



Response to “Phasing out single-use plastics”

Tetra Pak, the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company, welcomes the Australian Capital Territory Government's initiative to address the environmental impact of single-use plastics, and the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the April 2019 Discussion Paper.

Food packaging plays an essential role in achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for “zero hunger” in minimizing food waste and “good health and well-being” in ensuring food quality, safety and availability. While these goals set the framework and direction for governments and businesses alike, to provide safe food and nutrition to a growing population, we also fundamentally believe that the packaging industry must help to meet these goals while reducing impact on the environment and consumption of natural resources through “responsible production and consumption”.

In Australia, Tetra Pak has supported the development of the Australian dairy and beverage industry for the last 60 years – by providing fit for purpose processing and packaging solutions. These include pioneering shelf-stable packaging solutions for the Australian and export markets.

On 27 April 2018, Australia's Environment Ministers announced a historic target to make 100 percent of packaging in Australia reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 or earlier. We support this and understand that the discussion paper is critical in establishing the ACT Government's ability to become even more resource efficient.

We are encouraged by the clearly defined objectives and principles included in the discussion paper to phase out single use plastics in the ACT, especially the shared responsibility that government, industry and the community have in developing viable solutions for the issue.

In response to the discussion paper, Tetra Pak would like to offer the following input in developing a viable roadmap that drives the principles of a circular economy for the ACT:

Increasing education and awareness

- Single use plastics are part of the litter problem. However, focusing on them alone will not solve the broader litter issue. Rather, waste management infrastructure and comprehensive recycling programmes, combined with consumer education, are far more effective. As the discussion paper notes, turning waste into valuable resources keeps resources in productive use, helps to stimulate growth and create jobs. For this to happen, all actors, including governments, consumers and the private sector, have a role to play to put in place effective waste management and recycling systems.

Use of secondary raw materials and sustainable sourcing practices for primary materials

- We encourage the ACT Government to look at all resources, not just at secondary materials that are derived from recycling. While a focus on recycling is important and one that we support, it is only one part of the solution. To “close the circle”, we support governments looking into pursuing a dual approach that promotes the use of secondary raw materials and sustainable sourcing practices for primary materials like those already available for paper-based products. Such measures would foster environmentally responsible growth and would improve sustainability across value chains. However, any regulation should also take food and product safety requirements as well as environmental and social lifecycle impact into consideration.

Deploying renewable materials for food packaging

- As a response to the challenge of diminishing natural resources, we believe that policies and regulations should help encourage the deployment of renewable materials wherever possible, starting with sectors such as packaging where solutions are already available. When responsibly managed, renewable resources are the only long-term alternative to achieve security and ‘circularity’ in supplies.

Harmonizing policies, regulations and programmes

- As state governments consider the phasing out of single use plastics in Australia, Tetra Pak also advocates for a harmonization in how they are phased out so that such programmes can be effectively and efficiently implemented across the country.

Environmental Stewardship in Action

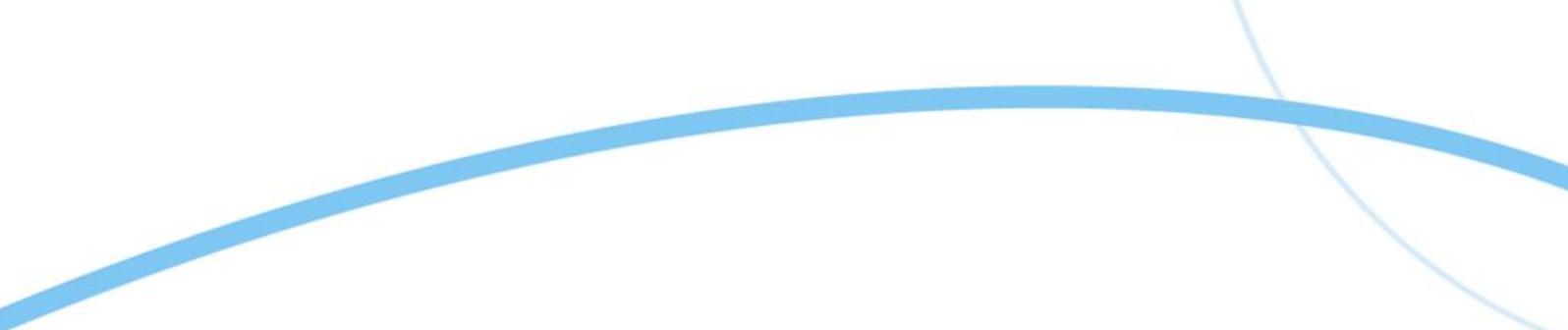
As a global leader in providing food processing and packaging solutions, Tetra Pak has embraced circular economy principles along the entire lifecycle of our products.

We use mainly renewable materials such as paperboard in our food packages. As one of the world’s largest consumers of paperboard, we commit to obtaining our materials from sustainably managed forests. We can supply FSC™-labelled packages from anywhere in the world. All paperboard used in our packages is certified for chain-of-custody by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™).

Our goal is to produce packages derived entirely from renewable resources. We have made great strides by including market plastic closures made from sugar-cane derived ethanol where possible as well as launched the first milk packaging made entirely from plant-based materials.

Sustainable sourcing is also a priority for us. Thin aluminium, for example, is essential to protect perishable food without refrigeration. But it can also have harmful environmental and social impacts. That is why we co-founded the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) to develop a global standard for responsible production and sourcing of aluminium.

When it comes to recycling, Tetra Pak is a party to the Australian Recycling Label (ARL) and about 90% of our cartons in Australia are collected for recycling. Globally, about 25% of our



cartons are recycled. This is the result of more than two decades of developing technical solutions and recycling programs across many of the 170 countries where our customers operate, often with little or no government incentives or formal infrastructure.

We are constantly striving to do more with less, dedicating about €300 million annually to create new products, services and technology. By applying tools like life cycle assessment (LCA), we are beginning to break new ground in resource efficiency.

We have set out on this path knowing that we are on a journey that requires innovation at every turn, partnerships across our value chain and government support.

Conclusion

Tetra Pak welcomes the ACT Government's initiative to address the environmental impacts of single-use plastics and to promote a circular economy in Australia. We appreciate this opportunity to provide input to the development of ACT's policy for single use plastics and seek continued engagement and partnership to advance this agenda.

31 July 2019