

Case study: Eurobodalla takeaway container reduction



57 local businesses
signed up to tackle
single-use takeaway
plastics

Eurobodalla cares about reducing plastic litter

Local businesses in Eurobodalla came together to source alternatives to single-use takeaway plastic containers.



Boomerang bags
distributed from textiles
destined for landfill

What was the problem?

The Local Litter Check identified that among the top litter items collected were single-use takeaway plastics such as straws, coffee cups, containers, cutlery and bags.

What did we do?

- Eurobodalla Council developed the *We Care Eurobodalla* program to engage food-businesses and their customers to the 'avoid, reduce and reuse' takeaway packaging message.
- CARE stands for Carry, Avoid, Reuse and Encourage others to do the same.

Local Litter Check

The EPA's easy-to-use Local Litter Check is a free online tool to help understand your local litter problem. Details can be found on the EPA website.

- The program was made available to all food businesses between Batemans Bay and Tilba Tilba. It provided the support to reduce single-use plastic items, to help transition to eco-friendly compostable packaging and incentivise customers to BYO reusable containers
- Instead of focusing on making sure that rubbish was disposed of correctly or cleaned up, we wanted to stop the rubbish being generated in the first place.

What did we achieve?

- We successfully engaged 57 takeaway food businesses directly to eliminate or reduce single-use plastic items. The original target was 10 businesses.
- We educated the wider community on litter prevention and reporting
- The pre and post program Local Litter Checks showed a reduction from 79 to 28 litter items in the Clean Spots which is a reduction of 65%. The pre and post program Local Litter Checks showed a reduction from 148 to 67 litter items in the Hot Spots which is a 55% reduction.

How was the project evaluated?

- Many businesses are ready and willing to embrace more sustainable waste reduction and litter prevention strategies. However, they are time poor and appreciate a structured and supported face-to-face program that can step them through the change process
- The community and businesses can be better educated about the difference of 'degradable', 'compostable' and 'biodegradable' packaging
- Once new (sustainable) habits have been created in businesses and suppliers they are very likely to be maintained.

What is the project's legacy?

The *We Care Eurobodalla* program will continue to be provided by Council beyond the grant-funding period. Council intends to follow up with existing business partners to continue supporting them on the journey. The two-tier structure of the program (*Champion* and *Member*) encourages ongoing efforts as businesses who are members can continue to strive to eliminate all five target items and receive the *Champion* title.

There will also be lasting impacts from the permanent stickers on litter bins throughout the region and the increased engagement with Council rangers on litter prevention and reporting.



Signage provided to businesses in support of the program.

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