

CAFE GUIDE

It is estimated that Australian's use over 1 Billion takeaway coffee cups every year, most of which get sent to landfill.

Target single-use plastic items for cafe's/food retailers to avoid



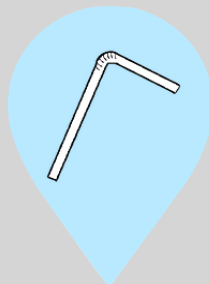
Coffee Cups



**Polystyrene/
Rigid Plastic**



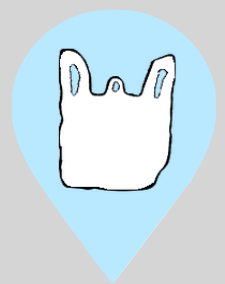
Food ware



Straws



Bottles



Bags

- 1. Avoid disposable items and use reusable options**
- 2. Replace plastic items with non-plastic alternatives**
- 3. Reward customers who refuse single-use**

Single-use Plastic Policy

For 'open environments'

The following policy is targeted towards cafes/food retailers who operate in an 'open environment' (takeaway) where there is no guarantee or control over how takeaway items are disposed of or collected and processed. In an open environment, the threat of plastic disposable items being littered or mismanaged is high, therefore the Boomerang Alliance does not endorse the use of any single-use plastic or bioplastic product due to the potential impact they have on the environment, particularly marine and wildlife. BA only endorses the use of reusable items or non-plastic takeaway items.

Compostable bioplastic products

Compostable bioplastic products will only decompose in Industrial composting facilities or purpose built organic composting apparatuses (this does not include home composting units) and will not break down in marine or natural environments. Given that Industrial composting facilities are not widely available to the Australian public, a transition to compostable bioplastic products in open environments will not result in a reduction of waste sent to landfill and if littered or mismanaged, bioplastic products present similar risks to marine and wildlife (ingestion) as they will not biodegrade in the natural environment. BA therefore does not endorse the use of bioplastic compostable single-use items.

1. Single-use coffee cups

Policy: Avoid single-use takeaway coffee cups and offer/incentivise reusable cup options

Due to the limited recycling and composting of takeaway coffee cups in public spaces, BA does not endorse the use of any single-use coffee cup. For managers a number of initiatives can be implemented to reduce single-use coffee cups and encourage the use of reusables.

2. Polystyrene and rigid plastic food ware (containers/takeaway)

Policy: Avoid polystyrene (health implications) and rigid plastic containers

Best alternative: Provide reusables or compostable non-plastic items (cardboard, paper)

For the majority of takeaway food options, non-plastic alternatives exist (cardboard with no plastic lining). Management will have to manage a transition with hot liquid takeaway containers where cardboard may not be a suitable option.

BA recommends management encourage/incentivise the use of reusable containers (discounts or return system for reusable containers) in order to avoid single-use plastic or bioplastic food containers.

3. Single-use plastic food ware (cutlery)

Policy: Avoid single-use plastic cutlery and use reusable cutlery or non-plastic alternatives (wood, bamboo). BA does not endorse the use of bioplastic cutlery.

For cafes/food retailers that have 'eat-in' options, reusable items should be used. For takeaway, cafes/food retailers should use compostable alternatives (wood, bamboo) including knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks and coffee stirrers. Given that non-plastic alternatives exist for food ware, bioplastic products should be avoided.

4. Single-use plastic straws

Policy: Avoid single-use plastic straws and use reusable straws if required.

**To manage the transition to no-single use straws, paper alternatives may be used only upon request by customers.*

*Note for takeaway options reusable straws may not be a realistic option. BA endorses the redesign of takeaway beverage containers or practices by cafe's so that no straws are required.

5. Single-use plastic water bottles

Policy: Avoid single-use water bottles and offer refill stations for reusable bottles/ offer house water in reusable drink ware

Beverage containers are the highest volume litter item and present the largest source of single-use plastic entering the marine environment. Therefore whilst cafe's and food retailers are likely to sell sports drinks and soft drink, BA encourages the elimination of water bottles and the use of water stations for customers to reduce single-use plastic. BA encourages cafes/food retailers to collect and recycle beverage containers and to utilise Container Deposit Schemes where available.

6. Single-use plastic bags

Policy: Avoid single-use plastic bags and offer/encourage reusable bags or paper alternatives.

Cafes/food retailers should avoid single-use plastic bags including degradable and biodegradable bags. BA endorses the use of reusable bags followed by paper bags for all takeaway options.

