

Phasing out single-use plastics

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Our timeline so far

August 2018

Minister Chris Steel becomes Minister for City Services

August 2018

Responsibility for the *Plastic Bags Ban Act 2010*, and tabling of *Unfantastic plastic*

April 2019

Phasing out single-use plastics discussion paper released. Submissions close end July 2019.

Jun – Jul 2019

Community and business information sessions. Pop-up stalls across the ACT.

August onwards

Determining next steps



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Why focus on single-use plastics?

Plastic is highly convenient as a low-cost manufacturing option

but....

- Persists in the environment
- Consumption is increasing
- True costs aren't accounted for

Single-use plastic: avoidable or replaceable, intended to be used only once.

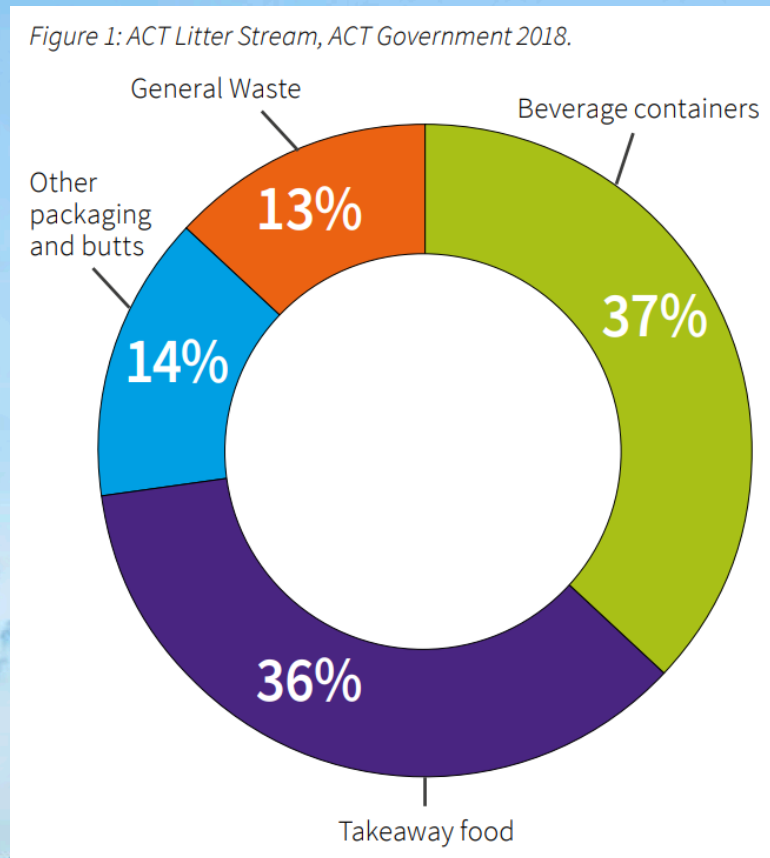


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Plastic litter

- Plastic litter in the ACT has increased
- less litter overall, but more of it is plastic



Why consult?

- Engage early and ‘take the journey’ together
- Understand views from community and business
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Gauge the appetite for change
- Inform policy development



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The context

Globally:

- Canada ban by 2021, EU ban by 2021, India ban by 2022, UK plastic pact, UN plastic waste protocol
- Malaysia, India, China – restricting acceptance of plastic waste

Nationally:

- National Waste Policy
- South Australia, Western Australia, ACT, City of Hobart, some local councils (including Bega)
- APCO targets



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APCO 2025 TARGETS

- > **100%** of packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- > **70%** of plastic packaging will be recycled or composted
- > **30%** average recycled content will be included across all packaging and
- > Problematic and unnecessary single use plastics packaging will be phased out through redesign, innovation or alternative delivery methods.⁵⁵



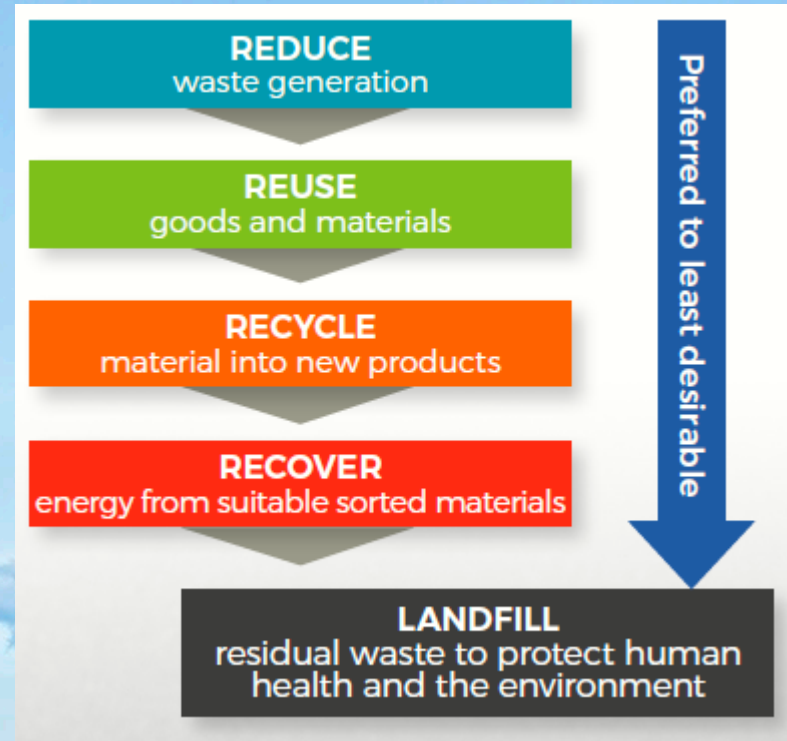
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The ACT context

- *Taking the plastic bag ban one step further*
- *Increasing resource recovery to 87%*

The ACT Waste Management Hierarchy



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The opportunities:

- Avoid the generation of waste
- Reduce the use of virgin materials
- Moving towards a circular economy
- New business opportunities



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The challenges

- Need to find feasible alternatives
- Need to consider impacts on different segments of the community
- Need to consider impacts on business and business models











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What single-use plastics are we looking at?

-  ✓ Plastic straws and stirrers
-  ✓ Plastic cutlery
-  ✓ Disposable plastic plates and cups
-  ✓ Disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lids
-  ✓ Polystyrene (foam) plastic food containers and beverage cups
-  ✓ Light-weight fruit and vegetable barrier bags
-  ? Other non-recyclable plastics

-  ✗ Microbeads (already being phased out)
-  ✗ Plastic beverage containers
-  ✗ Other plastic packaging (e.g. food packaging, consumer goods)
-  ✗ Sanitary items
-  ✗ Nappies and incontinence products
-  ✗ Reusable plastic bags above 35 microns in thickness, including 'green bags', 'biodegradable' and 'compostable' bags
-  ✗ Health related sterile items (e.g. syringes)
-  ✗ Cotton buds



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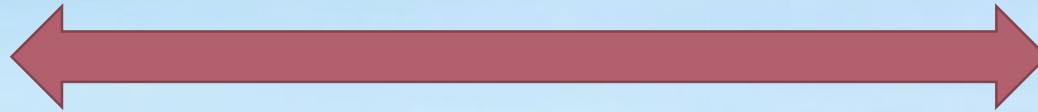
How could we do it?

voluntary



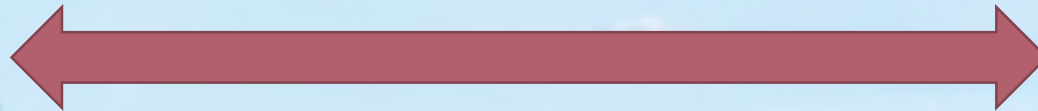
regulatory

phase-out over time



hard ban

pilots



at scale



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The views so far - submissions

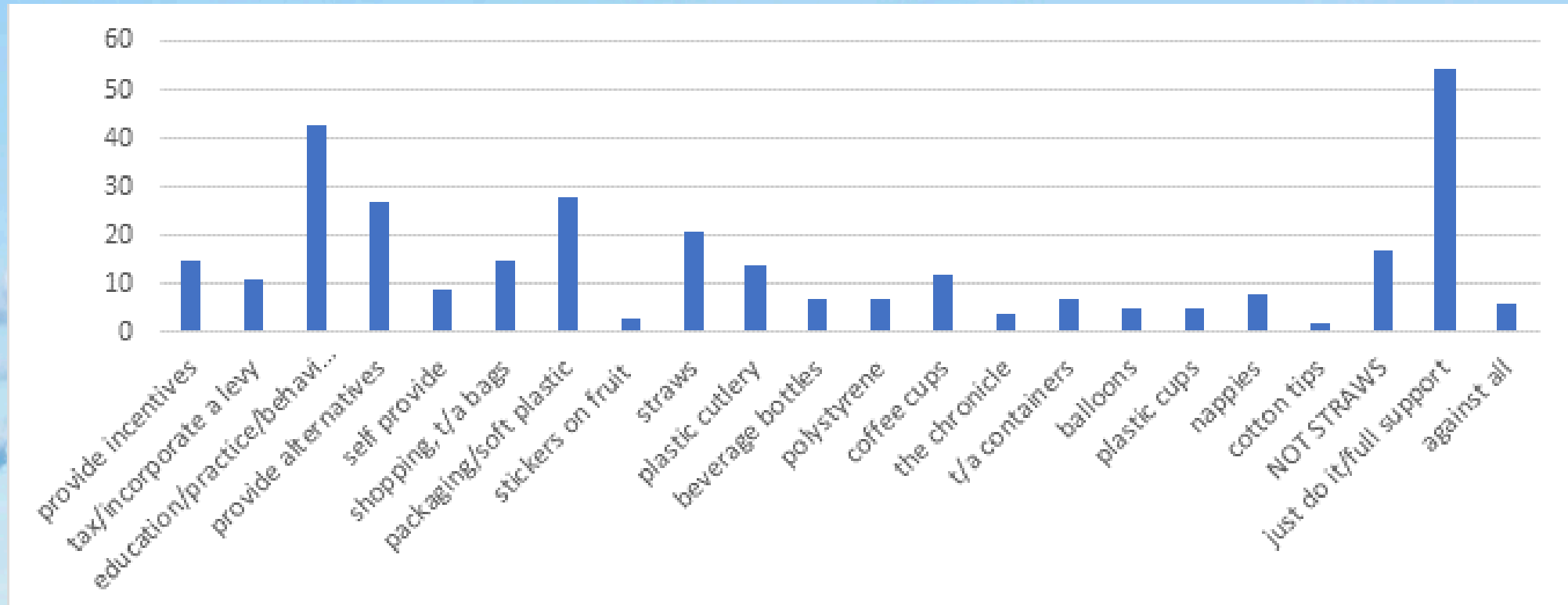
- Over 360 comments received so far on Your Say. Views are overwhelmingly positive

Ban them now! All of them!!

I support immediate action.....

We should not add to the barriers disable people face.....

Please consider unintended consequences of your policy



The views so far – surveys and community sessions

- More than 1970 surveys completed

Two community sessions and one business session held. Second business session to be held 11 July.

Community

- Strongly supportive of phasing-out single use plastics

Business

- Majority are supportive, but are concerned about the costs of alternatives



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Want to have your say?

- Visit the Your Say site www.yoursay.act.gov.au
- Read the discussion paper
- Take the survey
- Make a submission

Consultation period closes end July



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Thank you

Questions?



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