

## Single Use Plastics and Balloons Policy

### Council Policy Objective

- To provide controls that minimise potential adverse impacts of single use plastic and balloons on the community and the environment.
- To provide education and community leadership on the issue of single use plastic.

### Council Policy Scope

This Policy applies to:

- All City operations;
- Traders operating with a permit issued by the City; and
- Events held in thoroughfares, public places and on local government property where approval is required from the City.

This Policy does not apply to:

- Events that do not require approval from the City;
- Traders and businesses that do not require a permit from the City under the Local Law; and
- Activities operating under a lease agreement from the City.

### Council Policy Statement

Council acknowledges that widespread use, distribution and misuse of single use plastics and balloons at City events and facilities can have a significant impact on marine and coastal wildlife; particularly as events are predominantly held outdoors.

#### Restrictions

- Helium balloons are not to be released, used, sold or distributed. Council does not support any organised release of balloons in the City.
- Single use plastic or polystyrene serving materials are not to be used, sold or distributed, where suitable fit for purpose alternatives are available.
- Single use plastic bags are not to be used, sold or distributed, including for promotional purposes.
- Bottled water is not to be provided at City functions where potable drinking water facilities are available.
- All avoidable plastic packaging, including cling wrap, plastic bags or similar must not be used in the purchase, sale, distribution and transport of food or goods, unless required under other conditions or legislation.
- Plastic event materials are to be reused where possible, including event signage and promotional banners.

#### Suitable alternatives

Suitable alternatives to single use plastic serving materials, packaging and other items must be:

- Compostable;
- Available; and
- Fit for purpose.

For more information on suitable alternatives, please refer to the Turn the Tide on Plastic Guideline.

<b>Policy Name:</b>	Single Use Plastics and Balloons Policy	<b>Council Adoption:</b>	28/5/19 (PD-028/19)
<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Amendment:</b>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	May 2021	<b>Responsible Team:</b>	Strategic Planning and Environment

## **Exemptions**

This Policy exempts single use plastic items necessary to meet health, safety or accessibility requirements, or where there are no suitable alternatives. Unless necessary to satisfy other conditions of the traders permit, exemptions will require prior approval from the City at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

## **Definitions**

**Single use** means materials that are manufactured for disposable usage and an intended short lifespan.

**Plastic** means synthetic materials manufactured from fossil fuels such as oil and petrochemicals. Can be either soft, flexible or rigid.

**Polystyrene** means synthetic resin which is a polymer of styrene, used chiefly as lightweight rigid foams and films.

**Serving material** means any items that are distributed for the intended use as food or beverage serving and/or consumption aids, including but not limited to: plates, cutlery, take away food containers, hot/cold beverage cups and lids (including paper coffee cups with plastic lining or lids), drinking straws.

**Single use plastic bag** means any plastic bag with handles made wholly or partially of plastic provided to a customer for the purpose of carrying goods. Usually less than 35 micrometres (microns) in thickness.

**Compostable** means materials capable of breaking down completely or decomposing to produce a soil product without toxic residue.

**Balloon** means an inflatable device made from rubber, latex, foil or plastic most commonly used for decoration, promotional materials, children's entertainment or ceremonial purposes.

**Event** means any planned activity that occurs in a certain place, during a certain time, which involves a gathering of people and has some level of impact on the immediate surroundings.

**Local Law** means the City of Rockingham Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2018.

**Trader** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Permit** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Thoroughfares** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Public places** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Local government property** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

## **Legislation**

City of Rockingham Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2018.

## **Other Relevant Policies/ Key Documents**

Turn the Tide on Plastic Guideline

Outdoor Events Policy 2018

Outdoor Event Guidelines 2018

## **Responsible Division**

Strategic Planning and Environment

## **Review Date**

May 2021

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