. bags, packaging and sticky labels from bottles) and give them to Coles for recycling. I've written to Aldi asking them to stop coating their cardboard packaging in plastic film.</p> <p>6. I use the cardboard boxes I find in the aisles of shops. I can either recycle the boxes or put them in my compost heap.</p> <p>7. Hospitality and Transport.</p> <p>8. Need to remind people of conservation of mass. Also need to overcome fears such as "change".</p>
<b>YS157</b>	<p>Exempt aged disabled and vulnerable from plastic free!</p>
<b>YS158</b>	<p>I'm in favour of a combination of regulatory and non regulatory approach to phase out of non re-usable/throw away packaging. I do however think we need a levy on take-away fast food packaging. The excessive amount of fast food packaging on the side of the road and nature strips is unsightly and bad for the environment.</p>
<b>YS159</b>	<p>Single use plastics need to stop. Plastic grocery bags, plastic produce bags, straws, cutlery and the rest of it. It's not difficult to take your own bag, drink with your mouth or take a fork with you. The problem is not just business and corporations who are not doing enough but it's mindless consumers who refuse to acknowledge it as a problem because it goes in a bin and out of their minds. People need to start using their brains, questioning, refusing and substituting. Wake up Canberra.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS160</b>	<p>Fully support ACT's plan to reduce single use plastics. I think ACT can be ambitious and increase the categories for consideration (eg. extend to nappies and other products).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incentivise consumers and businesses to support re-usable products (keep cups/straws/containers etc)</li> <li>- grants and support to local Business/inventors to develop and scale up compostable and reusable items.</li> <li>- boost the use of recycled products, such as the replas benches and mandate their use in government offices/buildings/schools.</li> <li>- Fantastic to see the government doing good work here.</li> </ul>
<b>YS161</b>	<p>I am of the very strong view that all plastics, to the extent possible, should be banned. I actually think it is negligent of governments around Australia not to do so. I rarely ever use plastic bags myself and don't understand why it should be considered difficult to exist without them. They are so incredibly damaging to the environment and there are other very good options. For instance, I buy paper towel (recycled) from a natural foods store and it is packaged in compostable "plastic". Many manufacturers are using such methods now and all of them should be required to do so. I buy most of my fruit and vegetables from an organic shop and all of their bags are paper bags - this should be the case everywhere.</p>
<b>YS162</b>	<p>Single use plastic is awful and seeing it in gutters and water ways is both concerning for our native wildlife and painful to look at. We can definitely do without them and use the well and truly available alternatives.</p>
<b>YS163</b>	<p>As well as being a supporter of the Climate Council, I am a long-time member of ACF. Something that disturbs me when I am at ACF functions, is that it is a very anglo-celtic membership and I wish we could do something about that. I suspect that the Climate Council is too. I have also noticed that many of these 'other' shoppers have not adopted the habit of taking their own reusable bags to the supermarket but simply pay for a plastic bag without any hesitation. If I am right, how can we get this message through to these people. I wish we could include them in this concern - and others that we worry about. Also, I wish that all supermarkets would make all vegetables available without plastic wrapping. Some do it so there can be reason why they don't all do it.</p>
<b>YS164</b>	<p>I think we have seen a lot of odd reactions to the phasing out of shopping bags, and as a land-locked city we are somewhat insulated from the issue of plastics in the oceans - although many Canberrans visit the coast regularly, so it still astonishes me that people cling so aggressively to shopping bags and plastic straws. I support the ACT Government in working to reduce the use of single use plastic across the ACT in shops, restaurants and schools - many businesses will not take action without government support.</p>
<b>YS165</b>	<p>Yes please ban the plastics. We have too much of it we don't need. Also in supermarket packaging</p>
<b>YS166</b>	<p>I think single use plastics should be completely removed. The world managed without them at one time. They are convenient but have too many serious environmental disadvantages.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS167</b>	<p>They should be banned or if not, then we need to make the producers of the single use products legally and financially responsible by placing a levy on every item sold. And not a cent here or there, but a substantial impost that makes it uneconomic for companies to do use them. In other words, tax single-use plastics out of existence.</p> <p>If you look at the rubbish on the side of most of the roads in the ACT the major rubbish is take away food and drink containers, and plastic drink bottles, and disposable coffee cups. Ban the latter - everyone can bring along a keep cup. For most single use plastics an outright ban is the only way to go. And fine companies like McDonalds, Hungry Jacks, KFC etc. They create the waste in the first place. The ACT Government needs to get tough!</p>
<b>YS168</b>	<p>Require all retailers to conform with plastic bag ban.  Expand ban to small bags for fruit and veg.  Ban single use plastic in cafes and food outlets. Work with them to implement alternatives.  Put pressure on retailers to change packaging.</p>
<b>YS169</b>	<p>People on the whole are lazy - ie more interested in the short term gain and continuing in their habits - instead of thinking of the long term impact of their decisions and working at creating better routines. Education via the media and having a catchy slogan/jingle has worked on various community projects in the past. I think the best way to encourage people to make changes is to educate, make it fun and make it personal - no one likes change foisted on them, but we do take on change if we think we are personally impacted or that we don't want to be the ignorant or uncouth one. Make it a pride thing, an "Aussie" thing, a well-bred thing - people react much better to a carrot than a stick.</p>
<b>YS170</b>	<p>Please ban them.</p>
<b>YS171</b>	<p>Single use plastics should be banned and we need to provide alternatives. First, instituting a coffee cup sharing system across Canberra would be super (where customers pay a small fee to participate in taking coffee mugs and dropping them of at another cafe). In terms of plastic take away containers, customers should be allowed to bring their own. Where take away containers are used they should be bio-degradable. However, this will also require systems to be set up across Canberra for the containers to be collected and sent to a proper composting facility (it is a wasted effort if these containers end up in the bin). There is also a role for education - Canberra citizens should be encouraged to leave their house with bag, cutlery, drink bottle and Keep Cup.</p>
<b>YS172</b>	<p>I support this initiative. Would the "light weight plastic bags for fruits and veg" also include those plastic wrapping that we often see in the supermarkets to contain green leafy vegetables, such as kales and choy sums. I think they are not necessary packaging's and we can get rid of them. Yes, also get rid of plastic cutlery, plates and bowls used in food courts, what an eyesore. I think it would create more jobs if normal plates and bowls are used and people are hired to wash them.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS173</b>	<p>Single use plastics are the major cause for waste in our society. They are detrimental to the health of the environment and animals. These plastics are unnecessary as we have plenty of lasting hard plastics and other materials which are much better for environment. Using reusable straws and cups, and paper or material bags is something everyone should invest in. Unfortunately though, large businesses and stores promote most of the single-use plastics. Therefore whilst it is important for everyone to avoid these plastics, it comes down to a large scale change for the factories and businesses producing them. Greed and money is such a wide problem with people in powerful positions that it is hard to make them to be logical. Most people are so careless when it comes to being sustainable.</p>
<b>YS174</b>	<p>introduce something like this  <a href="https://returnr.co">https://returnr.co</a>  into restaurants, cafes and takeaway food outlets</p>
<b>YS175</b>	<p>Experienced issues downloading the discussion paper.</p> <p>Please ensure that you consider the unintended consequences of your policy. This wasn't done for plastic bag phase out so we are instead seeing more tip space devoted to poly prop bags which have broken and take even longer to break down than plastic bags do.</p> <p>Straws in hospitals are a non negotiable. I've spent too many days recovering from various surgeries and straws are required to drink with. Otherwise getting a nurse to help drink is needed and given how few there are on duty as it is, this could create further issues. (Holding cups or changing bedding on self holding fail.) I don't know if hospitals can do reusable straws. Cafes also make adjustments for disabled clients- eg making coffee is cold enough to drink with a straw.</p>
<b>YS176</b>	<p>I think it is fantastic that the ACT government is taking the initiative to phase out single use plastics. I wholeheartedly support this. I think educating people on alternatives will be key to getting buy-in, with the possible option of subsidising purchase of reusable alternatives for low-income families.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS177</b>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>After going through the discussion paper I understood that impact of the usage single use plastics can be detrimental. Coming from an Indian background can think of some solutions.</p> <p>Use and throw plastic cups &amp; plates can be replaced by plates made out of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Banana leaves</li> <li>2. Areca nut leaves</li> <li>3. Thaiyal Elai and thonnai (made out of Mantharai leaves)</li> <li>4. Clay/mud cups and bowls.</li> </ol> <p>For centuries the above methods have work successfully in India. This would give an excellent opportunity for farmers in ACT country region ( mud cups, bowls, etc.,) &amp; Queensland farmers ( banana leaves, areca nut &amp; palm leaves.) By this way we would help our drought struck farmers with an alternative income, protect our environment and hygiene &amp; also save billions in cost.</p> <p>Thank You.</p>
<b>YS178</b>	<p>Hello. I am not well enough to read the paper. I would like to voice my support for minimising if not eliminating single use plastics. Beyond that I love would also strongly support minimising all plastic use. Whilst I live with financial distress, I think it's better to pay more money for a lower 'cost' in other ways.</p>
<b>YS179</b>	<p>While this would be a huge cultural change, the positive impacts are undeniably worth it. As a citizen of the ACT I would be genuinely proud to be part of trailblazing reducing plastic use in Australia and support this 100%.</p>
<b>YS180</b>	<p>I'm very supportive of the initiative to reduce and/or entirely eliminate single-use plastics insofar as possible. It's a step in the right direction.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS181	<p>A few weeks ago I heard a BBC program rebroadcast on the ABC. The topic was a campaign to discourage the use of single-use coffee cups. At the beginning about 2% of people used re-usable cups. After strenuous campaign efforts the rate rose to 5%. Moral: convenience trumps all other factors.</p> <p>We are taught by advertising that the ONLY criteria in purchasing decisions are price (Friedmann) and convenience (habit). You will inevitably need to FORCE change by taxation or outright bans. The plastic producers will fight you all the way: their revenues depend on producing plastics!</p> <p>Compostable plastics aren't: they degrade to long-lived micro- and nanoparticles.</p>
YS182	Very Good Decision by Government to Ban the use of Single Use Plastic
YS183	The paper makes all the right noises but could of course go further, and should if we really want to (like climate change) avoid the worst impacts. But fully support actions proposed aimed at limited plastic in the environment, and support proposed household organic waste collection.
YS184	We need to BAN ALL PLASTICS and a good start is NO PLASTIC BAGS (single use/multi use) - people will adapt to taking their own each time to the shops - it is not a hard adjustment! - governments need to ignore any outcry from people who don't want them banned - we really need to take action to help our environment in as many ways as possible as soon as possible - All plastics are a major pollution issue.
YS185	Fully support making the right choices (phasing out (quickly) single use plastics), the easy choices by removing availability. It has worked pretty well with plastic bags. We just need to adjust our expectations and habits.
YS186	We need recyclable paper/cardboard type bags to replace plastic bags, for sale at comparable prices to plastic.
YS187	<p>This may not have come to the attention of the ACT government, but Canberra is an inland jurisdiction, we don't adjoin the sea. No ACT residents are throwing ACT bought plastics into the sea.</p> <p>Why am I paying the highest rates in the country to pay people to do this nonsense? I find it hard to make ends meet, and you're spending our tax dollars on something that doesn't even exist. Let that sink in.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS188</b>	<p>As a community we should be doing our best to phase out single use plastic items as to which ones we should target first specifically, who knows? Start at, a figuratively speaking top and work your way down?</p> <p>The only concern I do have is what happens to the people and businesses involved in the production, sale, etc of these items? I'd like to see the personal cost in potential loss of business, employment etc minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>As an individual though, I wholeheartedly support the phasing out of single use plastic products.</p>
<b>YS189</b>	<p>I would totally support a ban on single use plastics. As one who grew up in the 40's and 50's I know first hand that humanity survived and was healthy without single use plastics.</p> <p>I believe we should do much more to recycle waste.</p>
<b>YS190</b>	<p>Banning problematic single use plastics in the ACT will have a negligible impact on the global environment. A public education campaign to refuse, reduce, recycle and reuse would be better than a ban. For example, single use shopping bag ban means people need to now buy single use garbage bags which don't degrade in landfill. But then logic does not seem to apply to anything the ACT Labor Greens alliance.</p>
<b>YS191</b>	<p>I thoroughly support the proposal. While we can't eliminate single use plastic immediately, we need to get started and keep moving on this. The proposed policy is appropriate and sensible.</p>
<b>YS192</b>	<p>We should have already phased out single use plastics and only be using recyclable plastics. We have the technology it's a case of putting the planet before profit. I would love to know that any plastics I use are either 100% recyclable or totally biodegradable within a short time frame.</p>
<b>YS193</b>	<p>The quicker we can transition to a minimal plastic community and world the better. This is an emergency and plastics need to be phased out locally and internationally similar to how CFCs were in the 1990s.</p>
<b>YS194</b>	<p>They designed packaging material years ago so why can't they in this day and age with do many brilliant minds who manufacture plastic cone up with something that dissolves in water. They have replaced straws with paper ones but paper won't break down either. They have replaced plastic spoons with wooden ones in some cafes etc, but wood won't disintegrate either. What to do?</p>
<b>YS195</b>	<p>Please ban these in the ACT. I think we could easily ban plastic straws, cutlery, cups, plates. In addition I do not understand why we allow ANY plastic bags or single use for fruit and veg sections in supermarkets. We can lead the country and move to reusable canvas bags. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p>
<b>YS196</b>	<p>They should be banned from public use.</p>
<b>YS197</b>	<p>There should be a BYO takeaway container policy similar to the one implicit in the single use plastic bag ban. There also needs to be broader community initiatives to ensure there are publicly available 'wash your container/empty your container' reuse stations around busy restaurant and cafe areas.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS198	<p>Single use plastics are the biggest issue from a trash perspective with regard to environmental pollution. I would like to see them rigidly controlled and gradually phased out. I know that it would make packaging a big issue, but there are environmentally friendly options that can be adopted. I would like to see it as the norm for people to carry their own washable, multi-use cups and further, to see food service venues providing filling of the cups instead as the norm. Not sure how this would work exactly, but I am sure there are some very canny people out there who do!</p>
YS199	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plastics manufacturers have been creating the problem and getting away Scott-free while the tax-payers and volunteers have been left with the cost of clean-ups. The entire cost of clean-ups should have come from these manufacturers.</li> <li>2. There should be an immediate ban on non re-usable plastics. We have to get used to drinking from a glass without straws. Carry our own natural fibre re-usable bags (made from Hessian etc. which will give poor countries a chance to make them and export).</li> <li>3. The public must be informed that we cannot have the cake and eat it. We have to give up many of our destructive habits and learn to lead frugal life styles if we want to save the planet. The way we are going our grandchildren will have to wear an oxygen mask and tank all day.</li> </ol>
YS200	<p>Having recently completed a trip overseas where single-use plastics are less used and harder to produce, other alternatives have been developed. One such way was the use of very thin, dried rice paper. This provided a barrier around products, was edible and dissolves in water. Primarily useful for quickly consumed goods</p>
YS201	<p>The issue is how to ensure people dispose of their litter not banning efficient, effective, economic, recyclable and hygienic plastic products. To replace with compostable is pandering to bad behaviour.</p>
YS202	<p>Please ban all single use plastics. We will adjust. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our country as the capital to lead by example.</p>
YS203	<p>It's a major threat to our future wellbeing. I urge the ACT Govt to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintain pressure on industry to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of single use plastic</li> <li>- and to promote/encourage innovative and more sustainable materials to replace plastics.</li> </ul>
YS204	<p>To begin, I fully support the ban on supermarkets/shops providing single use plastic bags. Having said that, I re-use single use plastic bags as often as I can and then use them to bag up rubbish to put in the bin. I do, however, have an issue with bio-degradable plastic bags, as those are suitable for single use only and I toss them immediately. I absolutely detest bio-degradable plastic, I have had a few too many instances when I stored something in those useless bags, only to find they had disintegrated and left the items stored, covered in small bits of plastic. Ban those too!</p> <p>Originally from Europe (50 years ago), I was used to taking bags to go food shopping, rather than purchasing one in the store.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS205	<p>The minor conveniences many of these single use plastics afford (e.g. fruit and veggie wrap) don't even come close to balancing the significant and long term issues they cause. I am excited to see the ACT Government taking action in this area, and support the approaches outlined in the discussion paper (immediate action, leading by example, regulation).</p> <p>I have reduced my use of single use plastic, and some ideas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People should be able to more easily bring their own containers for take-away - just like we now use keep cups as a norm.</li> <li>- Promotion or a subsidy of menstrual cups to reduce sanitary items waste</li> <li>- German model of putting a deposit on proper glasses/cups/crockery/cutlery (say \$2), and getting the deposit back when you return the item.</li> </ul>
YS206	<p>1 All these items should be phased out. Aside from these, I think unnecessary food packaging should also be removed eg. plastic wrap covering fruits and vegetables</p> <p>2 I would support new regulations and I think advertising campaigns to make people think about their consumption of plastic would be a good idea</p> <p>5 Yes, I stopped using straws, use containers (glass) with lids for food leftovers so I don't have to use plastic wrap, take fabric shopping bags when shopping, don't buy fruits and vegetables that are wrapped in plastic.</p> <p>6 I use containers with lids to avoid using glad wrap.</p> <p>7 People who need to use straws because of illness or disability. Access to metal straws would help</p> <p>8 I think it needs to be the social norm not to use single use plastics (advertising geared toward this would help)</p>
YS207	<p>So the ACT government understands the harm from single use plastics yet did nothing in relation to the supermarket plastic bag situation except boost the profits of supermarkets and impose on consumers and introduce more harmful bags to the environment. Wouldn't it have been more sensible and less costly to impose a biodegradable bag policy? At least it's a start. If the local shops have them then why not huge retailers? If the ACT government is serious about single use plastics and this is not yet another marketing campaign then a policy on biodegradable plastics should be in place across the board.</p>
YS208	<p>I think removing as many as possible is best.</p> <p>This means that when there is an economically viable alternative that should be enforced. A small price increase is ok.</p>
YS209	<p>As a child paper straws were all we had and everyone seemed to survive. In fact it was fun to see how far you could bend a straw and see if it still worked.</p> <p>Manufacture technologies are better these days because the paper straws are a lot sturdier than before.</p> <p>Already I am happy to see some businesses providing both paper and plastic straws.</p> <p>Supermarkets are selling just paper straws now which is great to see.</p> <p>Such a small thing can make a huge difference.</p> <p>Plastic straws should be completely taken out of the loop.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS210</b>	<p>I think that plastic shopping bags over 35 microns should be added to the list (follow NZ example).</p> <p>Right now it is hard to find alternatives to replace some single use items. KeepCups have been around a long time and metal straws are starting to be more readily available but I found it hard to find net food bags to replace the thin plastic bags for my fruit and veg.</p> <p>It is concerning the amount of plastic used in packaging, eg fruit and veg at the major supermarkets, smaller chains and independents seem to do it better.</p>
<b>YS211</b>	<p>Grocery stores: sell reusable picnic ware, not party ware. NOT sell single-use water bottles. Sell reusable multi-compartment bags (like bottle bags) for produce - not single-use bags.</p> <p>Party hire companies: rent out picnic ware, not sell party ware.</p> <p>Food halls: cardboard drinking straws; compostable cutlery (wood, or rice gluten). Compartmented compostable food trays, with sections for sauce - no more sachets. BYO *clean* containers for discounted servings.</p> <p>Public space: more drinking fountains &amp; water filling stations. Container refund for plastic trash (as with glass bottles). Recycling bins next to all public waste bins (not just food halls).</p> <p>Build waste-burning power plants. Netting on storm water channels, with organised replacement system.</p> <p>CCTV at known dumping spots, with fines.</p>
<b>YS212</b>	<p>agree with the list of plastics listed identified as single-use in the discussion paper that could be phased out and discontinued</p>
<b>YS213</b>	<p>It is important to ensure that alternatives to single-use plastics do not create a worse environmental outcome (e.g. during manufacturing and/or due to not being reused enough times to outweigh the equivalent use of single-use plastics). Practicalities also need to be considered (e.g. it is not always feasible to carry a clean or dirty 'KeepCup'). Straws help protect teeth from erosion by acidic drinks and assist people with sensitive teeth, not just those with disabilities. Carrying your own steel one is not always feasible (esp. considering the hygiene implications of carrying about a used one). Also, this strategy should not be prioritised over core urban services (e.g. mowing), tree-planting &amp; maintenance, and health promotion services, which are all under-done in the ACT.</p>
<b>YS214</b>	<p>definitely agree that there needs to be a way to give consumers at least the choice to buy greener options - many fruit and veg are pre-packaged unnecessarily with no alternative option! that should be banned.</p> <p>plastic stirrers and unnecessary items should just be made redundant completely</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS215</b>	<p>From a consumer perspective, have tried to reduce my personal use of single use plastics by using viable alternatives. This can be as easy as not picking up plastic cutlery with take away containers when you can go home and use silverware. Alternatively you can bring your own coffee cups when going out to buy coffee. Most coffee shops now reward this by giving a small discount when you byo coffee cups.</p> <p>From a business perspective I believe that most businesses rely on single use plastic because it is cheap. Perhaps the government should look into making cutlery/straws out of other biodegradable (which are still affordable) material. For example, many food places have swapped out their plastic container with biodegradable containers which look like they are made out of cardboard.</p>
<b>YS216</b>	<p>In some areas, single use plastics are phased out successfully, in others single use plastics has increased - for example, Canberra hospital. plastic gowns and plastic separation curtains are now used. Pill dispersal is in a single use plastic cup - sometimes up to 5-6 times a day depending on patients needs.</p> <p>all meals comes with water in a plastic bottle, plastic drink and coffee cups and plastic cutlery also present. Why do you not wash and reuse these items?</p> <p>I could not believe that this is what is happening in ACT government owned and funded buildings - its a bit rich to tell the general public to reduce single use plastics and recycle while in other areas willingly increasing single use plastics by 10 fold.</p>
<b>YS217</b>	<p>I fully support the phasing out of the items under discussion (as listed below) and a focus on community education programs regarding appropriate waste management and recycling, to save the planet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic straws and stirrers</li> <li>Plastic cutlery</li> <li>Disposable plastic plates and cups</li> <li>Disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lids</li> <li>Polystyrene (foam) plastic food containers and beverage cups</li> <li>Light-weight fruit and vegetable plastic bags</li> <li>Other non-recyclable plastics</li> </ul>
<b>YS218</b>	<p>It's imperative to reduce as much plastic as possible. Happy to escalate the reduction, remember it only took Canberran's a few weeks to adjust to not having plastic shopping bags. Why not replace the low cost shopping bags at the Point of Sale for paper bags and increase the cost of plastic bags to 50cents.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS219	<p>My family have drastically reduced* our 'consumption' of plastics quite easily. This includes bags, straws, cups, containers etc.</p> <p>The hardest thing we have had to deal with is remembering to explicitly tell people that we don't want the bag, or the cup etc when buying stuff. It has been normal behaviour to mindlessly consume plastic for too long!</p> <p>I therefore support a blanket ban on all readily-disposable / single use plastic. Allowing replacement items such as 'green bags' or thicker 'reusable bags' SHOULD BE BANNED ALSO! THIS IS NOT REVOLUTIONARY! There will be complaints, but PLEASE take action!</p> <p>*The only thing preventing us from taking our reduction further, to an elimination of plastics, is plastic packaging of food stuffs. That is a tough cookie to crack, but hey give it a go;)</p>
YS220	<p>I agree with the focus areas in the discussion paper. while a ban would be excessive, reliance on single use plastic straws should be reduced to only those people who actually require them.</p> <p>I believe that food packaging in plastics should be reconsidered to be a focus area and that packaging in plastics should be considered to be an exemption where paper or other more easily recyclable materials could be used. This specifically would related to produce which typically would be suitable to display without any packaging such as capsicum or any fruit or vegetables with a lower water content.</p> <p>I would also call for a ban on companies such as KFC and many airlines providing "cutlery sets" for the consumption of their food, which are typically wrapped in plastic.</p>
YS221	<p>Since Canberra is not on the coast, single use plastic is not an issue. Further any banning of single use plastic will not change anything as most of the plastic in ocean comes from Asia.</p> <p>The plastic ban has not worked in Canberra as more bags are sold now than before the ban.</p>
YS222	<p>It should be mandatory that plastic bags, straws etc are made to be easily BIODEGRADABLE. Especially in the soil or in salt water. Problem solved - we have the technology!</p>
YS223	<p>The ACT needs to lead the change for the country on how we use plastic and how we deal with this issue! We didn't need it before and we can manage without it again.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS224</b>	<p>It is very hard to define single use plastic, e.g., even most shopping bags are reused for storage and bin liners, so should not be defined as single use.</p> <p>However, there are disposable single use plastics such as cutlery, straws and cups, packaging, etc. Some forms of packaging will be hard to change effectively, because they are cheap, effective, and often transparent allowing retailers to display product.</p> <p>Change to non-plastic single use protective packaging will take time and major industrials will need to change raw material sources, processing plant and systems, customer and insurer requirements, etc. However, N.B. There will be no point in moving away from plastic if new material consume wood fibre for paper (trees) or food materials, such as rice).</p> <p>Haste is compromising thought.</p>
<b>YS225</b>	<p>I'm depressed now. This seems to be an insurmountable problem. We're pretty useless when it comes to recycling; taking a look in the yellow bins in kerbside collections shows me that. Asking people to do more isn't going to cut it. So start with the design phase of manufacturing and require certain approaches to be used so we don't end up with so much plastic waste. Require the use of alternatives to single-use plastic like cardboard and wax, or recyclable plastics, bamboo, metal.</p> <p>Or else use a price mechanism; make using alternatives easier and cheaper.</p> <p>But when these all fail let's just use the energy in our rubbish and burn it to generate power, with appropriate safeguards re emissions of course. Surely we have the science to capture those emissions from the smoke stacks by now.</p>
<b>YS226</b>	<p>Great thought needs to be given to alternatives to single use plastics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the alternatives.</li> <li>2. their environmental impact.</li> <li>3. industry impact,</li> <li>4. the time and cost of change.</li> <li>5. which plastics and products should be included and which exempt.</li> <li>6. change phasing in schedule.</li> </ol>
<b>YS227</b>	<p>Single use plastic should be banned. We survived for millennia without it and with a bit of thought and organisation everyone can find an alternative. We need to change the throw away mindset we have today. Hard plastics when used well can last decades but also should not be thrown away but recycled. It will be hard to change mindset but look at how businesses took up paper straws and now I never see a plastic one and everyone has survived!</p>
<b>YS228</b>	<p>The ban on free plastic bags was a good first step but this has led to the proliferation of thicker cheaply purchased plastic bags. No bags should be able to be given or sold unless they are biodegradable, alternatively anyone who gives away plastic should be required to put in place or contribute to a recycling program. Bags are still a major issue, however, straws and other plastic takeaway containers are also problematic and the government should work with the businesses to find an environmentally sustainable solution. Perhaps there should be a tax on plastic that is used to create recycling opportunities and the development of more sustainable products.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS229</b>	<p>I have been using material/reusable shopping bags for over 20 years but unfortunately I am in the minority therefore I believe the government need to take leadership by legislating to enforce the growth of paper/cornstarch/hemp and other biodegradable packing options for all products sold.</p> <p>These products are available &amp; being biodegradable will significantly reduce the waste/recycling crises currently facing this country due to poor council planning and the extremely slow response to the reduction in waste being processed in foreign nations. Australia should be responsible for processing the waste it produces.</p> <p>Again the use of recycled products should be legislated into all aspects of government procurement &amp; contraction processes.</p>
<b>YS230</b>	<p>I would like to be able to buy un packaged fresh fruit &amp; veg.</p> <p>I go out of my way to buy herbs &amp; spinach in particular without a plastic sleeve.</p> <p>I've taken the approach of commenting positively to those vendors who do .</p> <p>I also take light weight reusable small bags with me for small items eg a handful of chillies.</p> <p>it would be great to see updated lists if recyclables for yellow bins.</p> <p>Also recycle bins throuout the malls not just in the food courts.</p> <p>And recycle bins in mdium size shopping hubs like mawson erindale jamieson....</p>
<b>YS231</b>	<p>I have visited many remote areas of Australia and have been depressed by the amount of plastic debris (eg shopping bags &amp; "disposable nappies") which are accumulating in the environment. We must act to prevent the exponential desecration of our environment by this remarkably useful, but even more remarkably damaging, product.</p>
<b>YS232</b>	<p>I have seen overseas (esp. in the USA) the use of conventional plastic replaced by the widespread use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disposable cutlery made from biodegradable or recyclable materials</li> <li>- paper straws</li> <li>- cardboard rather than Styrofoam take-away food containers</li> <li>- biodegradable shopping bags made from corn byproducts</li> </ul> <p>All of these should be adopted as routine practice here!</p>
<b>YS233</b>	<p>Ban them now! All of them!!!</p>
<b>YS234</b>	<p>I am not in favour of any single use items, but it seems to me that the real issue with these items is they way that individuals dispose of them. Does not seem credible that the majority of users of single use plastics dispose of them into waterways!! So we should be looking at how so many of these items actually finish in the waterways. They do not get there by themselves!!!</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS235	<p>Perhaps the local government should start with educating small businesses and takeaway shops what alternatives there are and rewards for making changes.</p> <p>I am constantly turning down plastic bags when I purchase items. Shops should stop providing plastics bags and provide recycled bags or nothing at all.</p> <p>Consumers need to stop bad habits and relying on shops to hand out single plastics.</p> <p>In regards to takeaway containers etc in food courts, the Westfields and Canberra Centre should seriously look into provide plates and cutlery for eating food. Most people just want to sit down and eat.</p>
YS236	<p>Frankly, I think government has been largely un- successful in the control of single - use plastics. Evidence - the streets are full of examples.</p> <p>Beyond outright banning, the remedy may be beyond government decree. However, a penalty (tax) on single - use plastic will make an impact.</p> <p>Whether government has the political will, should be the first question.</p>
YS237	<p>The A.C.T. is small enough, wealthy enough and educated enough to make significant changes that can demonstrate best practice.</p> <p>Please ban single use plastic, please ban polystyrene if we can't provide a recycling purpose for it (I believe Victoria does). Do something brave in Canberra to make up for the antiquated tram technology decision!</p>
YS238	<p>It would be great to phase out a whole heap of non recyclables but can you consider taxing the dickens out of them rather than banning them. Banning involves policing and people will get around it. (Eg. The dreadful woolworths/coles/aldi thick plastic shopping bags that are dreadful!)</p> <p>Taxation forces the consumer and business to make an economic choice (if not an ethical one) and then use the increased revenue for sensible recycling startup iniatives (eg like the tip fee mattress tax/ recycling iniative)</p> <p>Lets make Canberra the Clever Capital!</p>
YS239	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I fully support phasing out single-use plastics, particularly: straws, stirrers, plates, cups, plastic-lined beverage cups, and foam food containers. Most of these can be replaced by paper or wood. Straws are not needed at all.</li> <li>2. It would help to get some businesses and local areas to take initiatives before legislation. E.g., university campuses (offer funding to student unions), suppermarket chains, cafes.</li> <li>3. I have recently visited Falmouth in Cornwall. Many businesses now have phased out use of single-use plastics. For example, takeaway food is given in light-weight cardboard containers. Milkshakes are served without straws. Plastic carrier bags are banned. Should research Falmouth success.</li> <li>4. At supermarket, I take one veggie bag, and after checkout put all veggies/fruit in it.</li> </ol>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS240	Plastic straws should not be banned. Cardboard straws go soggy, and reusable straws are difficult to clean/sterilise properly after use with certain ingredients, for example thick dairy smoothies and fruits/vegetables that colour-stain. Therefore, whether used at home or commercially, reusable straws are unhygienic.
YS241	Single use plastics should be BANNED in Canberra, and Australia by 2025 at the latest. Govt should invest in job creation for sustainable containers produced by factories based in each city. Commit to renewable materials (ie: faux plastic containers made instead from plant materials) that biodegrade with no environmental impact. This provides a win-win situation for everyone and the environment.
YS242	Please use government regulation mechanisms to support our community to phase out single use plastics. Please also support plastic reducing packaging options wherever possible.
YS243	<p>Simple solution for not using plastic bags is to use cloth bags and stop packaging food.</p> <p>Anyway, These packed food are the main cause of type2 diabetic.</p> <p>I know , we have to face challenges as we Can't even imagine how life will be without plastics.</p> <p>We must stop now rather than later.</p> <p>Super market must cooperate in this serious move.</p> <p>To make earth sustainable we must and must stop plastics .</p> <p>Thanks</p>
YS244	<p>So stop buying plastic. It's simple. Stop eating where they only proving plastic. May individual choices and support those in business who are not using plastic. Eventually people/business will make the change.</p> <p>Start with school s. Stop plastic there. Governments stop using plastic. Get rid of the shopping 15cent bag it's worse than the previous plastic bags. Paper bags bring them back! Recycled ones! Find a way to make them stronger.</p> <p>Stop legislating start doing. How much plastic comes into your office? Home? School? You're making those choices!</p>
YS245	Let people make their own choice to reduce their plastic consumption. Why does the government always need to tell people what they can/can't do? This is not something the government should be wasting time/money regulating.
YS246	Please ban them.
YS247	<p>Simple. They have to go! I have progressively worked to eliminate single-use plastics from my household and now purchase very little that has single use plastics. This means I have to buy mostly fresh fruit and vege which also helps improve the health of my family. I rarely need to put my bins out, and when I do (perhaps once a month or less) there are maybe 3-4 chip packet sized bags of non-recyclable waste. My rates are now subsidizing others wasteful and polluting habits. People should pay the full cost of what they send to landfill.</p> <p>People need to start taking responsibility for the impact that they have on the environment. There is little incentive to companies to reduce the negative effect of their packaging - although finally some (a very small few!) seem to be starting.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS248	<p>I support the proposed list (page 21 of the report), however we must ensure that alternatives are available before any form of bans.</p> <p>In much earlier years there was much more use of paper and wood based products. If they cost a little more then it's worth paying for.</p>
YS249	<p>I agree in principle with your discussion paper but if you can mark each item of plastic as A} Recycle single use or B} Hard plastic to recycle in the recycle bins, { yellow top}. This would allow people to recycle with ease and employ people to separate the waste to be re used. Also this will allow less use of petroleum in the making of plastic in the first instance.</p>
YS250	<p>I support a ban on single use plastics in the ACT. This is a positive step forward for reducing our reliance on plastic, but it also provides the market signal for companies producing plastic alternatives to thrive. Further, a ban on single use plastic will continue to ensure the ACT is seen as a progressive place that can respond to growing needs. There should be a transition period of up to 12 months before the band comes into place, and during that time businesses should be rewarded or incentivised for switching out single use plastics before the end date. Thanks for all that you do!</p>
YS251	<p>The figures in A Macintosh, A Simpson and T Neeman (ANU), 2018: "Regulating Plastic Shopping Bags in the Australian Capital Territory: Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2010 Options Analysis" show that the plastic bag ban has had a modest impact - but plastic waste is now as high as it was when the ban was introduced. Looking at the cost-effectiveness of options is useful, but I think it would be useful to look at the benefit-to-cost ratio of a broader selection of environmental initiatives to put the plastic bag ban in context.</p>
YS252	<p>Single use is a mentality. If recent immigrants are surveyed, it may reveal that many actually reuse plastic cutlery, straws, cups, even supermarket meat trays multiple times. Supermarket plastic bags are reused as rubbish bags. Change habits, not ban products.</p>
YS253	<p>Havn't read the discussion paper (sorry!) but I'd be happy for single use plastics to be phased out completely quite quickly. There will be backlash of course but it's such a defensible policy, Canberran's are usually progressive and people will get used to it like they always do. Our planet is more important! :)</p>
YS254	<p>Ban single use plastics in the ACT</p>
YS255	<p>I strongly support the ACT Government's focus on phasing out single use plastics. In particular, items such as single use cutlery and crockery are entirely unnecessary and can easily be substituted for more sustainable alternatives (ideally BYO cutlery/crockery or businesses that provide cutlery and crockery, to be returned after use, or at the very least products which take less energy to produce and breakdown). I also support phasing out other plastics identified in the paper.</p> <p>Although not currently contemplated in the discussion paper, I think it is important to tackle plastic packaging in supermarkets (for example, much fresh produce is clad it plastic packaging, which is completely unnecessary).</p>
YS256	<p>Ban all single use plastics. But don't stop there, plastic packaging in supermarkets needs to be looked at. Everything is wrapped and packed in plastic. Also look at how business and companies use plastic and packaging.</p>
YS257	<p>They serve a purpose and provided they are properly disposed of there is no problem. There are far more pressing environmental and social issues. Please tackle the big issues and lay off the virtue signalling.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS258	<p>Phase out a single use Plastic items (including plastic bags), unless the 10 cent contain deposit scheme can be applied to that item. For example there may be some medical reason to have plastic straws, but the 10 cent contain deposit fee would apply - per straw, so its recovered. (I know crazy - but so is making a straw that's used once and lasts 400 years plus in the environment!).</p> <p>Phase them out.</p>
YS259	<p>I support phasing out single-use plastics. Thanks.</p>
YS260	<p>I have already swapped all of the single use plastics that you are targeting and all of the alternative are working well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- metal reusable straws (these should be promoted with tips for keeping them well maintained such as rinsing after use)</li> <li>- produce bags instead of light weight plastic for loose fruit and vegs (these should be sold as an option in supermarkets, I sourced mine from a health food shop)</li> <li>- I take my mug or a reusable cup when buying coffee out. Most places even offer a small discount for this option (winning)</li> <li>- I keep metal cutlery in my bag (again these could be promoted with tips for keeping them clean/part of the routine)</li> <li>- I only buy food from places with washable plates or plates that can be recycled</li> </ul>
YS261	<p>It's IMPERATIVE single use plastics be BANNED COMPLETELY. REPLACE plastics with sustainable products; e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sale of liquids <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) initial, container be GLASS or METAL that's, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) sterilized &amp; reused; or</li> <li>ii) melted, reformed, reused</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) subsequent, large volume tanks allowing refilling of containers at sales point</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Plastic wrapped food sales be banned; detrimental to quality/life of product</li> <li>3. Granular sales e.g. sugar be sold in PAPER bags not plastic</li> <li>4. Packaging of tooth brushes, sanitary pads etc be paper/cardboard with wire to attach item if necessary</li> <li>5. Creams etc in glass jars or metal tubes</li> </ol> <p>Govts MUST ensure packaging can ALWAYS be handled mechanically during recycling. FINANCIAL penalties on makers for containers designed for LANDFILL.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS262	<p>While I think that single-use plastics are damaging to the environment, banning them significantly affects people with disabilities. There is no environmentally friendly alternative for PWD who use bendy straws, and this needs to be taken into account in the future policy. Please actively include PWD in the engagement process. Read more: <a href="https://pwd.org.au/plastic-straw-ban/">https://pwd.org.au/plastic-straw-ban/</a></p> <p>Are there options for an education campaign to not use single-use plastics rather than a total ban? Perhaps try this first and see if usage drops.</p>
YS263	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- include nappies as single use plastic and provide support to parents</li> <li>- a subsidised nappy service for cloth nappies would be beneficial as disposable nappies are a significant landfill problem.</li> <li>- subsidised environmentally friendly 'starter packs' for each household to purchase for small fee, including bamboo vegetable bags, reusable bread bag, metal straws, biodegradable bin liners, wash ball to reduce microplastics in clothes washing, discount vouchers for keep cups and cloth nappies etc. This would support everyone to realise simple changes to get them started.</li> <li>- a compost bin scheme to encourage people to self compost</li> <li>- ban plastic tagging to attach price tags/bar codes on clothing etc. those little plastic pieces are single use too; surely an alternative can be investigated</li> </ul>
YS264	<p>Single use plastics should be banned.</p> <p>All new buildings should be required to collect single use plastics for recycling.</p> <p>All pharmaceutical companies should be required to label packaging recyclable.</p> <p>Move towards all page 21 items are banned asap</p>
YS265	<p>I now have a soft plastics bin as home, along with general recycling and a worm farm scrap bin we now only a small bag of waste each week for our family of 5 people, so only put the bin out monthly. I feel like there is lot more that can be done with product packaging.</p> <p>I understand that packaging is important to protect products however it is excessive, difficult to decide what is recyclable and separate them out of their packaging into recyclable portions.</p> <p>Food &amp; product industries need to take more responsibility than just consumer/plastic bag suppliers, they could be much more innovative with packaging, utilise natural products for fresh food packaging and takeaway packaging plus more easily recyclable and use less packing for shelf products.</p> <p>Takeaways need less packaging &amp; toys period</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS266	<p>I'm afraid I don't have time to read it but my thoughts are a lot of products can be sold without plastic wrapping, especially fresh fruit &amp; vegetables- a sticker with a bar code would surely suffice, if at a supermarket.</p> <p>the producers should be responsible for getting single use plastic products recycled. All plastics used on products should only be recyclable- ban all other products/ importers from selling products with non-recyclable plastic packaging. Find alternative options instead of plastics e.g. biodegradable corn/ bamboo etc</p>
YS267	<p>I would like to see the ACT ban the sale of all single use plastics. Given this will be difficult to do I suggest we start with banning the sale of single use plastic water bottles. This would be simple, effective, and quick to implement and acceptable to most people as a first step.</p>
YS268	<p>Agree with banning all proposed single use plastics plus also cotton buds. Need for better recycling process for soft plastics as supermarket collections would get a fraction of this waste. Introduce kitchen waste collection for composting. This has been rolled out by many Victorian and NSW councils. They provide compostable green bags for food waste that goes into green bins and others provide bench top containers for lining with the compostable bags. Non recycling of food waste is a major omission for the ACT green bin scheme.</p>
YS269	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Most of us do not need straws. Straws should not be added to drinks unless requested, and eventually they should be banned entirely.</li> <li>2. Plastic packaging for DINE IN: If eat in at McDonalds I should have access to reusables - not just given a bunch of stuff that ends up in landfill.</li> <li>3. Disposable coffee cups. More and more people are using keep cups. Take away coffee cups should be completely banned. People should be able to purchase keep cups at all coffee vendors.</li> <li>4. Plastic bags should be banned completely including heavy duty ones available on purchase. Proper greenbags only. No plastic bags for putting your fruit and veg in since it is completely unnecessary</li> </ol> <p>Before disposable plastics are completely phased out, they should be offered as an OPTION and not as the assumed default.</p>
YS270	<p>Single use plastics should be phased out as soon as possible. The discussion paper covers the need for the phase out well.</p>
YS271	<p>Is there a chance that no café in public buildings (e.g. government departments, universities) is required to cut plastic to zero within a year? Or include a no-plastic week every now and then? Is there a chance that shopping centers have a no-plastic Saturday/Sunday try out? Both mini-campaigns would encourage consumers' creativity to do without plastic that week/day. If announced with time, it would give people the time to prepare.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS272</b>	<p>I would support any decreased use of single use plastics, but feel strongly we need to be illuminating their use completely. I love seeing the little initiatives already in place (people taking their own bags to the super market, and my son's school has "no waste Tuesdays)... but we need to do more and be actively focused on reducing the negative impacts our current lifestyles have on our region and planet.</p> <p>Appreciate change in some places is easier than others (easy to illuminate straw use), but our lives are wrapped in plastic. Every item in the supermarket is in single use plastic. This issue requires national and global attention and action, but I strongly support any steps being made to reduce plastic use within the Territory.</p> <p>Thank you to the team working on this important issue!</p>
<b>YS273</b>	<p>The ACT government should lead the way and ban all single use plastics (as practically as possible) from the ACT. There are some awesome bio-degradable options now, if businesses need to provide single use items (for take-away food stalls etc).</p> <p>Plastics from supermarkets (ie fruit and veggies) and excessive/multi-layered packaging should also be targeted in supermarkets and other businesses. Furniture and fashion businesses also generate significant plastic waste - this should be investigated to see how to reduce this.</p> <p>The ACT government should offer education and an incentive for businesses to remove plastic packaging or use alternative packaging options.</p>
<b>YS274</b>	<p>General comments:</p> <p>Completely bio-based plastic containers that are either entirely biodegradable (within 12 months in normal environmental conditions), compostable or are recyclable should NOT be banned, even if they are 'single use'.</p> <p>This is because (noting the timeframes above, i.e. they biodegrade within 12 months) such products, whilst still posing SOME risk to the environment and fauna, would nonetheless represent a far, far smaller risk than conventional plastics to the environment and fauna. In turn, they would reduce inconvenience to residents and businesses in the ACT, whilst also ensuring far, far better environmental outcomes.</p> <p>In addition, with seed funding and support from the ACT Government, it may be possible to generate a new, local bio-based plastic manufacturing industry.</p>
<b>YS275</b>	<p>Having read the Discussion Paper I am a little perplexed. Of the examples of 'single use plastics' provided only two ('disposable plastic lined coffee cups and lids' and 'polystyrene (foam) plastic food containers and beverage cups') are single use. All the others are multiple use (for example I have lost count of the number of times I reuse 'light-weight fruit and vegetable barrier bags').</p> <p>I wonder if the issue is one of false marketing by manufactures and sellers of such things to encourage disposal (and more purchases) and poor education by governments. Perhaps more should be done to educate the public to reuse their so-called single use plastics rather than discard them after one use.</p> <p>Certainly, non-plastic based alternatives are preferable but reuse many times is also a valid option.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS276	I think banning single use plastics is near-sighted and doesn't address the real problems and using plastic waste in the oceans is a poor example to give to people who live in an inland city. I think more investment needs to be made in recycling and manufacturing technology to best recover recyclables from the existing waste streams. I believe better policing and enforcement around littering and dumping should be prioritised as the main preventative measure, while single use plastics would still be allowed in the market, but pushed towards only the types of plastics that can be readily recycled. Styrofoam, straws, coffee cups, soft plastics and expanded LDPE are all recyclable, but for whatever reason most are not accepted through household recycling, so end up in landfill by default.
YS277	Information provided is directional and does not include the benefits of single use plastics in lowering overall consumption through reduction in food wastage, and overall health improvements from packaging. Also does not cover the view of reduction of waste through ACT Government better managing recycling (Territory wide not just on rubbish collection days) and reuse of LDPE and HDPE.
YS278	I think the back slapping over the reduction in single use bags is way overstating its success. The ANU report shows that the use of plastic bags have not really decreased. The single use bags have just been replaced by others. Young people have no problem paying 15c for a Coles bag and using that as a garbage bag as evidenced by looking at the large bins at rental units. One "single use" Coles or Woolworths bag is apparently the equivalent of 17 old style single use bags. I don't have the answers but pushing the problems elsewhere is not a real solution and the same may happen with other plastic substitutes. I also query exactly how much goes to real recycling when recent TV shows have shown that Australia actually does little to convert recycled material. This is where we need effort.
YS279	i would include plastic beverage containers for water and milk (unless the container deposit scheme proves effective for the former); wrappers for confectionary and plastic takeaway containers. Also, multiple use plastic bags appear to be used once only defeating the purpose of banning single use plastic bags.  an effective public education campaign would initially educate the public as to why we need to eliminate or replace single use plastics with ecofriendly items. a regulatory ban would follow on plastic straws (unless one is disabled), takeaway food containers, cutlery, plastic plates and disposable coffee cups. These items are either easily replaced with ecofriendly alternatives and a greater number of bubblers could replace the need for single use plastic bottles.
YS280	This will turn out to be farce similar to your 'claimed' ban on plastic bags, which the big supermarketst made thicker, called reuseable and now charges customers to buy them so they make more dollars. Maybe it will turn out similar to ACT efforts (failure) to recycle glass, which I see each time I drive towards Sydney. kids buy a juice popper it comes with a straw and little plastic wrapper that is single use litter, every time kids buy lollies or marsbar or ice cream its wrapped in plastic which is really annoying as i know it will become litter. while your attempt to curb single use plastics and the items you identify as targets to ban have merit, we are desperately in need of a better recycling strategy with actual real results and discounts on recycled products or small \$ reward
YS281	I fully support the ACT Government phasing our single use plastics via regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.
YS282	Ban all plastic bags. That is the only solution. People probably will complain first, but then they'll get used to it.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS283	Phase out single use plastic and fine those individuals or companies/businesses which are responsible for the pollution by fast food outlets and others.
YS284	We could just switch to bio plastics made out of plant matter that are exactly as efficient as plastic but because they are made from plant matter they compost down in your garden. An Australian company already make many replacement products and yet governments (ACT Government) still push for thicker plastic bags which will last several hundred years to be sold in supermarkets. Also, sick people and the disabled and elderly rely on straws for drinking out of cups so removing plastic straws without introducing bio plastic straws is discriminatory and harmful. Plastics in the ocean are dumped by 5 Asian countries and not Australia. Australian company producing compostable bio plastic: <a href="https://www.bioplastics.org.au/bioplastics/">https://www.bioplastics.org.au/bioplastics/</a> Why straws are not the problem: <a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/">https://www.bloomberg.com/</a>
YS285	Single use plastics are not necessary. ALL plastic shopping bags, not just supermarkets, from should be banned and replaced with paper bags. Mexico uses paper based disposable cutlery, plates and cups. That means everywhere else can too! More incentives to use non-plastic manufactured or coated take-away cups or reusable keep cups should be introduced. Ban all plastic straws, paper alternatives or sipper cup lids are an easy alternative. Supermarkets and packaging/manufacturers need to have mandatory packaging rules in place to reduce the amount of plastics they use in packaging eg bananas and other fresh produce don't need plastic packing, bananas have their own biodegradable packaging! Yet supermarkets, fresh food markets and the like charge more to purchase without packaging than with!
YS286	I agree with phasing out all of the single use plastics listed on Page 21 of the Discussion Paper, in particular, plastic straws, cutlery, coffee cup lids and take away containers. I think there should be an additional charge of at least 50 cents for the provision of plastic cutlery with takeaway food - too many times it is supplied without asking the customer. To discourage the proliferation of water in plastic bottles, I'd like to see the ACT Government provide more water dispensers. Yes, I am taking steps to reduce the use of plastic at home and while shopping. I would particularly like to see a campaign directed at fruit and vegetable retailers, to educate them about presenting these foods for sale on polystyrene trays and pre-wrapped in plastic. This is rife at Fyshwick Markets.
YS287	PHASE OUT PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES FROM SUPERMARKET SHELVES AND INSTALL MORE WATER STATIONS IN SHOPPING CENTERS AND PUBLIC AREAS. I could count on one hand the number of times that I have bought a bottle of water when I am out. I constantly carry my own personal refillable water bottle however sometimes I find I have to fill up in public toilets which is probably not very hygenic, but I do it. Educate people - I am always amazed when in the supermarkets I see people with a stock of bottled water in their trolley. Do they not realise that the running water from their kitchen tap is cheaper and better for them in terms of their budget. Lets start by seeing advertisements on the TV about 'have you taken your water bottle with you today.....??'. Common Australia lets get back to basics!

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS288	<p>It is an important step for our community to find alternatives to single use items. I believe people genuinely want to stop using them but perhaps don't know how? My family and I are on a zero waste journey so have replaced all single use plastics. We use cloth bags for shopping and purchasing food in bulk and for buying bread from the bakery. I take containers from home to the deli and butcher for meat. I think there is a great opportunity for the government to get behind small businesses who are going down a sustainable path. I believe this will provide more jobs. For example at the time of writing I have not found anywhere I can purchase milk in glass bottles that can be returned and refilled by the supplier. Lets be creative and leave unsustainable convenience behind. Thank you!</p>
YS289	<p>There has been a lot of great discussion on this topic, especially by not-for profit groups such as SEE-Change. Please ban all single use plastic bags, cups, straws, etc immediately, rather than gradually.</p> <p>Provide a section in grocery stores next to the trolleys that contains leftover cardboard boxes - people can use these for their shopping if they can't remember their bags.</p> <p>Provide paper bags for loose vegetables and fruit rather than plastic bags.</p> <p>Reduce the tax for farmers markets.</p> <p>Prioritise the phase of different plastics based on the environmental impacts each type has (eg. My understanding is that plastic bags cause more environmental harm than any other single-use plastic, but I would be happy to have that understanding corrected).</p> <p>Good luck, and thank you.</p>
YS290	<p>Many years ago we had paper bags, we were told they were bad because of deforestation (I can see that) and single use plastic bags were the future.</p> <p>While I can see that single use plastic bags are bad, banning them alone is not the answer. The government needs to provide a viable (environmental) option/solution first. Dumping the problem on the citizens and walking away like the government likes to do will: further reenforce the view that politicians are incompetent; and as can be seen in the results from the current ban that now multi use plastic bags are being dumped;</p>
YS291	<p>I support immediate action for the reduction of single use plastics. The time to act is now. I am concerned that without regulatory action to remove single use plastics from our economic cycle, we will not achieve change quickly enough to avoid a more significant environment catastrophe. I agree we should remove plastic straws and stirrers, plastic cutlery, disposable plastic plates and cups, disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lids, polystyrene plastic food containers and beverage cups and light-weight fruit and vegetable bags. There are alternatives for all these plastic items. Change has a cost. It does not impact everyone equally and we need to be aware of unintended consequences (like creating alternative problems). But the consequences of no or delayed action will greater.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS292	<p>I think it is imperative that the ACT bans single use plastics of all kinds, immediately. All of the items listed on p21 of the discussion paper have viable alternatives which are reusable or made from compostable materials. Banning all types at once will make it clearer and easier for consumers to adjust. Canberrans sometimes need to be pushed to do the right thing, but once a change is in place (e.g. the plastic bag ban) we are very adaptable and proud of how progressive we are. It is also important that, as the capital, we lead the rest of the country, as we did on same sex marriage and renewable energy. Plastic pollution is going to be one of the greatest challenges of our time; the statistics show we are already too late, but better late than never!!</p>
YS293	<p>I agree to remove the use of light-weight fruit and vegetable bags. I think those can be replaced by unused newspapers. It would be ideal if single use cutlery can be replaced by cutlery that is made of bamboo. Plastic straws can be replaced by straws that are made of cane.</p> <p>Please look at some Asian countries such as Malaysia and Thailand for reference because they are already using some of suggestions above.</p>
YS294	<p>I feel that alternatives need to be found for all take-out-related single-use plastics. Restaurants, cafes, bars and businesses should stop giving out plastic straws, stirrers, lids, cups, utensils and bags and replace them with either biodegradable or paper products.</p> <p>When looking in rubbish bins in passing I see a lot of used 'paper' coffee cups that could instead be made out of biodegradable products</p>
YS295	<p>I definitely agree with phasing out single use plastics and coffee cups. I wonder if we could use compost able plastic bags instead. After a stay at Merimbula I was impressed by their FOGO rubbish disposal which I think the ACT should consider.</p>
YS296	<p>Lets get rid of all plastic in the ACT, its not impossible and can be done:) Thanks!</p>
YS297	<p>I agree with any measures which will see a reduction or elimination of single-use plastics in the ACT. I encourage consideration of education campaigns in schools and in the community well in advance to bring people along with this. I congratulate the government on this initiative.</p>
YS298	<p>I think its great that the ACT is looking at reducing our plastic footprint. I would like to suggest the following:</p> <p>More education programs for the local community about simple things they can do to help. Providing information and access to non plastic disposable products (bio degradable plant based products like wipes, nappies, bin liners).</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS299	<p>Single use should be totally banned. I have used the same green bags for years and continue to do so. They last forever. People can get used to carrying utensils with them or sit and eat. People need to get used to paying more to help the environment. If this means paying someone to wash the utensils and plates in an eatery for example, there should be no choice. Similarly, people should start decanting from large containers into small reusable containers instead of buying so much individually wrapped items. People dedicate time to their optional electronics - time to put some of that time into the environment.</p>
YS300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- single use disposable plastic items should be banned where there are viable alternatives e.g. compostable disposable plates and cutlery and straws TA cont.</li> <li>- There is no evidence that the supermarkets are reducing the amount of packaged fruit and vegetables on the shelves. It is increasing. Educating the consumer that they are actually paying far more per Kg for packaged than non packaged products. Eg. packaged salad leaves = \$34 kg as opposed to loose salad leaves = \$17.</li> <li>- Improving the recycling signage on packaging - some products have no indication.</li> <li>- Provide information and education to the public on what products are made from recycled plastic so as to increase demand for these products.</li> <li>- enforce existing legisl. to reduce litter - building sites especially.</li> <li>- litter man't</li> </ul>
YS301	<p>I agree we get rid of single use plastics as much as possible. The ACT government needs to put more thought and action into how it would be done rather than a sudden ban. International and overseas visitors won't bring their own bags/cutlery /packaging. The ACT government should begin composting packaging/cups. Cafes and shops will need to provide compostable packaging/cups for tourists. The ACT government could research or supply the compostable cups/packaging and supply/sell them to cafes or tell them where to source the right ones. Cafes/shops could charge extra for a takeaway cup/packaging and less for a BYO cup/packaging. The ACT government could set up many composting bins so that cafes/visitors/shops could dispose of the takeaway cups/packaging.</p>
YS302	<p>Let's be leaders on this and implement a positive, forward thinking plan. Our laziness is our children and grandchildren's problem. Single use plastics must go. The bag ban proves people can and will adapt their habits. Community education with a message of hope and positive change should be part of the campaign. The manufacturers of this rubbish and the cafes and shops using single use need to be held accountable for the plastics they make and sell. There should be a penalty on them for providing the single use option. Make it appealing for them to change. I've now got my own bottle, coffee cup, straw, cutlery and shopping and produce bags and it's not a hard change to make. Support local businesses who make and sell reusable options. Any step is better than none so please act now!!</p>
YS303	<p>Is it possible to get manufacturers in Australia to stop using plastic to package food or to minimize it or make some incentive for them to do so?</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<p><b>YS304</b></p>	<p>In principle I support reducing single use plastics.</p> <p>I have some concerns about getting rid of lightweight fruit and vegetable plastic bags. I don't have an alternative for these and I use them for hygiene reasons, ie not putting fruit and vegetables directly on a supermarket conveyor belt where dairy and raw meat have leaked. I reuse all of these bags.</p> <p>My main concern overall is ensuring people with disabilities are not impacted by any bans.</p>
<p><b>YS305</b></p>	<p>Recent proposals to develop both a waste-to-energy facility, and an advanced plastics-to-fuel recycling facility would have recovered a large fraction of the value in waste plastic, as either energy or saleable fuel oil. Both initiatives were rejected, for what appears to be aesthetic reasons. Now, the gap left by these cancelled projects is being externalised on to the community as a whole. I agree that landfill is a problem, so let's revisit at least waste-to-energy to recover value from plastic (and other) waste here in the ACT. We can then avoid exporting plastic to poorer regional countries for recycling, and feel good about offsetting coal-powered electricity production.</p> <p>If you are not willing to do this, please do not burden citizens with pettifogging restrictions on normal life</p>
<p><b>YS306</b></p>	<p>There will never be agreement on the best way to go. Your discussion paper illustrates that it is a huge problem and there has been much research and discussion. Talk will go on endlessly. We need action.</p> <p>Time to JUST DO IT.</p> <p>Ban all single use plastic and then make exceptions where necessary.</p>
<p><b>YS307</b></p>	<p>Single-use plastics must be banned. They cannot be recycled without going through long processes, and some single-use plastics cannot be recycled even if they are disposed of responsibly. An example is coffee cups, they cannot be recycled and so go to landfill to create methane and pollution. I also think that straws should be phased out. I want the ACT to show leadership in waste minimisation, and I think it would be cool if we became the leading state in waste management, or reduction.</p>
<p><b>YS308</b></p>	<p>As a packaging designer, the biggest barrier in going plastic free is sourcing suppliers that provide plastic-free, food-safe packaging material. For example even "recyclable" coffee cups have some degree of plastic lining. Few suppliers clearly list what their products are made of so researching whether these products have plastic or not can take many hours.</p> <p>If this scheme progresses it would be great to have an up-to-date list of approved products/suppliers or a free accreditation scheme where suppliers can list relevant products as compliant with ACT plastic-free laws.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS309</b>	<p>Agree, I think phasing out single use plastic is critical for the health of our natural and human environments. The key is getting small, medium sized and large businesses involved, particularly those in the food and retail services sector. I'd be happy to get takeaway in my own glass box, but will businesses let me use it? I'd be thrilled to buy sweet potatoes in their own natural skin, yet why does Coles wrap them in plastic? The community is progressively becoming more eco-conscious and it's time for the private sector to catch up! Looking forward to the results of the ACT's discussion paper process. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts!</p>
<b>YS310</b>	<p>I believe that we have to do something to reduce single use plastics given the damage they are doing to the environment and eco systems. I hope that you can extend your ban to include unnecessary packaging on fruit and veg, especially packets of fruit sold in major supermarkets.</p> <p>I believe the items you are looking at banning are all reasonable as there are more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives for all of these.</p> <p>I think focusing on encouraging business to limit advertising showing straws being used etc would potentially make using straws less normal.</p> <p>I would like to see the ACT Government focus on creating industry here for the actual recycling process of all the recyclable items Canberrans try to recycle. Sending it interstate and offshore seems counter intuitive</p>
<b>YS311</b>	<p>I am greatly in favour of banning the use of all single-use plastics. So often products are packaged in single-use plastics when they could quite easily be packaged in other non-polluting materials. People often have a grumble at first but it is just a matter of training yourself to bring bags and containers etc as a purchaser or using different methods on the part of sellers. I get cross when purchasing clothing or products that have printed material in cardboard attached to the product by a small plastic tie when a few pieces of cotton would serve the same purpose.</p> <p>We have to act now if we are going to save our planet. Urgency is key.</p>
<b>YS312</b>	<p>The Government should set an example with publicly funded events such as the multicultural festival, floriade and enlighten to be single-use plastic free. It should encourage businesses to switch to biodegradable or reusable items with one-off grants to buy the necessary items. More places to re-fill drink bottles and reduce plastic water bottles should be provided. School canteens should also be encouraged to go single-use plastic free through engagement with P&amp;C's and the Department of Education.</p>
<b>YS313</b>	<p>The introduction of rules to remove single use plastics from the ACT is a great thing to do. The ACT can lead the way in reducing the pollution caused by single use plastics.</p> <p>Other ideas that should be researched / implemented are: the use of plastics in roadways to get rid of excess plastics and the use of plastics in all government purchased outdoor furniture. We need to understand the ways to repurpose the plastics that are otherwise going to landfill, and then commit to reducing the plastics going to landfill in the ACT.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS314</b>	<p>I am not in favour of banning or reducing the availability of plastic drinking straws. I doubt that anyone considering such a ban has young children. For a young child, any drinking straw gets bitten and squashed. A plastic straw will typically last about half a drink for my child before it has been squashed so much it can't be used. A paper straw lasts two sucks. Like coffee cups, a paper straw isn't recyclable, so it too, will go in the waste stream.</p> <p>Also paper cutlery and crockery - I use these when travelling and have no access to "real" crockery (eg in hotels). The options in hotels are to bring your own (less than \$5 per meal, including the cost of single-use crockery) vs \$20+ for their restaurant breakfast. A ban would cost me a lot of money, for minimal environmental gain.</p>
<b>YS315</b>	<p>Any initiative that mandates the removal of single use plastics from being sold or dispensed is long overdue. The impact of these products is known to be harmful and even catastrophic in some cases for animals and the environment. The vast majority of plastic products cater for people lack of forethought/planning or pure laziness. In addition to the removal of single use products, over packaging and excess plastic packaging should be looked at ASAP. Canberra as a forward thinking, well developed and environmentally conscious community must take a lead on reducing plastic waste.</p>
<b>YS316</b>	<p>I support the phasing out of single use plastics</p>
<b>YS317</b>	<p>we need to stop using plastic straws, but they are not our only problem. every single piece of plastic that is a one-use plastic just gets throw away and we all know that it doesn't get recycled. like come on guys its 2019 we need to save our planet and actually stand up for this horrible situation</p>
<b>YS318</b>	<p>climate change is Real so start doing something about it</p> <p>one day I am going to be prime minster and change our war against plastic</p>
<b>YS319</b>	<p>I think that we should make all products have recyclable packaging. We should also supply recycling bins more often to encourage recycling. We should also discourage use of straws, plastic spoons and un-recyclable containers. We should get companies to offer to fill keep cups instead of single-use ones (we could provide a discount for using keep cups)</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS320	<p>Its a great idea to have only paper drinking straws in ACT. Was also a great idea several years ago to reduce plastic bags in ACT supermarkets - BUT:</p> <p>Why stuff around - simply legislate to get rid of all plastic bags in ACT and lead the way. I am no "Greenie" but even small villages like Huskisson (Jervis Bay) have banned plastic bags for past 5 years and it works.</p> <p>Woolworths and Coles in ACT still have many plastic bags provided for fruit/veg items and have paper bags to package customers mushrooms. Why can't they provide paper bags for fruit/veg as they do for mushrooms?</p>
YS321	<p>I think ACT as a whole should focus on how to prevent plastic straws and stirrers, plastic cutlery, disposable plastic plates and cups, disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lid, Polystyrene (foam) plastic food, containers and beverage cups, light-weight fruit and vegetable bags, and plastic beverage contained. These items have been causing a lot of problems around Canberra. These kind of plastic are polluting our water. If we let this continue on then we will become dirty, pollutes and a nasty city.</p> <p>We can still prevent these issues as an individual. Canberrans could switch to a recyclable sandwich bag, stop using saran wrap, use other straws than a plastic (such as metal straws) and use non-plastic bags for groceries. We should act quick enough to prevent this from happening again.</p>
YS322	<p>Generally supportive of trying to reduce single use plastic. My only concern with the current focus on plastic straws is that there are some people for whom they are a legitimate aid, and the current alternatives aren't yet adequate. My brother has a disability that means he can't drink from a cup, can or bottle, so he uses a straw. Cleaning a reusable straw wouldn't be possible for him, because of the fine motor control needed to put a cleaning brush in the straw. Paper straws are often not up to the squashing or bending that happens as he tries to put them in the cup, can or bottle. This is a person who is independent, and carrying around a supply of plastic straws is one of the things that enables him to be independent.</p> <p>I'm sure there would be many people in a similar situation.</p>
YS323	<p>Disposable Nappies take up too much land fill. Government should subsidize cloth nappies. Humans have been dealing with poo threw out history without adding to land full, it's only in the last 60 years we decided to wrap it in plastic and burry in the ground.</p>
YS324	<p>I wander my suburb almost daily - I need a 200kg capable trolley due to volume. Pick up somewhere between 300-400 unwanted Chronicles per week and nearly everybody I speak to across the 1674 houses I wander past aren't that thrilled with delivery with most straight to bin. I could point out the 6 houses that have said they like getting it. But that is 300-400 plastic bags that stand to get pulverised and into the waterways where they start to kill. Fast food placcie cups next most common item, then cigarette packaging and butts. Then coffee cups and hard plastic food containers -most of those for blown from overfilled bins. Now a line of catalogues are in placcie bags - about 50 of those. Throw my stats across town and the size of the heap is scary. They ARE single use bags -ban them!</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS325	<p>Wastelottery.com is incentivising coffee shops and business around Canberra region to sort out their recycling and reduce the amount of waste they produce. If you are a coffee shop or business who wants to reduce waste visit <a href="http://www.wastelottery.com">www.wastelottery.com</a>. There are around 30000 tons of milk plastic bottles are produced in AUS every year. There are 250 coffee shops in Canberra that generate each an average plastic waste of about 140 milk bottles every week. With the waste lottery we can save that plastic and use it to build energy devices and storage for the future instead of polluting the oceans with it.</p> <p>Our ask: Share, like and subscribe to Waste Lottery !</p>
YS326	<p>Please do something about the litter created by the chronicle newspaper. Copies wrapped in plastic litter the streets.</p>
YS327	<p>I think you need to avoid the term 'single use'. Many of the items you list are reusable. Generally reuse should be encouraged and supported before recycle or discard.</p> <p>Information on suitable alternatives to the items you want to ban would be useful (and 'how-to-use' style) ie. if you can't carry your fruit and veg from the markets in plastic bags inside your shopping bag how do you carry them (esp to facilitate separation at the cash register).</p> <p>Also 'why can't these items be recycled rather than discarded?'</p>
YS328	<p>Although reducing consumption of single use plastic should be the objective, while they are still available, there definitely needs to be provisions for recycling in public places. Many shopping centres and other areas only have one bin which forces people to dump their plastic bottles (etc) into landfill. More education about what can/ can't be recycled (right there at the bin!), incentives or regulations to force companies to provide recycling bins (food waste too, ideally, but could start with all govt departments), and financial/ market incentives for businesses to find innovative ways to use recycled plastic, would be great to see in the ACT.</p>
YS329	<p>Many single use plastic bags (eg fruit/veg) could be replaced with paper bags.</p> <p>The ACT Govt could assist the establishment of a plastics processing facility (as opposed to sorting, which is all that currently happens).</p> <p>The ACT Govt could provide an incentive to business who provide/use reusable plates &amp; cutlery, knowing that some will be stolen or abandoned.</p>
YS330	<p>Single use plastics must be banned legislatively and the ban enforced very strictly. There will be a cost involved but the cost of not acting NOW will be extremely high in the coming years.</p> <p>Alternatives to single use plastics made of paper/wood (sustainable managed) is essential before any ban in place. Thanks.</p>
YS331	<p>I thought that plastic straws were banned many years ago, decades ago, because they could be rinsed and used again by the (nasty) businesses. That is why many years ago, straws were paper-based single use.</p> <p>Can we have paper straws again?</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS332	<p>It's over 20 years too late for this possible ban to come to fruition.            Single use cups, straws, bags, take away containers etc should be banned now.            Single use plastics are convenient. This is a way of saying they allow us to be lazy.            Ban single use items in all public service buildings immediately.            Just look how many educated degree carrying public servants carry single use coffee cups into public buildings every day. Yes....look around you!            Ban all plastics in shopping centre food courts.            Getting rid of plastics is a start but I believe it should also include the overuse of packaging in general.            If single use items were taxed then their use would drop. Cigarettes are taxed to reduce usage. It's works.            We have to take responsibility for every piece of waste we create.</p>
YS333	<p>How about phasing out the use of sticky plastic labels on individual pieces of fruit and vegetables in supermarkets.</p>
YS334	<p>I am completely supportive of banning single use plastics, even if it comes at a consumer cost. The health of our population is dependent on the health of our environment. We need to start thinking longer term about the sustainability of how we're living now. Banning single use plastics in favour of more sustainable options is an easy win in my book.</p>
YS335	<p>RETURN TO CARDBOARD AND PAPER BAGS FOR SO MANY THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Cardboard straws to replace all plastic straws, at all cafes, bars and restaurants. Even being sold in stores.</li> <li>* Replace plastic vegetable bags with paper bags. I have seen people use plastic vegetable bags for just one piece of fruit. I try to never use them at all, if I can avoid it.</li> <li>* Replace take away plastic containers with cardboard ones. If we can buy hot chips in cardboard or paper, why can't we have paper and cardboard for all take away foods?</li> <li>* Coffee cups are a dreadful problem when it comes to land fill. How about charging extra for take away coffee cups, just as we do for single use bags. Have more re-usable coffee cups on sale for people to buy and bring with them each time.</li> <li>* More knowledge for the general public.</li> </ul>
YS336	<p>Everybody should really participate in this but it would make more sense if the businesses would also contribute to this matter. If you go to grocery stores, a lot of their products are also wrapped in plastics.</p>
YS337	<p>Stopping the use of single use plastics is an absolute must (stops the root cause of the problem) for the sustainability of our country and for our childrens future. That said there needs to be ways to recycle and reuse the plastic already in the community. There needs to be a two pronged approach. We can not, not deal with what we already have. Further, when one does make the effort to recycle there needs to be an assurance that we are recycling and our waste is not been sent to developing countries for processing where it is left to rot creating problems for economies not sophisticated to manage it. This stops a lot of people from recylcing.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS338	The supermarkets need to stop packaging everything in plastic-the fruit and vegetables dont need to be separately packaged as most of them get washed or peeled before consuming. They need to realise that although they are think they are appealing to convenience for people it doesn't take much for people to grab a few apples etc separately and place them in their own reuseable bags!
YS339	I just bought a boxed TV mount from Bunnings. It was wrapped in plastic (stops pilfering - okay). However, the box was sealed again with a plastic tab. Sure tamper evident paper tape on the box would have been a better option. Encourage retailers to have paper, not plastic wrapping, unless absolutely necessary
YS340	whatever the no waste dept comes up with as a plan, money and positions should be put into enforcement and penalties should be significant for those that flout the new laws. It does not take a lot of companies to be penalized before the word gets out. The important thing in my experience is to give a clear destination (eg % reduction in waste) and then allow business come up with their own pathway towards that reduction. That is, government should say what needs to be achieved, but in many cases it is better to letter private sector decide the "how." thank you
YS341	Recently swam in a sea of micro-plastics in a once pristine ocean, this changed many things I do in everyday life. I am happy to go the extra mile to avoid plastic packaging/single use plastic and think twice about plastic consumer goods. I am a nurse in Canberra and I am disappointed that single use plastics pass though my hands hourly and are disposed of in general waste. Unfortunately I do not have time to eat/drink/or go the the loo enough in my job to take on responsibility for starting some sort of recycling program. I suggest that the ACT Govt helps the hospital seek assistance to firstly cut down the amount of plastic we use and secondly efficiently recycle what plastic waste we produce in our work. This must be done in a way to not increase our already strained workload.
YS342	Reducing single-use plastic is a great aim and will greatly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and, critically, ending up in oceans and waterways. Food packaging is the biggest culprit of single-use plastic, both in supermarkets and takeaway food. Reducing the amount of plastic packaging on food, encouraging people to bring their own food containers and bags, and making things like plastic cutlery and straws opt-in (rather than the default), would all go a long way to reducing single-use plastics. However, particularly with plastic straws, the needs of people with disabilities or mobility issues MUST be taken into account. Sometimes these are the only straws that work for them and they shouldn't be disadvantaged by not being able to access what they need in public spaces.
YS343	The views and needs of people with disabilities or mobility issues MUST be taken into account when developing a policy to reduce single-use plastic, especially plastic straws. Many people need a straw to drink and, for some people, the only suitable option is a plastic straw. This could be because of allergies, risk of injury or plastic alternatives not being hot liquid safe. It should not be up to a person with a disability to be forced to adapt or bring their own straw - that is imposing the burden on the person to be able to participate in society, rather than focusing on making society more inclusive and accessible to all. I support reducing plastic waste and there are many ways to do so - it should not be at the expense of some people being able to participate in society.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS344	<p>Yes please. We need to remove single use plastics from our world. There has to be ways we can refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics. What can Government do, businesses and manufacturers, and communities and citizens. In Europe they are introducing plastic free supermarkets: asking buyers to bring their own containers. This is what we want. We have started to find shops where we can do this but it's hard in Canberra. More shops refusing to use plastic packaging for food is definitely what we need. Their behaviours drive ours. They will need help. How can certain foods like meat be packaged? As well, some people will need help who don't have access to resources eg can't afford their own packaging. Is being more green a rich person's game? If you legislate ensure there's help for all.</p>
YS345	<p>Helium balloons being sold in bulk causes release and creates litter. Tighten this law as a matter of urgency.</p>
YS346	<p>Food packaging is one of the biggest contributors to plastic waste. The ACT should encourage companies like Woolworths and Coles to rethink their packaging solutions for fruit and vegetables. Woolworths occasionally has some of its products in card and cellophane, but mostly it's still in plastic, largely those clam-shell products that can't be recycled. The ACT Govt could use imaginative solutions - eg tax/subsidy - to deal with this.</p>
YS347	<p>Ensuring buy-in across businesses in the ACT is crucial to the success of phasing out single-use plastics. If businesses can collectively set a good example by reducing single-use plastic packaging, this can influence the perceptions and behaviours of consumers and gradually raise broader awareness and ultimately shift norms around using single-use plastics .</p> <p>The ACT Government should target for reduction: takeaway cutlery and containers; coffee cups with plastic lids; plastic straws; cotton buds made of plastic.</p> <p>Cafes should be given incentives to reduce plastic coffee cups and promote the use of keep cups. Eateries should be targeted to reduce their plastic cutlery and containers, and encouraged to offer financial incentives to customers for bringing their own tupperware.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<p><b>YS348</b></p>	<p>Getting rid of single-use plastics should be an absolute priority for us, as a species. The benefit we have as the ACT is a bold government and citizenry, who have already shown leadership in other policy areas, e.g. renewable energy.</p> <p>If we want to get everyday folks on board with getting rid of single-use plastics, there are a few points I feel are worth consideration:</p> <p>1 - For participation in behaviour change programs, we know that an important motivating factor is a sense of outcome efficacy, i.e. that the action taken will lead to a meaningful change. A risk is that by focusing on only a selection of items, the change will be perceived as symbolic rather than effective, and this could demotivate participation.</p> <p>I appreciate the approach that is taking small steps at a time, as this can help to get folks accustomed to a change without it mobilising large resistance. So I do not feel there is a clear 'best' approach if the incremental versus more radical approaches are being weighed up. A middle ground would be to have a future target that is across all areas of single-use plastic, with immediate steps of removing those initial products (e.g. straws), so that the small steps are evidently building toward a bigger whole.</p> <p>2 - Social norms are extremely powerful in promoting behaviour change, and as such a useful approach would be targeted engagement with community / social network leaders.</p> <p>School groups, faith groups, sports clubs etc. may become ideal allies especially if there is high interest and engagement from those in a position of positive influence and trust with the other members.</p> <p>There are 'identity' and 'status' dimensions of product choices, e.g. non-plastic products are associated with 'rusitic' aesthetics, that tend to align with higher incomes. Similarly, 'sustainable' products are associated with green consumerism, which comes at a higher cost in many cases. It will likely be beneficial to consider the way these new behavioural norms are represented, in order to avoid the behaviour being pigeon holed with a single identity group that then limits the engagement of others.</p> <p>3 - Finally, equity issues are important, e.g. those highlighted in the discussion paper around folks with disability regaining access to what they need to live comfortably and with dignity. But also, there are other costs associated with reducing packaging, e.g. in terms of time (more time peeling un-packaged/prepared vegetables), transport (buying in bulk to avoid packaging can require more transport consideration), skills (unpackaged products might need more at home processing), and equipment (keep cups and other reusable replacements).</p> <p>Programs that can bridge this gap for folks, especially on lower incomes, may be useful if implemented in a way that is respectful, encouraging, and non-stigmatising (stigma can end up attached to an item that is specifically for lower income folks, producing an unintended negative consequence of a well-intended intervention).</p> <p>I hope these comments are useful! I wish you all the best for this great initiative. Thank you for taking this on - it is so important and I would be so thrilled to see the ACT leading in this area!</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<p><b>YS349</b></p>	<p>Re shopping bags: (not single use)  Plastic bags from shops should taxed at \$2.00 per item.  A consumer can then return them to an approved depot for a refund of \$1.00 per item.  Approved depots should be provided by supermarkets, IGAs, petrol stations, hardware chains etc.  There will then be a black market of people selling them for less than \$2.00.  By giving the bags a value, they wont be thrown out.  I put them in the washing machine and re-use them.</p> <p>The irony of the introduction of the "multiple use" bags is that there are now more of the heavy, less degradable bags being thrown out.</p>
<p><b>YS350</b></p>	<p>Clearly this is just the beginning of a long journey with plastic having many valuable properties which have made our lives easier and which will be difficult to replace. For caterers at meetings/conferences one readily sees how regular glasses, cups and plates would be much more expensive to use than their plastic equivalents.</p> <p>I have a particular concern in Canberra about the weekly paper 'The Chronicle' which has an unsolicited distribution to all residences in all suburbs and which litters the driveways and footpaths of those who choose not to read it. It is covered in a thin plastic wrap which does not allow the paper to disintegrate and as such should be considered a major pollutant. There was a time when it was delivered unwrapped to the letter boxes of those who wished to receive it</p>
<p><b>YS351</b></p>	<p>I think it's difficult to fully address plastic consumption and waste without looking at bottled water and other beverages. Many of these bottles are recyclable and the ACT has installed a number of drinking fountains to encourage less reliance on bottled water, but these options are underused and possibly under advertised. More should be done to improve and promote Canberra's recycling facilities and bottled water facilities. Restaurants and cafes should be encouraged to reduce the drinks they stock in plastic bottles and to promote tap water over bottled water.</p>
<p><b>YS352</b></p>	<p>It's great that the ACT government is committed to reducing single use plastic, but disappointing that they are not looking at other ways to have a positive environmental impact. The over development of the city and Northbourne Ave, including proposals for apartment buildings in Garema Place and at West Basin will concentrate people more in the city and reduce amenities, which will likely have people turning to "easier, more convenient" lifestyle options, which will increase their plastic consumption. The government should look at environmental issues in a holistic manner and consider how overconsumption affects plastic use.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS353	<p>single use plastic is awful because it is ruining our planet. We are putting so many creatures lives in danger. The amount of plastic that is put into the ocean each day is awful and we are not only ruining our eco system but our living. If we take action now we could be avoiding a huge problem and people would wake up to a different and better environment. I think single use plastic should not be a problem problem in our world. I think to help this we should only use plastic straws if really need to, get people to understand what harm they are doing, start to really work on this problem by replacing plastic with paper and metal and because of the money, get fund raising and donations because lots of people can help in that way. We have the power for change.</p>
YS354	<p>Yes, ban single use plastics, but have alternatives available.</p>
YS355	<p>As a consumer I understand the commercial challenges but this needs to happen. There also needs to be a particular focus on drive through packaging as more obvious that you are approaching a McDonald's by the amount of rubbish next to the road than the abundance of advertising. I'd go a level further if these companies want to keep using take away plastic should and should be charged a levy. If the individual can't take responsibility then it should cost more to deter the business.</p>
YS356	<p>Ban them and single use paper straws only</p>
YS357	<p>I now collect soft plastics to recycle through RED cycle and find that along with the worm farm and general recycling programs I have only 1 small bag of rubbish a week for a family of 5 people. I feel that the change in packaging and our expectations of how things are packaged needs to be addressed as well as the takeaway convenience phenomenon. I understand that packaging protects food and other products - but we surely don't need so much of it!!</p>
YS358	<p>Get rid of single use plastics please. Happy to pay more for new more environmentally friendly products that serve the same purpose. The ocean is full of this junk.</p>
YS359	<p>To be more considerate of the environment I believe that single use plastic should be cut down to almost none. Ending up in the ocean and on and inside animals from high to low. In order to save the planet single use plastic should be replaced with more of a reusable/ recyclable substance</p>
YS360	<p>Good afternoon I've noticed that the consumption of plastic cups and straws from bubble tea outlets such as "chatime" and "sharetea" is quite high. These outlets are becoming increasingly popular in Canberra, which is great, but perhaps incentives can be put in place to encourage more reusable cups and straws, similar to what some coffee outlets have done. Dessert lab at westfield Woden seems to use reusable cups, but not a lot of people know about it.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS361</b>	<p>I went to my local Woolworths Shop at Kippax to buy some more Diced Bacon amongst other things  I took along with me a square Cleaned Tupperware Container to contain my purchase instead of a one use plastic bag that they hand out  I was told that they cannot put my purchase into my container because of health concerns of being unhealthy or unclean  Now I wonder how did we buy things before plastic became the norm in our everyday lives  Everything was wrapped up in butchers paper which is much more environment friendly</p>
<b>YS362</b>	<p>This has been a live issue for a number of years. It may not be front-of-mind for many residents, but there is a reasonably high level of public awareness.</p> <p>The phase-out period should be relatively short (no longer than two years) backed up by a public education campaign across all media that intensifies in the last six months before the ban is introduced. Incentives could be introduced to encourage the purchase of reusable shopping bags, etc.</p>
<b>YS363</b>	<p>In addition to reducing single use plastics, the ACT Government needs to introduce better methods of recycling. For example, there should be easy ways for people to recycle clothing, electronics, furniture, toiletries, and cosmetics. Reducing use is one step, but it should be part of a broader overall sustainability strategy that promotes recycling, repurposing and reuse. the Additionally, Recyclopedia is a great resource but it is missing a lot of items. Suggest investing in updating this (perhaps through volunteer involvement to expand the resource).</p>
<b>YS364</b>	<p>Single use plastic is honestly the most sickening product ever created. Leo Hendrik Baekeland was the first man to invent plastic. Leo probably knew what the possible effects plastics would have on our Earth but continued the project for money. But what can we do about it now? Most would say nothing, simply because they're lazy and rely on others to fix problems, they think, are too complex for themselves. Well here is an eye opener to them, this situation we have all contributed to is nothing compared to complex, if anything it is the most straightforward task of man kind; all we, as plastic consumers that have limited amount of power to ban single use plastic, is to simply boycott all unnecessary plastics. So I, a 12 year old girl with a perishing future, urge you to go plastic free!</p>
<b>YS365</b>	<p>Our family of four have reduced plastic usage as follows: purchase and use stainless steel straws, bring my own mug when getting take away coffee. Bringing our own bags to pack groceries when we pick up online purchased groceries. Recycling household items to fill our yellow bin. Saying no to plastic straws and to take-away plastic cutlery, use my own stainless steel or non-single use plastic set. Packing lunch and snack items in greaseproof paper or re-useable plastic tupperware type containers. Using beeswax paper. Using coconut brushes for dishwashing rather than plastic. Supporting businesses that have made an effort ton reduce or eliminate single use plastic, and commending them.</p>
<b>YS366</b>	<p>I agree with the target applications proposed in the discussion paper and flyer delivered to households. However, targeting lightweight fruit &amp; veg bags should only be attempted with considerable public education in alternatives for refrigeration and garbage disposal. You should also be targeting (not on your list at present) supermarkets and greengrocers who wrap quantities of fruit and vegetables in polystyrene and glad wrap for sale in say, half-dozen lots, given that the products have skins and it is quite unnecessary to wrap them.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS367	<p>We need something along the milkman model to apply to most of our consumables - including of course milk, dairy products, cosmetics and toiletry products for our containers to be recycled directly by the manufacturer in question. Create a stronger link between end-of-life recycling to the original packaging by the manufacturer (in some cases the same manufacturer to promote more immediate reuse). See this pilot being launched all around the world: <a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/02/could-reusable-revolution-inspired-milkman-cure-addiction-plastic/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/02/could-reusable-revolution-inspired-milkman-cure-addiction-plastic/</a>.</p> <p>Recycling is not a solution - reducing consumption in the first place is our best way forward.</p>
YS368	<p>The ACT and other governments through COAG should consider the introduction of a "plastic levy" at the beginning of the supply cycle to cover the cost of 1. environmental degradation, and 2. the cost of processing plastic as waste or for recycling.</p>
YS369	<p>Single-use plastics should be totally banned as those products are either not necessary or can be substituted easily. Their damage to the environment weigh much over the little convenience which people don't really need.</p>
YS370	<p>I agree with most of the single use plastic items targeted for phase out. There are compostable plant based alternatives for all these items. I would also include cotton buds as there are alternatives to plastic. All foodservice packaging should be made from compostable materials. Conventional plastic and paper foodservice packaging contaminated with food residue cannot be recycled, the food residue contaminates the recycling stream and if this waste ends up in landfill, the organic fraction will decay and release methane gas.</p>
YS371	<p>ACT Government should look into making plastic bag recycling bins readily available for residential properties and businesses to encourage re-use/ recycling plastic bags.</p> <p>The ACT Government in conjunction with the federal government should look into igniting an industry in Australia to recycle and reuse plastic items.</p>
YS372	<p>The foodservice and hospitality industry in Australia currently landfill more than 900 000 tons of organic waste. By legislating that all foodservice packaging is compostable, it simplifies disposal as all packaging and food waste can be disposed of in one bin. Currently, conventional plastic foodservice packaging is contaminating the organics stream. Composting is a hyper-local solution to recycle the food and packaging waste generated by the foodservice industry. Compostable foodservice packaging is a proven solution to reduce waste to landfill. We should choose materials that are fit for purpose and conventional fossil-derived plastics should not be used to produce disposable foodservice packaging.</p>
YS373	<p>In order to provide convenient, hygienic and safe distribution of food and beverages to large crowds in public places, compostable single use disposable foodservice ware offers the most convenient, efficient, cost effective and practical option. There is no significant cost increase when switching from plastic to compostable options. Education along with access to green waste bins is essential in ensuring the packaging and foodwaste are collected and turned into nutrient rich compost.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS374</b>	It seems the negative impact of almost all, if not all, single use plastics could be eliminated by a combination of making it redundant (ie we don't really need it), finding a environmentally friendly alternative and/or ensuring it will be fully recycled locally (ie not shipped interstate or overseas). Do we need a straw? What value add does all the packaging provide? There are many packaging alternatives available made from biodegradable/compostable fibres that can immediately replace many everyday items we have got used to - plastic bags, straws, cups, containers, packaging, plastic wrap and if we do really need that plastic straw or plastic take away container it should only be able to be purchased if there is a local recycling solution to the waste it creates after use.
<b>YS375</b>	I already take my own steps to avoid plastic bags (have drawstring netting bags), straws (drink like an adult, without one), cutlery (carry my own) and recycle plastic packaging from food packaging (Coles/Woolworths, dubious if this happens). I would like to see government (nationally) subsidise innovation and technology in Australia to recycle these plastics into useful products not just park benches, sleepers etc. Stuff we can all use again and again.
<b>YS376</b>	Plastics that are not able to be composted should be restricted with a view to ceasing demand and manufacture. Single use plastics are a good place to start. Plastics, especially single use plastics, are now often able to be replaced with naturally sourced and compostable materials and as governments continue to act to restrict the use of plastics, demand for alternatives is likely to incentivise further innovation. As a first world community, we have an opportunity to drive change to protect our ecosystems from pollution, to protect our native species and world-heritage oceans and reefs, to protect our waterways and our air, and to demand a future that leaves our environment and our children better off.
<b>YS377</b>	Seen in social media that Europe is moving away from overly packaged products like Toothpaste that comes with a paper pack in addition to the plastic tube. We can abolish such over use of unwanted packaging with a law.
<b>YS378</b>	We are an organisation that seeks to improve the lives of women and girls, we are very concerned about the damaging impact of plastic particularly on women and girls through our water systems and our food. We do need to eliminate the plastic we don't need, however, real change will only occur if these items can be replaced with better alternatives. We must innovate so all the plastic we do need is designed to be safely reused, recycled, or composted. Next steps need to include further community outreach and engagement; support for locally sourced, low-carbon footprint alternatives; and long-term monitoring and enforcement.
<b>YS379</b>	The plastics industry globally is focused on transitioning to a circular economy. The ACT's motion for potential bans for single use plastics is a sensible one, particularly in light of the success of the ACT plastic bag ban, reported in our Unfantastic Plastic report. Virtually every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some shape or form. Plastics provide the ultimate 'convenience' and produced various plastics that are only intended to be used once. Where there are alternatives to single use plastics that are fit for purpose and relatively cost comparable to business and community, regulatory measures may be effective in a faster transition to a circular economy in the ACT.

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
YS380	<p>Please put stringent regulation in place! Most people like the idea of being environmentally friendly, but when you're busy, it's hard to prioritise energy- and time-consuming practices. We need the right (financial) incentives to encourage meaningful action - whether that be through fines (e.g. for cafes that use takeaway cups), or on the other end of the spectrum, whether that be through ACT-wide money-saving schemes (e.g. you get myway credit/ a free lightrail or bus trip for every 10 times you BYO cup to Canberran cafes - this can be tracked through an app).</p> <p>It's time to be more serious about these kinds of issues. The people of the ACT believe in you!</p>
YS381	<p>The Canberra Environment Centre has undertaken significant engagement with the Canberra community on issues of single use plastic reduction throughout the month of July.</p> <p>The Centre has presented a number of public talks and presentations on ways to reduce single use plastic usage in the home and the hundreds of conversations we have had confirmed our belief that the Canberra community is ready to take action on single use plastics.</p> <p>Many households have already significantly reduced plastic usage and many more are willing to make changes to their behaviour if shown how and supported through the process. The alternatives are widely available and if a proper education campaign that not only provides information but teaches the community how to change is rolled out, this should be easy.</p>
YS382	<p>I would like to see thicker, reusable bags considered as part of this process as they are quite often not re-used, or used immediately as bin liners. Because they contain more plastic than single-use bags, this actually contributes more to the issue. Paper bags should be available at supermarkets as an alternative, and would also be a good option for smaller items such as vegetables as they are compostable. In general, I would like to see the requirement for alternatives to be available at all businesses, even if the customer is charged, to allow a more sustainable choice.</p>
YS383	<p>It is imperative the government legislate to end the use of single-use plastic; voluntary commitments from individuals, community and industry is unlikely to have the impact needed to take single-use plastics out of the environment. Convenience will always be a pull for consumers, the most effective way will be to remove the choice. Reverting back to non-packaged goods and products. The responsibility and accountability needs to be on the manufacturers. It's very reassuring to see the reference to strawableism in the discussion paper - clearly legislation will need an exemption to allow disabled people, hospitals and aged care facilities to use straws when required. The majority of people will not need straws. Efforts should be made to develop a suitable alternative for those in need</p>
YS384	<p>I think that it is a great initiative to regulate non-essential single use plastic packaging and products, however I urge the ACT government not to make life harder for people with disabilities by banning plastic straws or making them difficult to access. For some people plastic straws (especially the bendy kind) are essential to drink and no one should be prevented from doing that. My grandmother needed plastic straws for this reason, metal straws would have been really dangerous for her as she had essential tremor and could have cut her mouth, and paper and silicone straws don't work in hot liquids like tea.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>YS385</b>	Any proposed ban on single use plastics needs to offer suitable alternatives for the needs of people with a disability who rely on these items. It is important that such an alternative not increase or reinforce stigma or social isolation associated with having a disability, and as such certain options (ie prescription only access to single use plastics) would not be suitable.
<b>YS386</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Single use plastic has no place in the home. Even severely disabled people with special needs have safe alternatives eg plant based straws.</li> <li>2. Food packaging; cosmetic containers; toothbrushes; etc made of plastic should not be sold in the ACT.</li> <li>3. The ACT government should give away free cloth/muslin bags to use when buying vegetables. ACTEW used to give away free socks and egg timers etc. to teach and support people to save water.</li> <li>4. The ACT government should ban purchase of single use plastics from schools, hospitals, prisons, govt offices, and so on. Providing a model for employees to follow in their personal lives.</li> <li>5. The ACT Government should set up an accreditation system to help the public make good choices; eg as a dog owner, I am suspicious of "biodegradable poop bags".</li> </ol>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
IndSub20	<p>1. Do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed below being considered as part of this paper? If so, which items do you think are the most important to address?</p> <p>I basically agree with the division between included and excluded items, with some exceptions. Eliminating all those items associated with “food and drink on the run” (plastic cups, straws, food containers) looks like a very good place to start as these items are often associated with large events such as fairs and festivals, and so involve huge numbers of items. These events also need ACT government approval to run, so can have conditions placed upon them in relation to SUPs. New businesses that specialise in low cost retrievable and reusable cutlery and plates could be granted exclusive licences to provide the items for all ACT government events.</p> <p>The items on the right (Phasing out single-use plastics Discussion Paper, Australian Capital Territory 2019, p.21, “Which items should we focus on?”) are mostly associated with health and hygiene and are therefore more difficult to phase out, with the exception of babies’ nappies. I used cloth nappies with both my children, including during overseas travel, and cannot remember any problems with washing and drying them. I see this as being a big area for reuse, with some Australian businesses already doing good work in this area. These businesses need encouragement and promotion at ACT government events, and through relevant organisations such as the CWA, hospitals and Nursing Mothers. Manufacturers of cloth nappies might be able to use promotional labels such “I’m an ACT No Waste baby” or other embroidered symbols or messages. Cloth nappies prove cheaper than disposable nappies in the long run, but the water used in laundering could be a consideration in more frequent droughts.</p> <p>Keeping soiled plastic nappies out of landfill, and therefore avoiding fugitive methane (methane is a far more toxic GHG than CO2), is, however, a powerful motivator for new mothers. Avoiding any sense of “shaming” for disposable nappy use during travel, emergencies etc, would also be important.</p> <p>Beginning with babies would also have strong public appeal and avoid the ‘yuk’ factor often still associated with menstruation and incontinence. Polystyrene items should be outlawed through regulation as these are the most damaging to the environment, especially the marine environment, because of the way they break down into ever smaller pieces.</p> <p>Taxing more polluting items such as polystyrene may be beyond the powers of the ACT government, as may placing outright bans on such items. The Commonwealth 2018 Waste Policy should be the vehicle for outlawing highly toxic materials such as polystyrene and plastic bags labelled ‘biodegradable’.</p> <p>2. What regulatory or other approaches do you support to address consumer single-use plastic in the ACT? When do you think action is needed, and why?</p> <p>The ACT government’s pilot plan to introduce recyclable coffee cups into key cafes around Canberra looks like a good step in the right direction, and should be extended.</p> <p>Plastic free cafes might gain special publicity through ACT websites and extra exposure at ACT sponsored festivals and community events. Tying good environmental measures to profit should be a key idea in promoting innovation in order to neutralise any initial added expense incurred through change.</p> <p>Ongoing education campaigns to instruct consumers on the true meaning behind labels (‘compostable’, ‘recyclable’, ‘biodegradable’ etc) are important as some businesses rush to fill the demand for such items as environmentally friendly cling wrap. ‘Compostable’ plastic bags that break down into ever tinier fragments which are highly toxic to wild life and the whole food chain are a prime example of this false advertising. Once a</p>

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	<p>clear ACT code of definitions is established through regulation, false advertising could be punished by a substantial fine. Local media has a big role to play in transmitting these critical messages.</p> <p>The website of the Hume MRF is a good example of a user-friendly but accurate resource for teaching what can and cannot be recycled. Because there are many hybrid products its simple message of “When in doubt, put it in the bin” is an effective one as the ACT works towards accurate separation of waste into valuable product.</p> <p>5 and 6. Have you taken steps to reduce your use of single-use plastic? If so, what have you done? What alternatives to single-use plastics have you used and are they practical?</p> <p>We have invested in glass containers with lids to store items in the fridge, and have consistently washed and reused plastic containers that we have accumulated from the past. Gradually the businesses at Fyshwick markets have accepted glass dishes for fish and oysters, as well as washed plastic containers.</p> <p>‘Mikes Meats’ will not accept a reusable container as they say they must have a plastic bag over their hand as they reach into the window to take meat, so a single use plastic bag has already been used. We refuse the extra plastic bag that is offered. Shop assistants at ‘Happy Pastures’ wear plastic gloves that they reuse and now are willing to accept a reusable container whereas previously they said health regulations prevented them from doing so, even though such a regulation may not in fact exist. As business appears to decline somewhat, business owners seem more inclined to give in to what customers request- both ‘Deli Mart’ and ‘Deli Planet’ are now happy to accept used containers for refill.</p> <p>‘Wiffens’ proved intransigent when asked to avoid black polystyrene trays for the pre-packaging of ‘specials’, saying that the customer could always choose not to buy those specials. Customer numbers on the ground appear to be thinning, perhaps as rising cost of living pressures make the supermarkets much more affordable for many fruit and vegetable items.</p> <p>Produce bags, given out by the ACT Conservation Council (<a href="http://www.theplasticfreeshop.com.au">www.theplasticfreeshop.com.au</a>) as prizes at the World Environment Day Dinner, can be used at supermarkets to transfer grapes out of plastic bags, leaving the plastic bag behind as a clear message to the retailer about the need to eliminate single use plastics. ‘See-Change’ is also running a campaign to collect the plastic lids of milk bottles to be recycled into artificial limbs, and we have begun our own collection in a fourth small bin.</p> <p>The soft plastic around the newspaper as it is delivered remains a problem, especially in winter. If the plastic is fairly clean we wipe it and retain it for future use, but this doesn’t often work out. We store such plastics and make use of the plastic recycling at Coles Supermarkets. Even here though, we have difficulties determining what some wrappers are made of and believe that recycling used plastic takes 85% more energy than producing virgin plastic in the first place. Clearly the emphasis should be on avoidance.</p> <p>‘Wiffens’ sold 4 plastic food covers using beeswax under a cotton cover (<a href="http://www.4myearth.com.au">www.4myearth.com.au</a>) for the hefty price of \$30, and we use these to cover leftovers in the fridge. ‘The Essential Ingredient’ in Kingston also sells some pricey beeswax products for storing food; their reusable sandwich wrapper looked effective if rather expensive.</p> <p>350 Canberra, as an environmental group focused on reducing GHG emissions, avoids single use plastics at all of its social functions. Volunteers provide almost exclusively home cooked food and use reusable crockery and cutlery provided by the ACT Conservation Council. When outside catering was necessary, as for the 2018 visit of Bill McKibben, they chose Canberra’s Magic Kitchen as a company providing food with a small carbon footprint and using all reusable equipment and cutlery. At smaller meetings volunteers bring food in reusable containers or food on crockery plates covered by tea towels. Only a very limited number of commercially prepared foods are brought to meetings.</p> <p>7 What members of our community may be impacted by phasing out single-use plastics and how? What are the solutions?</p>

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	<p>Restaurants which either serve portions that are too big, or patrons who over-order, will find difficulty in moving away from plastic containers for 'doggy bags'.</p> <p>General education on sustainability will have an impact, as will the rising cost of ingredients. Some patrons might set out with their own container for leftovers with them, but they will be a small minority.</p> <p>Restaurants and cafes will adapt new products as they become available, but price will be a factor. Adjustable portion sizes might be possible, but patrons already do this to some extent when ordering entrée sized versions of the dish.</p> <p>Plastic products for people with disabilities, such as drinking straws, may not find a recyclable alternative and will need to go to landfill until changes into recyclable materials can be found.</p> <p>'Specials' in fruit shops need to be placed in bins or large trays so that customers can purchase the exact amount of the product they need. Harris Farms outlets in Sydney already do this very successfully with small or slightly misshapen fruit and vegetables. Cheaper reusable produce bags will make this easier as time goes on.</p> <p>8 What else do you think needs to be considered as part of this discussion?</p> <p>Faster action on composting FOGO (food organics, garden organics) is critical in cutting down methane emissions from landfill as soon as possible. Far sighted planning, especially of multi-unit developments, that includes design that will make this possible, should be rolled out at a much faster rate.</p> <p>Reducing food waste as the third greatest contributor to GHGs (see Paul Hawken, Drawdown, Penguin Books 2017) out of one hundred possible actions to take to combat climate change, needs to be tackled by the ACT government much more urgently.</p>

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IndSub21	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this discussion paper.</p> <p>As a member of the community dependent on consuming what is offered I have found it very difficult to reduce my use of single-use plastic, and indeed, all plastic.</p> <p>Plastic is everywhere.</p> <p>1. Do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed on page 21 being considered as part of this paper? If so, which items do you think are the most important to address (e.g. plastic bags, straws, cutlery, disposable coffee cups, takeaway containers)?</p> <p>Plastic straws and stirrers: Straws are a no-brainer. There is a lot of awareness now about the danger of straws in the oceans. There are good alternatives – the metal straws. These are now being used in some cafes, and I have seen them for sale around Australia. There was a concern about people with disabilities. Paper, bamboo or metal straws are all good. Stirrers used to be wood, and what about a humble metal teaspoon.</p> <p>Plastic cutlery - Get rid of it. If you need cutlery take your own. Same for disposable plastic plates and cups.</p> <p>Disposable coffee cups. I believe these are not allowed in the ACT. There are alternatives. Take your own keep-cup. Offer incentives for businesses that encourage you to bring your own cup.</p> <p>Polystyrene cups and containers – straight out ban them! Take away food vans can reduce their use by either changing the type of container they use to a recyclable plastic but also charge more for food delivered in polystyrene, but promote it as less if you bring your own container.</p> <p>Light weight fruit and vegetable bags: Take your own and reuse them. Eg, eco mesh bags <a href="https://www.biome.com.au/reusable-bags/2444-onyaweigh-reusable-fruit-veg-bags-set-of-8-9340655000507.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjrvpBRC0ARIsAFrFuV9pIm2x-ZRi1AA6-k-Xee7Yzk1kke0bcHsjtfaDseY-J4BrZap0FTcaApWNEALw_wcB">https://www.biome.com.au/reusable-bags/2444-onyaweigh-reusable-fruit-veg-bags-set-of-8-9340655000507.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjrvpBRC0ARIsAFrFuV9pIm2x-ZRi1AA6-k-Xee7Yzk1kke0bcHsjtfaDseY-J4BrZap0FTcaApWNEALw_wcB</a></p> <p>Google “eco bags Australia”, there are some great products. Some of these are made from plastic but you can use them many times.</p> <p>Other non-recyclable plastic – BALLOONS. Go to Facebook and search for “Rubber jellyfish”</p> <p>Plastic beverage containers – this is a difficult one. As long as these containers are recyclable plastic they can be used in an exchange program.</p> <p>Other plastic packaging (e.g. food packaging, consumer goods) – surely small items such as raspberries and strawberries can be presented in bulk and then purchased packed in your own eco bag? This current single-use plastic container really annoys me and I avoid buying fruit in them. And it is not just the small ones. Shops like Aldi, Woolworths and Coles seem to package a lot of fruit and vegetables in plastic tubs and then wrap in more plastic.</p>

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	<p>Sanitary items – difficult to avoid but could be packaged in cardboard instead of plastic.</p> <p>Nappies and incontinence products – go back to cloth nappies. Not hard to do, the products are out there. But here is also the argument that detergents are detrimental to the environment if washing cloth nappies. This situation has improved a lot with phosphorus-free detergents.</p> <p>Reusable plastic bags above 35 microns in thickness, including ‘green bags’, ‘biodegradable’ and ‘compostable’ bags – just ditch the them. As an aside, some tea bags are now plastic mesh. I called the company and they said that they compost in 90 days, but how unnecessary is plastic tea bags?!</p> <p>Health related sterile items (e.g. syringes) – this is necessary packaging for sterile items. However, hospitals just throw it all away and do not recycle. Hospitals would be one of the biggest polluters, as they incinerate their waste. Much could be separated out at the point of use and recycled.</p> <p>Cotton buds – used to have wooden shafts or rolled paper shafts, can do again.</p> <p>2. What regulatory or other approaches do you support to address consumer single-use plastic in the ACT? When do you think action is needed, and why?</p> <p>If big business has committed to phasing out plastics by 2025 why are we not seeing any changes now. In fact, there is more and more items in plastic on supermarket shelves. Items such as hardware – small items that you used to be able to buy by weight or as single items are now packaged in single-use plastic and never the number you need, some left over or one short of your needs necessitating buying another pack. These include many items from places like Bunnings.</p> <p>I think a lot of the responsibility should rest with the manufacturers. Maybe that is the place to start. All businesses are driven by money and profit so reducing packaging is a way they could increase profit. I realise that there would be a new element of theft, but would the losses be greater than the gains?</p> <p>Action is urgently needed from all levels in the manufacture-to-sale chain and governments should be able to legislate at all levels. Local retailers can be encouraged firstly to stop buying brands that use plastic packaging without legislation, and source more environmentally friendly products. Consumers can be encouraged to buy products with less packaging. This will eventually work its way down the chain to the manufacturer.</p> <p>But this depends on the conscious action of every consumer and retailer. This is the heavy end and would carry a lot of weight. We need to turn around the attitudes of individuals.</p> <p>Discourage lining household rubbish bins with plastic bags. Public education around all these issues would be essential.</p>

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	<p>WHAT CAN WE AS A COMMUNITY DO?</p> <p>The list given is great. These are all things that we can easily do.</p> <p>What do I personally do:</p> <p>All of the above the community list as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I shop at butcher shops (take my own containers)</li> <li>• I shop at fruit/veg shops (take my own containers)</li> <li>• Only buy products in glass containers, tins or thoughtful packaging</li> <li>• I make my own toothpaste and try to source the best eco toothbrushes</li> <li>• I use a keep-cup as a water container and have it on hand if buying coffee</li> <li>• I ask for milkshakes/coffee/tea without plastic straws and plastic lid</li> <li>• I encourage my friends to think about their plastic consumption</li> <li>• Take part in plastic-free July</li> <li>• I use bulk items if I can, ie, refill soap containers</li> <li>• Use powdered milk because one bag makes up 7 litres of milk, saves containers</li> <li>• Put fresh cotton wool onto old cotton but sticks</li> <li>• Try to encourage my family to do the same</li> <li>• Grow my own vegetables and fruit (some)</li> </ul> <p>What is difficult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourcing items without plastic packaging. You can only go without so much before you have to give in.</li> </ul> <p>What I would like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All plastic containers be made of recyclable plastic that is actually recycled</li> <li>• With proper filters and processes, soft plastics recycled for energy production</li> <li>• Small plastic, one-use packaging to be abolished.</li> <li>• To see retailers offering paper bags, or none.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To see manufacturers working hard on offering alternative packaging. It all begins with the manufacturers, but we have to show that we would accept alternate eco-friendly packaging by supporting those that already done so.</li> </ul> <p>6. What alternatives to single-use plastics have you used and are they practical?</p> <p>I reuse plastic bags, and other plastic containers over and over, eco-bags from recycled plastic and paper bags acquired along the way. Every time I shop I take carry bags and old plastic bags and containers. Sometimes you have to be quick because by the time you tell a butcher what you want they already have a new plastic bag ready to go!!</p> <p>When I was in Canada I shopped in supermarkets that offered bulk foods and took my own containers. All fruit and vegetables were loose, and meat was at a delicatessen for serving and weighing.</p> <p>7. What members of our community may be impacted by phasing out single-use plastics and how? What are the solutions?</p> <p>Tricky questions. I am not sure which members of our community would be impacted. Everyone buys goods in plastic and if you are careful you can save containers and bags. However the small single-use plastic raspberry, strawberry and blueberry containers cannot be reused as there are no bulk fruit on display. I have not found a use for them yet.</p> <p>The solutions remain with manufacturers and producers, as well as supermarkets. There has to be a concerted effort and consultation between all groups to come up with ideas.</p> <p>8. What else do you think needs to be considered as part of this discussion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better recycling of plastic, hard and soft, until alternatives are found. Fewer plastic items allowed into landfill, waterways and (ultimately) oceans. Also bring forward the deadline for alternatives. No one does anything until the last minute.</li> <li>• The ACT Government was approached by a company to use plastics for energy production and it was knocked back. I cannot comment any more about this as I don't remember the reasons but with the right processes and filters it could work. We have the technology..... Make it so.....</li> </ul> <p>Hobart City Council recently voted in favour of a by-law that would restrict the use of single-use plastic takeaway packaging including cutlery, straws, sauce sachets, plastic lined coffee cups and lids, and plastic takeaway hot food containers and lids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All these little things are seen in the environment. Ban them all, fine people for littering. Some restaurants sometimes use plastic containers for</li> </ul>

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	<p>small amounts of condiments. Surely they can use china or ceramic containers that can just go into the dishwasher and reused, instead of being thrown out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perhaps a tax break for businesses actively not using plastic.</li><li>• Some business models, such as mobile food vans, are entirely reliant on single use plastics. Encourage customers to bring their own container and give a small discount that could be subsidised by the Government. A lot of people now bring their own bags to the supermarkets, take their own keep-cups for coffee. These people would probably be prepared to have their own reusable container for food vans and stalls.</li></ul> <p>Further comments:</p> <p>Whilst travelling in remote parts of Australia, where there is no recycling because of the cost of distance haulage small businesses are way ahead of us with the way they offer food and produce. Cafes have compostable coffee cups and use paper bags for taking away bought items. It is only the big-name supermarkets that have everything in plastic.</p>

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IndSub22	<p>Hi I am writing to provide comments on your recent waste policy and in particular on single use plastics.</p> <p>I think the government both ACT and National could do a lot more to make change happen more quickly. I believe the federal government needs to fund research into ways to use or dispose of the waste eg bacteria to break down waste. State and Territory governments also need to have collection regimes for food waste and advertise the initiatives better and continue these to help change the mindset.</p> <p>The government needs to have an agreement with the producers of single use plastics to change the products they produce. This will start at the top so to speak and ensure it is not a decision for individual businesses but that the industry no longer provides single use choices. The industry would need to change the composition of their products and to ensure those with particular needs like those with a disability are catered for in the change eg bendable straws etc. The government may need to provide some financial assistance to assist the industry to convert its operation to this. This money would be more than saved in the clean up efforts and issues the current single use plastics create down the track.</p> <p>An advertising campaign is required both nationally and state wide on media to ensure people have this in the back of their mind all the time. It would remind people that they need to remember to put the cup or the reusable shopping bag in their bag or take it with them when they shop. I still see too many people just buying a new plastic bag every time they shop because they don't think to bring one with them. Mindsets are still driven by convenience and payment penalty is not sufficient to change this conditioned response.</p> <p>I have watched shows like the way on waste which also shows how bacteria are being used to compost food waste to almost nothing and this should not only be introduced here and at the dump but should be extended to research that could be applied to plastics to break them down. The issue of recyclable items which sit in centres because they can't be disposed of or reused is not well known and this is an urgent issue needing to be addressed. The reuse into products like the new road surfaces and plastic mix products for planters etc should be further developed to use some of the material being collected.</p> <p>Hospitals are an enormous producer of single use waste and once a product is developed that meets the needs of people who need bendable straws etc there is no reason why a product that is compostable could not be used there. The government could reduce a lot of plastic waste at hospitals very quickly.</p> <p>Whilst it might sound unpalatable to politicians tougher action on mind set changes is needed and legislation could bring this in. It would need the government to work closely with business who may initially wear the brunt of community complaint up front. An example of what I am talking about is change that would follow on from the mind set change advertising to imbed the need to take your bag or cups with you and remind people of impending changes. I see those changes being that if you dont bring your cup with you for example that you would have to buy a reusable one or have your drink in a cup from the establishment which they would then wash. If you want to take it away then you have to buy a reusable one. This would get around the food cart issue. You could work with businesses to provide an option for people to leave their cup or return it when finished to be reused at the outlet. They could be kept separate to those for first sale and sold more cheaply when cleaned and reused reducing the price for those who forget to bring theirs with them. Whilst it does not sound like a popular option people are way too</p>

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	<p>focused on convenience and so it will take quite a bit to change their mindset.</p> <p>The same needs to happen with supermarket and other food outlets that sell packaged fresh food products. It is not enough for the big chains to say they will work with producers. The government needs to change the laws from the top. The States can start and the national government also needs to legislate that any fresh food like fruit or vegetables not be put into a tray and covered with plastic and any plastic bags that might be used to put a smaller portion size in are either compostable or changed to paper and that at the site of sale people are encouraged to just put them loose into their trolley or shopping bag and not use one at all. In terms of meat and fish items that are packaged in this way the whole of the packaging must be compostable. There must not be a choice or the change will not take place. Whilst this might sound not feasible I grew up in a time when fruit and vegetables were never packaged in any way and groceries were taken home in a large paper bag. Prior to the introduction of large supermarkets as the norm we used to get meat from the butcher wrapped in paper. Whilst that is not feasible for the convenience and food safety in supermarkets it might be a novel change to have a butchers shop alternative inside a supermarket so you can choose what you want fresh and have it wrapped paper. Possibly too novel and expensive an idea for supermarket intent on making maximum profit.</p> <p>There are a number of innovations for reusing or repurposing items in an efficient way and these need to be examined so they can be shared in Australia along with supporting local innovation and inventions that will reduce and remove the waste issues. The National government needs to have a policy that is drawn up in conjunction with business to remove the use of plastic wherever possible and reduces it down to the lowest levels and any plastic made needs to be compostable unless it made for long term use.</p> <p>If the Territory government were to set a date when over packaged items or non compostable packaging would not be accepted for sale in the territory the supermarkets would have to remove the packaging (which they would not do) or make sure the suppliers did not provide their produced packaged in this way or met the laws for sale in the ACT. This may help to drive change across other states. Of course there would have to be the sting in the tail if the supermarkets chose to remove the packaging they would have to be fined for dumping it.</p> <p>The other thing that absolutely has to happen is that these changes are introduced with support for the producers and monitoring of supermarkets so that they dont increase the cost of items. They should be absorbing any cost to them through their unconscionable levels of profit and in fact many of the products should be cheaper as they dont have packaging. There needs to a move to having no packaged fruit and vegetables at all as there is absolutely no reason for this other than to justify price rises.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>

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IndSub23	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the ACT Government’s plan to phase out single-use plastics. The Discussion Paper is well researched and written and comprehensively covers the topic. This submission addresses the questions posed.</p> <p>Single-use plastic products</p> <p>1 Do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed on page 21 being considered as part of this paper? If so, which items do you think are the most important to address (e.g. plastic bags, straws, cutlery, disposable coffee cups, takeaway containers)?</p> <p>All of these items are obvious, visible and relatively easy to tackle with viable, affordable alternatives or simple behaviour changes, so they should all be done now in a holistic plan. It is appropriate to start with the most problematic items. The other suggested items should be planned for in the future.</p> <p>We need to be looking beyond those obvious items to the more insidious plastics that consumers have less individual choice about. Supermarket and other retail store plastic packaging is much harder to avoid. Examples include plastic bags of fruit and vegetables, bread bags, dairy products, meats and cheeses, cereals, chip packets. Clearly, plastic has an important role in food safety and freshness, but some of it could be eliminated. Non-food retail products are frequently overpackaged in unnecessary plastic, including electronics and beauty and sanitary items. Often it is very difficult for even a determined consumer to separate plastic components from non-plastic components of packaging (eg a transparent plastic panel glued to a cardboard box), meaning that the item would end up contaminating either paper or plastic recycling streams. It often seems that the cheaper the product, the more likely it is to be wrapped in an unnecessary plastic bag – bargain or ‘dollar’ stores seem to be the worst. Individuals and businesses need to be educated to reduce the consumption of all single-use materials, not just plastics. A straight swap from plastic to another material that is just as readily discarded is not necessarily a good solution. Canberrans have one of the world’s highest rates of material consumption, well beyond global average. We should be reducing consumption period, not just consumption of plastics.</p> <p>2 What regulatory or other approaches do you support to address consumer single-use plastic in the ACT? When do you think action is needed, and why?</p> <p>I appreciate that the ACT Government has limited ability to influence some streams of plastic consumption in Canberra because we are consumers of plastic rather than creators of it. Regulation or guidelines or other non-regulatory measures could</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require businesses to audit how much plastic passes through their operations, eg provide a comprehensive guide on how to ‘see’ the plastics they produce and consume in different aspects of the business (it’s so ubiquitous that it’s effectively invisible until specifically examined), plus alternatives and cost savings</li> <li>• require packing designers to allow easy separation of non-like materials used in packaging so that they can be separated into clean recycling streams, and provide instructions on the packing for how to separate and recycle all components</li> <li>• require businesses to have ‘take-back’ schemes for consumers to return packaging that cannot be deposited into residential recycling bins</li> <li>• ban all retail plastic bags, suggest that retailers offer paper or cloth alternatives for sale or offer the boxes that goods are delivered to the store in – shoppers will quickly learn to bring their own bags.</li> <li>• phase in a ban on all materials that cannot be recycled or have such low market value that they are not worth collecting, eg ‘mixed plastics’ such as bottle lids. Very simply, if we cannot recycle it or safely compost it back to organic matter, we should not be producing it. Government should work with industry and researchers to find recycling solutions or alternative product solutions for such materials.</li> <li>• Tax manufacturers of virgin plastics. As the discussion paper notes, plastic production is increasing and the costs of waste are borne by the environment, the public and waste management services. This is unjust and unethical. Manufacturers and businesses have a corporate social responsibility to do no harm and must be made to account for all externalities of production. There is only so much that consumers and retailers</li> </ul>

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	<p>can do at the consumption end of the product lifespan and reduced demand is a weak signal in our economic system where manufacturers create products that we never asked for then convince/force us to consume them. Push the responsibility and costs back onto producers. A tax on the creation of virgin plastics would disincentivise their production and generate a revenue stream that could fund investment in recycling and research into alternatives while also shifting the cost incentives in favour of reducing use of plastics throughout the supply chain plus recovering and recycling post-consumer plastics. Don't tax consumers. Tax manufacturers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine barriers to individual and business reduction of single-use plastics, eg food safety regulation that prevents customers providing their own containers, lack of alternatives such as milk packaging that doesn't include unrecyclable plastics</li> <li>• Foster innovation in consumption reduction such as reusable crockery and cutlery in food courts and festivals, deposit and return schemes etc</li> <li>• Educate retailers to not offer disposable items (plastic or otherwise) such as shopping bags or cups – get them to flip the default and ask customers if they have their own bag/cup, to shift norms about consumption.</li> <li>• Require a certain level of recycled content in any new plastic products</li> <li>• Like the disgusting disease photos on cigarette packages, perhaps landfill bins could feature photos of plastics in the guts of whales, polluting beaches etc.</li> <li>• Continue with all Government events aiming to be plastic-free and reduce disposable items.</li> </ul> <p>Medical and food sectors are more challenging – there is no question that plastics provide simple, cheap solutions for freshness and infection control, so perhaps they should be given more time than other sectors such as clothing and general household products. Like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we need to act immediately and ratchet up our efforts over time. Business, retailers, manufacturers and importers</p> <p>3 If you are an ACT based manufacturer, importer or retailer of consumer single-use plastic products, what cost and other impacts do you think need to be considered as part of this discussion?</p> <p>4 If you are a local business that sells, offers or provides consumer single-use plastic in the ACT, what do you think needs to be considered as part of this discussion?</p> <p>Protecting businesses from liability (for burns, spills, food poisoning) if customers provide their own cups/containers/bags, including the right to refuse to use customer items that appear unhygienic. Education about the costs and environmental impacts of alternatives eg dishwashing reusable crockery or composting bioplastics Educate retailers to not offer disposable items (plastic or otherwise) such as shopping bags or cups – get them to flip the default and ask customers if they have their own bag/cup, to shift norms about consumption.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>5 Have you taken steps to reduce your use of single-use plastic? If so, what have you done?</p> <p>Yes. My family does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carry compact expandable coffee cups (Stojo brand) for drinks on the go, or we choose to 'eat in' at cafes using their ceramic crockery</li> <li>• carry metal or hard-plastic refillable water bottles</li> <li>• carry metal straws and a cutlery set for meals on the go</li> <li>• take our own set of grocery bags and small mesh fruit bags to the supermarket for grocery shopping</li> <li>• carry compact fabric shopping tote bags for planned or impromptu shopping</li> <li>• use hard plastic storage boxes and silicone 'lids' in the kitchen to store food and for school lunches (rather than cling wrap or disposable ziplock</li> </ul>

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	<p>bags)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid individually wrapped ‘snack’ sizes or ‘individual serves’ of foods or small packs of other consumables (eg shampoo) if a bulk pack is an option</li> <li>• Choose loose items or paper/card-packaged rather than plastic-packaged items where practical (eg carrots, soap), or just not buy items that are excessively packaged</li> <li>• Don’t use bin liners (a few pages of newspaper in our indoor landfill bin is enough to prevent mess)</li> <li>• Carry compostable dog poo bags when walking the dog</li> <li>• Attempt to bake snacks a bit more often instead of buying plastic-wrapped supermarket versions, grow a bit of our own produce. Not a huge impact so far!</li> <li>• Talk with retailers and email companies to request that they reduce or eliminate plastic packaging, share information about alternatives</li> <li>• repair stuff wherever possible, including the green supermarket grocery bags</li> <li>• research the environmental credentials of companies and impact of products to find better alternatives, eg sourcing fabric and stuffing made from recycled plastic to reupholster an old sofa rather than sending to landfill or sourcing virgin materials.</li> <li>• Maintain a social media page about environmental issues including plastics and support other organisations and individuals doing the same</li> <li>• Talk about plastics and other environmental issues with friends and family to influence change</li> </ul> <p>6 What alternatives to single-use plastics have you used and are they practical? See 5.</p> <p>7 What members of our community may be impacted by phasing out single-use plastics and how? What are the solutions? People who have special needs such as disabilities requiring a straw to drink.</p> <p>8 What else do you think needs to be considered as part of this discussion? Reducing consumption period, not just plastics. Global population is growing and the planet cannot sustain the level of material consumption of the average Canberran. Being good at recycling is not enough. There was life before plastics, before we were taught to value ‘convenience’. We don’t want to return to the dark ages, but let’s revisit pre-1950s practices and materials and see which of them could be reinstated. Circular or ‘cradle-to-cradle’ principles should guide material production choices. Clarity about the differences between ‘biodegradable’, ‘compostable’, ‘bioplastics’ and how they decompose or breakup in which waste streams. These are extremely confusing for most people. Transparency and accountability in waste/recycling eg soft plastics going to Redcycle/supermarket collection bins. There is skepticism about whether materials placed in recycling streams actually get recycled or just stockpiled or shipped overseas and dumped in a developing nation landfill or burnt in village furnaces at the cost of other people’s health and environment. If we cannot deal with materials responsibly, we should not be producing and using them. It is utterly unacceptable to dump the impacts of our consumption on other people. Expose the economic and political power of plastics manufacturing industry and connection to fossil fuel extraction – 7–9% of global petroleum is used to produce plastics. Who benefits from plastics production? Who are the biggest manufacturers? Given the billions of tonnes of plastics that already exist, we could cease production of virgin plastics today and still have enough plastics in our economy for all the high-value uses, but the financial incentives currently favour cheap virgin production and there is little mention of this in discussions about circular economy. We need to explicitly turn language about ‘waste avoidance’ into discussion about ending virgin production. The emphasis appears to be on waste</p>

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	<p>management and reducing demand rather than reducing supply. There will never be a strong market for recycling while virgin supply remains comparatively cheap and corporations remain focused on creating product for profit.</p> <p>ACT Government needs to push through COAG for national plastic reduction strategy to avoid cross-border inconsistency, exporting waste and improving import standards.</p> <p>The sky will not fall in, the economy will not collapse if we go hard on reducing production of virgin plastics.</p> <p>Thank you again for tackling plastics and inviting Canberrans to participate in policy development. I look forward to further involvement and results.</p>

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IndSub24	<p>I would like to make a submission to the process about getting rid of single use plastics. I think that the ACT Government should take action to encourage people to use reusable nappies.</p> <p>A few ways to do this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- having a nappy laundry service at no or low cost. This would be a significant assistance to new families in particular.</li> <li>- supply a free reusable nappy to every new parent at hospitals to try out.</li> <li>- have sets that people can try out different brands to see which suit them.</li> <li>- have a no interest loan scheme so people can afford to purchase them up front. Overall they save families \$3000+ per child.</li> </ul> <p>I would like to discuss my proposal with you further. Below is some further information that would be useful research in implementing it.</p> <p>There is a 2009 University of Queensland study about reusable nappies, titled 'LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT: REUSABLE AND DISPOSABLE NAPPIES IN AUSTRALIA' by Kate O'Brien et al. A copy can be found here:  <a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/zanran_storage/www.crdc.com.au/ContentPages/44777470.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/zanran_storage/www.crdc.com.au/ContentPages/44777470.pdf</a></p> <p>There is a good news article about their increasing use on the South Coast of NSW here, includes the statement "Plastic nappies are the biggest single item going into landfill from residential rubbish bins, with 3.75 million disposable nappies used every day in Australia and New Zealand.":  <a href="https://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/6250281/why-cloth-nappies-are-making-a-comeback-in-the-shoalhaven/">https://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/6250281/why-cloth-nappies-are-making-a-comeback-in-the-shoalhaven/</a></p> <p>Here is a blog post on the Australian Nappy Association website:  <a href="https://www.australiannappyassociation.org.au/are-cloth-nappies-as-bad-for-the-environment-as-disposable-nappies/">https://www.australiannappyassociation.org.au/are-cloth-nappies-as-bad-for-the-environment-as-disposable-nappies/</a></p> <p>Brisbane city council is having a win your cost back competition/lottery, though I think it would be better to provide more funds. I don't think the chance of getting your money back would be enough to get more people buying. Information about it here:  <a href="https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/rubbish-tips-and-bins/recycling-and-reducing-waste/reducing-waste-in-parenthood-through-reusable-nappies">https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/rubbish-tips-and-bins/recycling-and-reducing-waste/reducing-waste-in-parenthood-through-reusable-nappies</a></p> <p>This Guardian online article has some examples of initiatives from the UK:  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2004/mar/24/environment.environment">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2004/mar/24/environment.environment</a></p>

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IndSub25	<p>I am keen to respond to your article, and in particular Single-use plastic products- coffee cups and water bottles, food and drink products You told us you were phasing out plastic bags at supermarkets and the like and we responded. Canberrans are a pretty smart bunch, and will respond if the means is there to do things smarter.</p> <p>Some examples where we need to change:</p> <p>Businesses MUST be encouraged to offer a reduction in price where BYO coffee container is available.</p> <p>Bottled water. I have a water filter at home and several refillable, reusable bottles. Customers need to be encouraged to buy in bulk. We need to extend the buy back scheme for bottles and other containers. Only if folk can see they are going to get a \$/c return will this lead to significant reductions.</p> <p>Plastic milk bottles. What a waste. BYO refillable containers. Joe Public will respond if supermarkets and the like are encouraged to offer bulk filling containers. We have dispensers for water, so why not tapped milk. We once used to have milk urns when I was younger. Why not in the supermarkets? When I was in Vietnam, we offered bulk milk by way of bladders to our troops in the kitchens. We ought to be able to do this sort of thing for many of our products.</p> <p>BYO paper or recycle bags for vegetables, fruit, meat, cereal, lollies – there are so many areas. I was in a shop in France recently and they had bulk, weight it yourself, dispensers for lollies. I want to do away with packaging as much as possible. I hate buying packets of stuff when I ought to be able to buy non perishables in this case, in bulk. There needs to be bulk bins in the supermarkets for these products. You measure out what you need, get a sticky label with the weight on it and pay at the checkout just like at the deli way of business.</p> <p>It doesn't seem to catch on in Canberra. Manufacturers need to be brought into the game. Offer their product in bulk, weight it yourself at store and place into your brought along bags. Price drops, less waste etc. I would definitely buy my milk, iced tea etc in bulk if I could but it is not on offer YET.</p> <p>I visited a charity shop in Queensland last year. They used old singlets, and sewed them up to make shopping bags out of them. Innovative, no plastic used. Straws-most of us carry a biro or pen with us in our top pocket or bag-why not our own personal straw with sleeve, for those that like coke and other drinks. Not seen too many but if we are going to ask people to BYO coffee cups, I don't see why they cannot do the same with non disposable straws. Are they readily available in stores?</p> <p>The ACT Government has done it with BYO carry bags. What else can you do? We have to get on top of this and the time is now. Lead the way, and we will adapt to the new modus operandi</p> <p>Pretty simple really. Happy to join a working group on this matter when I return in June19-esp if it has teeth.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats/scoop-zero-waste-pop-shop">https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats/scoop-zero-waste-pop-shop</a></p> <p>My daughter in law just showed me this site. Why can't this be offered ACT wide?</p> <p>Included: video of incineration plant in Singapore</p>

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<p><b>IndSub26</b></p>	<p>I note with interest an article in The Canberra Times (16 April) regarding the possible phasing out of single use plastics in the ACT. This is a very serious (world-wide) problem that is simply not going to go away unless a determined, if not ruthless effort is made to stop it.</p> <p>It is not mission impossible. However, all sectors of our community must accept their share of responsibility including that now damage control is an imperative and has to be implemented as a matter of priority.</p> <p>Against this background I wish you every success with the initiative.</p> <p>In the meantime, regrettably, we continue to facilitate significant environmental damage that will be left as our legacy to future generations.</p> <p>On another associated matter.</p> <p>I note from personal experience that there is still a lax approach by businesses in Canberra that continue to provide plastic bags. While theoretically they are providing 'use again' bags, the reality is that they are not being multi-used again, as intended. And to add insult to injury they are the thick, durable, almost indestructible variety of bags!</p> <p>In this regard, may I suggest that sufficient time has now elapsed for the total transition to the ban on plastic bags and it should now also include the intended use again variety.</p>
<p><b>IndSub27</b></p>	<p>I would like to provide my support for the below list of items I consider are problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics that should be phased out to reduce the impact of plastics within the ACT environment and more broadly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic straws and stirrers</li> <li>• Plastic cutlery</li> <li>• Disposable plastic plates and cups</li> <li>• Disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lids</li> <li>• Polystyrene (foam) plastic food containers and beverage cups</li> <li>• Light-weight fruit and vegetable bags</li> </ul>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
IndSub28	<p>I'm a resident of Canberra with an email to respond to the proposed single-use plastic ban discussion paper. I've answered the questions below, and then added in my own extra thoughts at the end as requested.</p> <p>For demographics information, I'm 31 years old, have a wife and kid on the way, have a tertiary education, work in the communications/media industry and also run my own micro business on the side, and live in the inner north.</p> <p>Single-use plastic products</p> <p>1) Do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed on page 21 being considered as part of this paper? If so, which items do you think are the most important to address (e.g. plastic bags, straws, cutlery, disposable coffee cups, takeaway containers)?</p> <p>I feel that takeaway container and cutlery are some of the most important things in the proposed ban. The amount of places that plastic containers used, when a paper based alternative could be used is ridiculous. Take for example sushi takeaway shops – they might have a pre-wrapped container with 4 rolls in it, which is discarded as soon as the pieces are eaten. Why can't this be served in a paper box, much like if you buy an individual roll, they will put it in a paper bag for you (so there is no hygiene concern here to use plastic). The same goes for a host of other kinds of businesses.</p> <p>2) What regulatory or other approaches do you support to address consumer single-use plastic in the ACT? When do you think action is needed, and why?</p> <p>We need some pretty harsh, strong regulations to completely remove the use of these kinds of plastics, with strong enforcement by government. Businesses will always go with what is cheapest for their bottom line. It's not consumers demanding these products, we are just happy to get our lunch – the entirety rests on the business and the system which they provide.</p> <p>There also needs to be greater scrutiny of so-called 'reusable' bags. While those thicker bags can be used more than once, the reality is very different. So many businesses put the products they sell in those small bags, yet they will be discarded as soon as the food is consumed or the shopping is brought home. Basically, they are used exactly the same as the thinner bags, but with more waste. They should be replaced with paper bags (like at McDonalds).</p> <p>Community</p> <p>5) Have you taken steps to reduce your use of single-use plastic? If so, what have you done?</p> <p>I try to refuse using a bag as much as possible, either by bringing my own or requesting a box. The IGAs in the city are great for that, but it's almost impossible to do the same at one of the major chains (Woolworths or Coles), unless you shop around closing time at night when they are stacking the shelves. As all the boxes used at IGA are all former produce or bulk packaging boxes, I fail to see a logical reason why the larger chains can't do the same. I understand they have an image to maintain without empty boxes piling up, but regulations should change that so they are forced to give consumers the option. Or we can do the American thing of providing paper bags to supermarkets.</p> <p>I also refuse straws, use a keep-cup, don't buy juices etc in single use plastic etc etc.</p> <p>6) What alternatives to single-use plastics have you used and are they practical?</p> <p>Bio-cups (which are compostable cups) are a fantastic alternative to take-away cups. I've been using these at music festivals for years, they should be an option for all cafes and restaurants. To support this we need to have a city wide initiative to bring in mass, public composting.</p> <p>7) What members of our community may be impacted by phasing out single-use plastics and how? What are the solutions?</p> <p>I really don't think anyone is overly affected other than the financial cost to businesses. Humans are incredibly adaptable, and we will work to whatever conditions we are placed with. If that means using cardboard, paper and wooden cutlery or packaging, I'm pretty sure we'll survive.</p> <p>8) What else do you think needs to be considered as part of this discussion?</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring in a mass, city-wide composting initiative.</li><li>• Greater enforcement of anti-plastic laws.</li><li>• Provide businesses with options to suppliers that work with paper.</li><li>• Ban restaurants from serving food in disposable containers/cutlery that is consumed on the premises. There is no reason why a disposable coffee cup should be used when a customer sits down in a café (besides the business not wanting to pay a staff member to wash up).</li><li>• Bring in systems to reuse glass for drink containers. When I have spent time in parts of Africa, they will reuse coke bottles over and over, with the bottles collected and taken back to the supplier to be refilled. Why don't we adopt a similar system? The coke was the same, and it was a safe practice.</li><li>• We need to ban the supermarket use of wrapping fresh produce in plastic. I understand this goes beyond state borders, but food does not need to be sold in individual trays covered in plastic (ie. Tomatoes, carrots etc).</li><li>• Canberra-based small-scale manufacturing should have laws that prevent plastic packaging for those products. Obviously we as a city can't solve the issue the goods coming from Asia (technology, phones, toys etc), but anything made here should be sold in cardboard, not plastic.</li></ul> <p>This stuff isn't actually hard to solve. There is no need for new technology or innovation in how things are done, we already know the solutions. We need the political will to enforce these systems and create change in the supply chain. And businesses will get on board, they just need the structures to be created for them, and the solutions offered to them.</p> <p>Good luck in bringing in the new laws.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>IndSub29</b>	<p>Q1 do you agree with the consumer single-use plastic items listed on page 21 being considered as part of this paper?  yes and reusable plastic bags, garbage bags, plastic beverage containers, other plastic packaging, cotton buds  if so which items do you think are the most important to address?  all plastics</p> <p>Q2 What regulatory or other approaches do you support to address consumer single-use plastic in the ACT?  anything that will reduce it</p> <p>When do you think action is needed and why  Absolutely, i am tired of picking up other people garbage before it gets into the ocean and water ways</p> <p>Q5 Have you taken steps to reduce your use of single use plastic? what have you done?  yes, i think about products i purchase and how much wrapping it comes in. sit down meals rather than takeaway, walking shopping trolley</p> <p>Q6 what alternatives to single use plastics have you used and are they practical  lots of containers processing my own food where i can</p> <p>Q7 What members of our community may be impacted? Solutions?  Q8 what else do you think needs to be considered?  how do use my own contains for protein products etc. getting more places that will process flour etc for own containers  getting better access to alternative fresh food bags that are reusable and not paper</p>
<b>IndSub30</b>	<p>It is time that governments and consumers started raising voices about packaging. It is convenient to buy food and goods already packaged but the plastic waste is enormous and shocking. Of course, producers of food, supermarkets and manufacturers would not be very happy but everyone needs to take this seriously. Some clear respectful education and encouragement would be needed to get the community on board but this usually works eventually. Particularly in Canberra, we are too often told what is required of us in matters that affect us all without any outreach and this does not get happy co-operation. Treat the public as partners in the new plans and it becomes a community effort. There are, of course, some foods that need to be prepackaged but we won't all die of food poisoning because veg, meat, cheese, etc is not sealed in plastic. We may even find very intelligent people working out new bio-degradable products for wrapping.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
IndSub31	<p>Thank you for inviting input into your plan.  Single use plastics is a major issue and it is important that we do take decisive action.  I have some suggestions about actions to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.a significant amount of the rubbish discarded on our streets is from fast food outlets. I think that the proposed ban on expanded foam containers is sensible. But, I would take it further and broaden the ban to any non recyclable take away food containers. Non- recyclable should be defined as any waste currently being recycled in the ACT. For example, if a plastic drink container is able to be recycled but the ACT does not currently recycle that type of plastic then that type of single use plastic should be banned in the ACT.</li> <li>.some newspapers which are home delivered in Canberra are wrapped in plastic. The purpose of this plastic wrapping is to stop the newspaper getting wet. Home circulation of purchased newspapers is diminishing. But, the Chronicle is a free local newspaper which is wrapped in plastic and the circulation of this newspaper is growing as Canberra grows. Many of the Chronicle newspapers are thrown in the bin without removing the plastic wrapping which may cause problems at recycling facilities. The bigger issue is the volume of plastic used to cover by these newspapers. Other free newspapers in Canberra are available for collection at the local shops. Only those that want the free newspapers which are collected from the shops collect them and they are not wrapped in plastic. The plastic shrink wrapping of all newspapers should be banned in the ACT.</li> <li>.the container deposit scheme is a great success. You should get feedback from the container deposit centres about containers that are collected but not eligible for a refund. You should also monitor the extent to which these currently excluded items are present in the waste stream.</li> <li>.it would be great if you could find a nudge to change behaviour on single use coffee cups - for example, add a 20c tariff on each single use cup</li> </ul>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
IndSub32	<p>My comments on the Phasing out single-use plastics discussion paper are below.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <p>Completely bio-based plastic containers that are either entirely biodegradable (within 12 months in normal environmental conditions), compostable or are recyclable should NOT be banned, even if they are 'single use'.</p> <p>This is because (noting the timeframes above, i.e. they biodegrade within 12 months) such products, whilst still posing SOME risk to the environment and fauna, would nonetheless represent a far, far smaller risk than conventional plastics to the environment and fauna. In turn, they would reduce inconvenience to residents and businesses in the ACT, whilst also ensuring far, far better environmental outcomes.</p> <p>In addition, with seed funding and support from the ACT Government, it may be possible to generate a new, local bio-based plastic manufacturing industry and related jobs, further diversifying the economic base of the ACT.</p> <p>Q1: In terms of specific single-use plastic items to be excluded, whilst noting that I think any bio-based plastic items should NOT be banned at all, if that position is not accepted then I support a focus only on straws and light-weight fruit and vegetable bags.</p> <p>Q2: I support a mandated move to bio-based plastic containers that are either entirely biodegradable (within 12 months in normal environmental conditions), compostable or are recyclable, with government support to generate local manufacturing jobs of those plastics to hasten the transition.</p> <p>Q3 and Q4: are not applicable to me.</p> <p>Q5: Yes. I recycle bags for months, sometime years, and use reusable shopping bags. I use my own coffee mug where possible.</p> <p>Q6: Reusable shopping bags, paper plates for BBQs.</p> <p>Q7: Pretty much everyone, but in particular those with impaired executive functions (e.g. impaired short-term memory, ADHD, intellectual disability, PTSD etc.) who may struggle – more than others – to remember to bring their own bags, coffee cup, pack plates for a BBQ etc. Also lower socio-economic families, as the costs will fall on them (you can be sure businesses will pass on the costs to consumers).</p> <p>Q8: The ACT should seriously considering moving to establish a local bio-based plastic manufacturing industry with government support and subsidies to generate critical mass and lower production costs so that bio-based plastics rapidly become price-competitive alternatives to petro-based plastics. This could possibly even take the form of a government owned entity that is later spun-off and privatised (think TRANSACT). Subsidies to hasten the price-competitiveness of more environmentally friendly products has been done before (e.g. solar, LPG car conversions) and it makes sense to, instead of phasing out single-use plastics, simply replace them with single-use bio-based plastics that biodegrade and compost in a very short period of time. Less inconvenience for people, more local jobs, a step in the right direction. Win, win, win all around.</p>

YourSay/Submission Number	Community Feedback
<b>IndSub33</b>	<p>As a local ACT resident I am often thinking about our current landfill habits and the impact this is having on the environment. I saw this ABC news article a while back about a new recycling technology the keeps 90 per cent of household waste out of landfill that is being implemented in the NSW Shoalhaven region that looks like a great solution to the current practice. I'm sure new technologies are looked at and considered but thought I would send through a link to the article as a suggestion that might be considered for the ACT.</p> <p><a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-23/new-recycle-technology-to-keep-90pc-of-waste-out-of-landfill/10736142">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-23/new-recycle-technology-to-keep-90pc-of-waste-out-of-landfill/10736142</a></p> <p>I look forward to hearing your thoughts.</p>

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IndSub34	<p>Yes and I think we need to be far more ambitious and articulate that list further.</p> <p>I suggest that we should prioritise plastic by volume (coffee cups) and environmental damage (straws) and potentially other factors which would enable prudent decision making.</p> <p>2. Regulatory approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Set minimum plastic bag pricing for reusable plastic bags at 35 microns or greater at a point that people will notice and actively avoid e.g. \$1 each, indexed to inflation at increments of 25c. This also helps close any loopholes created by producing bags cheaply at 36+ microns.</li> <li>b. Establish a numeric classification system for plastics based on ratings of utility, environmental impact and available alternatives. This would be a onetime piece of work; the public could help with this too.</li> </ul> <p>For example, with hypothetical (napkin-note-example) classifications of:</p> <p>Utility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Promotes safety or drastically improves convenience</li> <li>2 - Improves convenience</li> <li>3 - Prevents damage (e.g. during shipping)</li> <li>4 - Minimally improves convenience, assists in presentation</li> </ul> <p>Environmental Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Low volume, damage to environment minimised, fast breakdown</li> <li>2 - Medium volume, damage to environment, medium breakdown</li> <li>3 - Large volume, damage to environment, slow breakdown</li> <li>4 - High volume, slow/no breakdown</li> </ul> <p>Alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - No equivalent or similar available</li> <li>2 - Change in usage required, or alternative only in development</li> <li>3 - Similar reusable or compostable alternative somewhat available</li> <li>4 - Equivalent alternative, reusable or compostable alternative already widely available</li> </ul> <p>Example classifications could look like:</p> <p>Disposable Beverage Cup (evil score of 8)</p> <p>Utility: 1</p> <p>Impact: 3</p> <p>Alternatives: 4</p> <p>Plastic Straw (evil score of 11)</p> <p>Utility: 4</p> <p>Impact: 3</p> <p>Alternatives: 4</p> <p>Solid Plastic Moulded Packaging (evil score of 12)</p> <p>Utility: 4</p> <p>Impact: 4</p>

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	<p>Alternatives: 4</p> <p>Another useful classification could be volume.</p> <p>c. Use this classification to plan a timeline for grouping and phasing out certain plastics in different ways.</p> <p>d. Consider a re-cycling levy on manufacturers based on these ratings?</p>
<b>IndSub35</b>	Ban them. All the reasons for doing so have been aired. Simple - just ban them.
<b>IndSub36</b>	<p>I support this action</p> <p>We have been trialling plastic free for last month (April) and I have to say there are alternatives but shopping around can be very hard . We make our own toothpaste cleaning products , dishwasher power , washing powder , shampoo even buy our groceries from bulk groceries and local butcher and bakers who allow bread bags .</p>

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<b>IndSub37</b>	<p>I welcome the ban on plastic straws, bags and forks and knives but I want to know why it's not including cigarette butts and PET bottle plastic wrappers. It appears to only be jumping on the social media popularity bandwagon and not brave enough given the work other jurisdictions around the world are doing. By many measures this work will place us nowhere near the leaders in litter reduction.</p> <p>Cigarette butts represent 20% of litter collected at Clean Up Australia Day and they are unnecessary and there are viable biodegradable alternatives readily available. Plastic wrappers on plastic PET drink bottles are not only unrecyclable and also unnecessary, they make recycling PET bottles more difficult at a time when our country is going backwards on recycling.</p> <p>I would be thrilled to see these two items and others included in this program and look forward to receiving a response to my suggestion.</p> <p>While I understand the importance of taking things carefully, the range of items proposed to be banned is disappointingly small.</p>
<b>IndSub38</b>	<p>Re Phasing Out Single Use Plastics</p> <p>Hi. I have read a lot of the discussion paper.</p> <p>I find nothing wrong with trying to reduce the amount of plastic waste we use. However you need to be careful that we don't go too far resulting in the loss of products that we need to keep our society free from disease. I believe there doesn't seem to be the same problem in Canberra with plastic waste getting into the water system as there is in other places around the world which are closer to the oceans. From what I have seen I don't believe much of the plastic waste from Canberra gets to the sea. I have walked some section of the Murrumbidgee and lots of the Snowy Mountains and Namadgi. In these areas plastic waste is not a problem.</p> <p>Reducing Plastic Waste</p> <p>I think you can reduce a lot of plastic use exactly as you indicate ie reduce use of plastic drink and take away containers and utensils. Also packaging of many consumer products has too much plastic in it. I often struggle to get the plastic off things like pill bottles and condiment containers. Most large household items have too much plastic type protection which is difficult to get rid of. Trying to phase out polystyrene or being able to recycle it would be a huge step as most houses in the ACT have no way of getting rid of this stuff.</p> <p>Two issues should be obvious to you with this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kid's parties or maybe any party, plastic containers and utensils can be a god send. What alternative do you propose?</li> <li>2. If one's travelling by car or other means and you're a low luggage traveller how are you going to be served coffee. They might serve you in a normal cup and you drink on site. However there will always be some who wish to take a container away. Do they have to buy a new container in this scenario? How many businesses would give away a reusable mug?</li> </ol> <p>Garbage Bags and Inside Rubbish Bin Liner Bags (Essential we keep these)</p> <p>My wife and I like to use a thin bin liner to line the garbage bin in our kitchen. Then we put it with any other rubbish in a large black thick plastic bag into our 140 litre bin. I don't wish to change this as it keeps everything clean and hygienic.</p> <p>For our recycle and green bins we add as much of our plant cuttings as possible to the green bin. We recycle all tins, containers, drink bottles, paper and solid plastic as we can and we don't use any plastic bags.</p> <p>We also dig pits in our vegie garden and compost leaves, vegetable waste from the kitchen &amp; dead vegetable plants, etc</p>

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	<p>Freezer Bags, Sandwich or Clip Lock Resealable bags, Store fruit/Vegetable Bags (Some of these are very reusable)</p> <p>We also use small freezer bags to store pieces of meat and similar things. Mostly these bags are disposed of to the rubbish bin. However we also use plastic containers to store some excess food items we process.</p> <p>We also reuse the bags you get from the supermarkets for vegetables etc by keeping them to reuse in the house for covering bread and other food items and continuing to use each bag as much as possible.</p> <p>I also go bushwalking (ie multi day back packs into Kosciuszko NP) and I use freezer bags or equivalent to store my special muesli mixture that I have for breakfast. I then tie such bags with a rubber band and store several such bags in one of these recycled supermarket small fruit plastic bag which I reuse continually. I also take home all the small freezer bags and reuse on another walk. Many of these bags last for years.</p> <p>Thus we reuse some freezer bags and supermarket fruit &amp; vegetable bags.</p> <p>I also use some resealable or clip lock plastic bags to store other food items I take on multi-day or on occasions a single day walk. These have the potential to replace freezer bags but usually are thicker plastic and have a heavier clip lock.</p> <p>From my viewpoint all these items are reusable. Also they are light-weight which is the objective of most modern bushwalkers. To replace such light bags with much heavier type plastic is defeating the purpose of light-weight walking. Also commercial dry sack bags that many people extol the virtues of, are made from nylon which is a plastic.</p> <p>I also reuse small Marmite Plastic bottles as they can be cleaned out and then a quantity of peanut butter, honey and sometimes vegemite added. The marmite bottle is good as its light plastic and doesn't leak. It's perfect for a multi-day hike. So yes some spread containers can be reused.</p> <p>We are good people. The only thing we do that we do not wish to alter is to keep using inside bin liners and thick black bags for the rubbish bin as well as reusing supermarket veggie small bags and freezer bags or equivalent.</p> <p>As to the State imposing a minimum price on plastic shopping bags I think it makes sense to set a price that more encourages people to reuse their bags. I think 15c is too low and I would suggest maybe 50c is appropriate.</p> <p>Your Which Items Should We Focus On?</p> <p>I agree with most of these. However as I have shown there is a case for permitting Light-Weight fruit and vegetable bags.</p> <p>However these could be banned if we have access to Light-weight Sandwich bags or Freezer Bags with and without re-sealable capabilities.</p> <p>I am unsure about Cling Wrap plastic which is typically very light-weight, although it can be rolled up into a ball making it easier to handle.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
IndSub39	<p>Hi ,I think we should only use cloth or many use bags at the super market not the current 15cent bag which are too thick and don't break down in landfill. Encouraging super markets to take back their packaging as they do in Japan.</p>

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IndSub40	<p>In order for Canberra to become a leader in the space of phasing out single use plastics, we need to provide alternatives that are well thought through, tested and accepted by Canberra consumers, cost effective for businesses to provide, and most importantly do not increase their environmental footprint compared to the plastic items they are replacing.</p> <p>Many organisations around the globe are coming up with an array of alternative products to single use plastics that are innovative, make use of existing by products (eg; containers made from spent grain from beer industry) and we should seek to follow their examples if they prove to be cost effective.</p> <p>Q1: I agree with the items listed for consideration, however there will be little acceptance if alternatives are not suggested to the public. It will be hard for many to 'give up' plastics when they don't know what is likely to replace them. Same goes for businesses that do not have the resources to individually research alternatives to use. I think there should be some form of public and business trials to sample some of these alternatives and gain feedback from their practical application. For example bamboo cutlery may not be acceptable by most due to how it feels in the mouth, or the taste of it compared to no taste from plastic. Give people the chance to see a range of options..... any upcoming food events (Curry Festival, Forage, Handmade Markets, Southfest) would be an ideal trial audience, and/or hand pick some popular cafes and businesses to run trials as well. Most important items on the list would be coffee cups... followed then by cutlery, straws, stirrers then fruit and veg bags. What are the alternatives proposed for fruit and veg bags?</p> <p>Q2 Regulatory approaches should only be considered when viable and majority accepted alternatives are in place. No point making banning of plastic mandatory if there is nothing left to fill the void. Action though is needed now, so there is no point wasting time when there are many considerations to be leveraged from overseas countries going through the same thing we are.</p> <p>Q5: Ways I have reduced my single use plastic use are: I regularly do not use plastic bags for my fruit and veg as I merely place the produce into my trolley or bag, and buy it that way. My household now recycles all soft plastics via Redcycle/Replas drop off points at Coles and Woolies. I refuse straws when offered. I keep metal cutlery in my bag when I'm out and about, and wash it at home. I take my own sturdy (reusable) plastic containers to weekend markets, and the Forage if I'm buying something to bring home. I am active in the Lanyon Litter Control group on Facebook, and Trash Mob Canberra both of which are community run, and run regular litter pick up events, so we are at the forefront of witnessing just how much plastic makes it way to our streets, parks and waterways.</p> <p>Q6: Alternatives I have used: Bamboo cutlery tastes weird, and has an awful mouth feel. I have light weight mesh bags for fruit and veg buying but don't take them regularly enough yet to be comfortable using them. Metal straws are good but hard to clean properly.</p> <p>Q7: People who need to use straws for disabilities, injuries or the elderly should be catered for, or alternatively have them be provided with packs that contain straws, cutlery etc through support organisations, so they have them on hand in case a merchant or business does not stock alternative non-plastic products post the phase out.</p> <p>Q8: What else? Regular measurement of success needs to be in place to know that a) this phase out is really beneficial to the environment and is</p>

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	<p>making the intended impact, and b) that the cost of alternatives is not a burden for business. The purchasing power of combined Canberra businesses and government should be leveraged when dealing with suppliers of alternative products, rather than forcing individual firms to 'go it alone' in a sea of products. Give them guidance and real support.</p>