



# **SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS BAN**

## **Information Session**

Stage 2 Bans For Queensland

# Who We Are



**The National Retail Association is a not-for-profit organisation which has represented the interests of Australian retail and related businesses for almost 100 years.**

## What we do

We contribute industry insights and feedback on policies and laws through consultation with the Federal and State governments.

We work with governments to interpret legislation and assist business to understand, prepare and comply with new changes.

## How we help you

We provide a **Tollfree Hotline** phone & email service to answer any queries or concerns regarding the upcoming ban.

From 2023 to mid 2024 we hosted regular **FREE online information sessions** for industry.

We have a professional team working on the ground across the country. **We visit businesses, owners, staff and community to engage and educate everyone about the bans.**

## How to get in touch

Where you can find us:

### Online:

[www.nationalretail.org.au](http://www.nationalretail.org.au)

### By Phone:

1800 844 946

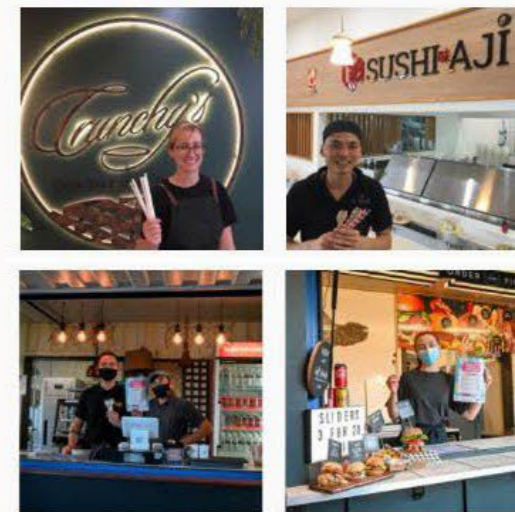
### By Email:

[sustainability@nationalretail.org.au](mailto:sustainability@nationalretail.org.au)



The National Retail Association's goal is to make sure businesses have what they need to prepare, transition and comply.

We also believe it is important to share business feedback, successes, and challenges



# About the Ban

Queenslanders are taking positive steps to reduce plastic pollution and improve our environment.

Over the next 5 years, the Queensland Government plans to implement bans and other measures to minimise waste and protect our environment.

Queensland’s plan to tackle plastic pollution follows strong support from the community, retailers and industry organisations.

The National Retail Association has been engaged to help businesses learn more about these initiatives and how to move towards more sustainable choices.

### Proposed five-year roadmap for action on single-use plastic items

This is a roadmap that identifies proposed bans on problematic plastic items, as well as options other than bans and additional support for community-led initiatives. The government will continue to consult with suppliers, manufacturers and businesses as we progress through this roadmap.

This will provide industry and businesses with an opportunity to provide feedback regarding supply chain challenges, sourcing suitable alternatives and timeframes, and preparing for future actions.

ACTION	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Review of single-use plastic items legislative provisions	1 September 2022				
Cotton buds with plastic stems	Ban announced	Ban from 1 September 2023			
Expanded polystyrene loose packaging (such as the 'peanut' style fill foam)					
Plastic microbeads in in-seable personal care and cleaning products					
Single-use heavyweight plastic shopping bags (such as department store bags)	Start work on the development of reusability standards and testing including design and recycled content requirements	Mandate minimum reusability standards from 1 September 2023			
Ban mass release of lighter-than-air balloons	Ban announced	Ban from 1 September 2023			
Takeaway coffee cups and lids	Support industry and community actions to identify sustainable alternatives				
Plastic drinking cups	Announce the Innovation Challenge to identify sustainable alternatives				
All non-degradable plastics (such as magazine pouches/wraps)	Work with other jurisdictions on a harmonised national approach with intention to ban in coming years				
Expanded polystyrene trays (e.g. fruit and meat trays, serving trays)	Review outcomes of Stadiums Queensland trials	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2024 – non-recyclable and non-compostable		
Single-use produce bags (e.g. fruit and vegetable bags)	Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2024		
Balloon sticks/closures/clips	Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2024 – non-recyclable or compostable		
Bread bag tags	Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2024		
Corflute tree guards	Investigate the suitability for FOGO services	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2024		
Bait bags	Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2025	
Plastic dome lids (like those used for milkshakes and sundaes)		Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2025 – non-recyclable	
Plastic wrapping on magazines			Support actions to identify sustainable replacement products	Possible ban announced	Possible ban from 1 September 2026
Takeaway containers					
Sauce sachets (tomato, tartare etc.)					

# Existing & Upcoming Bans in QLD

## July 2018

- Single-Use Lightweight Plastic Shopping Bags

## September 2021

- Single-Use Plastic
  - Straws
  - Stirrers
  - Cutlery
  - Plates
- Unenclosed Bowls
- EPS Cups and EPS T/A Food Containers

## September 2023

- Plastic shopping bags which do not meet new requirements
- Plastic microbeads in rinseable personal care and cleaning products
- Plastic stemmed cotton buds
- EPS Loose packaging
- Balloon Releases

## Future Bans

Other single-use plastic items are proposed for further action in the QLD Government Roadmap

**CURRENTLY BANNED**

**Future**

# What's Banned from 1 September 2023?



**Plastic shopping bags  
which do not meet  
new requirements**



**Expanded Polystyrene  
(EPS)  
Loose Packaging**



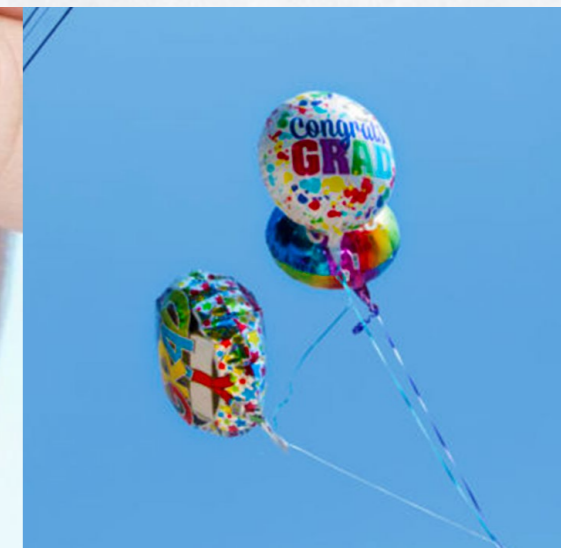
**Cotton buds  
with plastic stems**



**Plastic microbeads  
in personal care &  
cleaning products**



**The release of a lighter  
than air balloon**



# Who does the ban apply to?

All organisations must stop supplying banned items in Queensland when the ban commences on 1 September 2023.

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## Retailers and service businesses

Such as food outlets, supermarkets, markets, pharmacies, events, and online stores.

## Manufacturers and Suppliers

Manufacturers, distributors, importers, wholesalers, (such as packaging suppliers, product brands and online marketplaces)

## Not-for-Profit and Government Organisations

Charities, community groups, events, government bodies

*NOTE: Exemptions under previous bans do not apply to the 2023 ban.  
Balloon release restrictions will apply to all individuals.*

# How will the ban be enforced?



**From 1 September 2023, banned items cannot be sold or provided, even if they were purchased before this date.**

After 1 September 2023, a business may face a maximum **fine of 50 penalty units** for each of the following if they:

- supply a banned single-use plastic item (whether or not a fee is charged);
- Release of 1 or more lighter than air balloon into the environment
- provide false or misleading information about a banned plastic item.

Using an **education-first approach**, the Queensland Government, through the National Retail Association, will work with businesses and organisations to ensure they understand the ban and their obligations.

**The Queensland Government through the Department of Environment and Science can respond to non-compliance in various ways ranging from:**

- Education in the first instance
- Enforcement of penalties in the legislation for giving false or misleading information about banned single-use plastic items;
  - Up to a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units





What's  
banned?

NEW REGULATIONS FOR

# Plastic film shopping bags

Plastic shopping bags are defined as bags **with handles** that are used to **carry goods** from a business or organisation.

# New Regulations

## Existing requirements

Lightweight plastic shopping bags\* were banned in QLD in 2018. Any plastic shopping bag must be **35 microns or more** in thickness to meet the existing law.

## New requirements

From September 1st, 2023, shopping bags made from plastic film will need to meet TWO additional requirements to be supplied in QLD.

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## The Ban does not apply to:

### Plastic Bags without handles

For example, garment bags, produce bag, zip-lock bag

### Non-shopping bags

Bags that are designed for waste, nappy bags, or other types of packaging such as breads bags.

The new requirements do not apply to bags made of synthetic fabrics or other materials.

### Compostable plastic shopping bags – update

- Compostable plastic shopping bags are allowed if they:
- are wholly made from compostable plastic which has achieved Australian composting certification (either AS5810 or AS4736)
  - are greater than 35 microns in thickness; and
  - pass reusability tests carrying 10kg for 125 uses.

Certified compostable shopping bags do not need to pass the recycled content requirement unless the bag includes some non-compostable plastic. The non-compostable plastic component must have a minimum of 80% recycled content.

## New requirements



Be made from a **minimum of 80% recycled content** verified by a recognised program or certification.

AND



Be durable and big enough to **carry 10 kilograms of weight for at least 125 uses** verified by a recognised reusability, durability or endurance test.

## Avoidance

First, consider if you need to supply a shopping bag for every purchase. If most customers only buy a few items, they may not need a bag at all.

Next, we suggest businesses encourage customer to bring their own bags.

- Education & signage
- Implementing bag fees
- Offering discounts or loyalty points for bringing their own bag

You could also reuse stock boxes to avoid waste.

## Reusable

If you do need to provide bags, what type of bag is the most sustainable option for your business?

If you supply fashion, electronics, grocery items or other goods, the best option may be charging for a well-designed durable bag made from fabric, jute or plastic that meets new requirements.

**Labelling or claims are NOT proof of compliance,** and businesses should avoid false or misleading claims which are offences under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*, as well as greenwashing offences under Australian Consumer Law.

The Government does not issue official certification or endorsement of any bag.

## Disposable

If you supply takeaway food or drink, the bag is likely to be contaminated during use and it is unlikely to be reused long-term, so the best option may be sustainably-sourced paper.

### Why not ban all plastic bags?

If you must use a bag, evidence now shows that the most sustainable bag is the one that is reused the greatest number of times.

# Alternatives



## Non-woven shopping bags

- Plastic non-woven material is any type of non-woven material made from plastic polymer, often made by needle-punching or fiber adhesion. May be laminated
- **For example** non-woven PP tote bags, laminated non-woven bags, and chiller bags.



## Fabric Shopping bags

- Fabric is any type of material constructed via weaving, knitting or knotting referred here collectively as “fabric”. May be made of any polymer or fibre, and may be laminated with a polymer
- **For example** roll-up polyester fabric bags, cotton bags, hessian/jute market bags, knitted/knotted mesh bags, woven PP bags.



## Paper Shopping bags

- Paper = constructed from paper pulp of any thickness (includes cardboard).
- **For example** kraft paper bag with rope, twist or cardboard handles, luxury cardboard bag with ribbon handles

# Plastic film bag requirements



## 1. Verify a minimum of 80% recycled content

Suppliers should be able to provide certification from a **recognised program or other written evidence** which guarantees that the bags supplied are made from a **minimum of 80% recycled content**.

Examples of programs and certifications:

- BlueAngel
- Global Recycled Standards

Certificates from reputable testing labs should clearly describe **which standard** was used for verification, as well as the **exact composition** and **amount of recycled content**.



## 2. Verify reusability for a minimum of 125 uses

Suppliers should provide certification from an accredited testing lab verifying that the bags have passed 125 cycles carrying 10kg of weight using a **recognised testing standard such as EN 13590 or ECP CCD 100**.

**Alternatively, businesses may provide written evidence of inhouse testing which follows the methods required by these standards**, however the Queensland Government may request accredited testing or further proof (at the businesses' expense) to ensure results are accurate.

Important: tests must be performed on the **finished** shopping bag, not just the plastic film.

### The Dynamic Test (or 'jog' or 'jolt' test)

- **EN 13590:** Machine simulates a sharp drop and rise of a bag filled with 10kg of weight for 125 cycles.
- **ECP CCD 100:** Machine simulates the jolting motion of a person jogging with a bag filled with 10kg of weight for 125 cycles. Based on the requirements of the Californian Bill.
- Advantages:
  - Repeatable
  - Internationally recognised
  - Already in use around the world
  - Can be done by the manufacturer and if customisation per bag does not affect test performance, only one test needed.
  - No annual test needed unless specs change.

**What's  
banned?**

**NEW REGULATIONS FOR**

# **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Loose Packaging**

# EPS Loose Packaging | New Regulations

## Existing ban

Food or drink packaging made from expanded polystyrene (EPS), such as EPS clamshells, plates and cups, was banned in QLD in 2021.

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## New ban

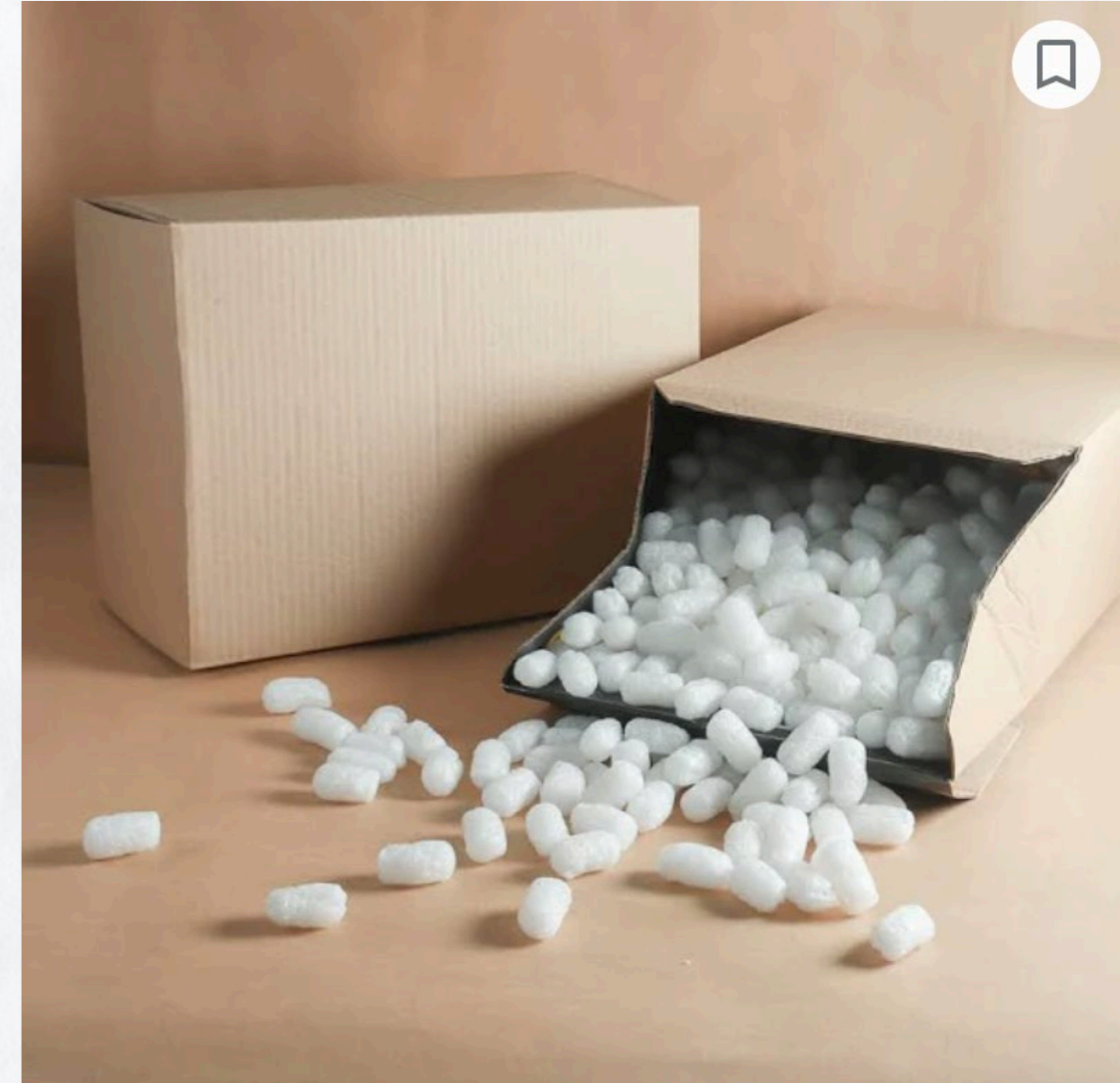
EPS packaging is being phased out across Australia as it is difficult to recycle and problematic when it enters the environment.

**From September 1, 2023 the following item is banned:**

- EPS loose-fill packaging (such as ball, peanut or shredded shape pieces).

**The 2023 ban does **not** apply to:**

- EPS that is part of a product and not used as packaging (e.g. EPS beanbag fill, craft products)
- EPS packaging which is moulded or used as a sheet or film (however please note these types of EPS packaging are being considered for future QLD bans and are being phased out nationally over the next few years).



# EPS Loose Packaging | New Regulations



## How to comply

Businesses should ask their product manufacturer to confirm, in writing, that product packaging does NOT contain any loose-fill EPS, and complies with the QLD legislation that comes into effect from September 1, 2023.

Many businesses are voluntarily banning all EPS packaging from their range and requiring a declaration from all suppliers in procurement contracts or tenders.

## Considerations & Alternatives

1. Consider whether you need to use any loose-fill packaging if the product is not fragile
2. If you do need a form of packaging to protect your item, there are a wide range of alternatives becoming available, including:
  - Air pillows,
  - recycled shredded paper,
  - recycled moulded pulp,
  - repurposed wool fill,
  - recycled textile materials,
  - and improved outer packaging to protect your product

We do not recommend bioplastic alternatives as these are not recyclable, composting facilities may not accept them, and some can be just as damaging in the environment.



**What's  
banned?**

**NEW REGULATIONS FOR**

# **Plastic Microbeads**

# Microbeads | New Regulations

## The ban applies to:

### Plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products

Most manufacturers have already phased out plastic microbeads in personal care and cleaning products in line with the voluntary industry code, **BeadRecede**, which has successfully proven over 99% compliance.



## The ban does **not** apply to:

Products not designed to be rinsed off or removed with water immediately or shortly after application, such as:

- ✓ deodorant
- ✓ make-up
- ✓ moisturizer
- ✓ Printing applications such as toners and textile printing products
- ✓ Craft glitter
- ✓ Products required for industrial and medical applications (other than cleaning products)

## Alternatives:

- Non-plastic products, such as those containing salt, sugar or pumice grounds are available and provide similar functions of abrasion and exfoliation.
- Consider using reusable scrubbing brushes, loofahs or other exfoliants

**NOTE:** If manufacturer's need further advice, contact Accord about BeadRecede, [link here](#)

**What's  
banned?**

**NEW REGULATIONS FOR**

# **Cotton-bud Stems**

# Cotton-bud Stems | New Regulations

Most manufacturers have phased out cotton buds with plastic stems as they are problematic in the waste stream and environment.

## The ban applies to:



### Cotton bud with plastic stems

## The ban does not apply to:

- ✓ Cotton bud sticks used for scientific, medical, or forensic testing.
- ✓ Cotton buds or swabs that make up part of a testing kit, for example rapid antigen tests or tests by vets (even if sold at retailer)
- ✓ Applicators that are pre-packaged as part of a set, for example cosmetic kit

## Alternatives:

You can use cotton buds with stems made from paper, wood or bamboo. You can also purchase reusable stems with replaceable buds.



**What's  
banned?**

**NEW REGULATIONS ON**

# **Balloon Releases**

# Balloon Releases | New Regulations

Balloons are problematic in the environment and damaging to wildlife when they escape or are released into the air, whether accidentally or on purpose.



The ban applies to:

**The release of a lighter-than-air balloon.**

The ban applies to any person who causes/permits the release/escape of a balloon inflated with gas causing it to rise in the air, unless the release happens inside a building or another structure and the balloon does not escape from the building or other structure into the environment.

Exempt: release is for scientific research, including, for example, meteorology.

**Alternatives:**

**Important: The sale, supply or use of balloons is **not** banned.**

There are no obligations or restrictions on sale of balloons but we encourage retailers to remind customers of the ban on releases. Customers, businesses, event organisers, charities and other organisations should ensure balloons are secured or choose alternatives, such as paper confetti or bubbles.



# Steps to Prepare



## 1. Manage Stock

- Stop ordering banned items now
- Look at ways to use existing stock
- Check with your supplier if you can return unused stock
- Recycle unusable stock where possible

## 2. Consider your options

1. Avoidance
2. Reusable
3. Disposable

## 3. Inform your team and customers

- Prepare your team
- Educate customers
- Resources are available at [www.qldplasticsban.com.au](http://www.qldplasticsban.com.au)



# Resources and help are available

The National Retail Association will continue to deliver a range of resources and activities to assist businesses as bans are implemented, including visiting stores, providing signage and factsheets for business, and a tollfree business hotline.

For more information on current QLD bans,  
visit: [www.qldplasticsban.com.au](http://www.qldplasticsban.com.au)

Or call the tollfree business advice hotline: **1800 844 946**