

Council Policy – NB-P-33

Single Use Plastics

Policy Statement

Council to take a leadership role in the elimination of Single Use Plastics, advocating for legislative change, and influencing and enabling responsible consumption practices.

Principles

The foundation for this policy is based on significant evidence that:

- Plastic pollution is a major cause of global environmental degradation and species decline.
- The pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with Single Use Plastic use place an inequitable burden on future generations.
- The production of plastics relies on non-renewable resources.
- Plastic pollution persists in the environment and has detrimental effects on human health.

Implementation

Northern Beaches Council will implement the policy according to the following mechanisms:

- Implementing responsible procurement practices and influencing supply chains.
- Lobbying all levels of government to drive policy change and ban plastic bags.
- Providing leadership in the community through policy and practice.
- Influencing the business and retail community to provide products and services that do not rely on Single Use Plastics.
- Building capacity within the community for change in social practices, via:
 - Promoting alternatives to single use plastic.
 - Researching and developing strategies to enable the community to live without Single Use Plastics.

Scope and application

This policy applies to Council, its employees, agents, lessees and contractors activities within and impacting on the Northern Beaches local government area.

References and related documents

List of legislative references, supporting documents and reading material.

- Northern Beaches Council Policy Framework
- [Local Government Act, 1993](#)
- [Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997](#)
- [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, 2001](#)
- Waste and Circular Economy Strategy 2024
- Event Waste Management Guidelines and Application Form

- Waste Minimisation for Functions and Events Policy

Definitions

“*Single Use Plastics*” include any disposable plastic and polystyrene items such as straws, balloons, bags, sachets, cutlery and food and drink packaging designed to be used once and then discarded

Community Strategic Plan

This Council policy relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome of:

- Environmental sustainability - Goal 6 Our Council is recognised as a leader in environmental sustainability

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Waste Management and Cleansing

Review Date

At least every four years (next review February 2029) or as required. Any recognised change to relevant legislation will activate an immediate review of this policy to ensure it remains current and aligned to best practice.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	HPE CM Ref
1	22/8/2017	Policy adopted by Council with no changes following exhibition	2017/202020
2	21/01/2025	Policy updated into new formal and reference number applied – NB-P-33	2025/028591
3	18/02/2025	Policy adopted by Council	2025/028591