**Key facts about the NSW Government single-use plastics ban**

* From 1 November 2022 bans apply in NSW to single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene food ware and cups, and rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.
* The bans follow the Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021 passed in November 2021.
* In NSW, single-use plastic items and packaging make up 60% of all litter.
* Around 575 million plastic items were littered in NSW in 2019. Much of these were single-use items, such as plastic bags, straws and cutlery.
* Over time, these items break into smaller pieces of plastic. They can be ingested by wildlife, killing or injuring them, and can enter the human food chain.
* Plastics never completely degrade. Over years, they break into tiny pieces called microplastics. Microplastics are the multi-coloured pieces of plastic that can be found in the environment ([National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2022](https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/plastic.html)).
* The phase out of single-use plastic items will help prevent an estimated 2.7 billion items of plastic litter from entering our natural environment and waterways over the next 20 years.
* The items selected are littered at approximately 20 times the rate of other plastics.
* Approximately 40% of these littered items end up in marine environments and waterways.
* Of the 16,000 submissions the Government received when consulting on the future bans of plastics in NSW, 98% supported the phasing out single-use plastics.
* Major retailers have flagged their intention to pursue a national, voluntary phase out of heavyweight bags using virgin plastic over the next 2 to 3 years. The EPA will monitor the success of this action before determining whether a future mandatory phase out is needed. Businesses and community organisations can get [support resources](https://dpe.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/plastics-ban-nsw/resources/).
* The NSW Government has engaged the National Retail Association to deliver an extensive education and engagement program for 40,000 businesses in 650 precincts across the State, to assist retailers, suppliers, community groups and not-for-profit organisations phase out single use plastics.
* The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 and the NSW Plastics Action Plan are backed by a $356 million investment over 5 years (from 1 July 2022). This investment includes new programs and initiatives that minimise waste, values our resources, decarbonises our economy and kickstarts the transition to a circular economy.
* For plastics, this investment includes:
	+ $10 million to design and deliver the Circular Materials Fund
	+ Up to $5 million to design and implement a plastics innovation program
	+ $2 million for establishing a plastics research partnership
	+ $500,000 to help prevent nurdles entering our waterways (nurdles are small plastic pellets used to manufacture plastic products)
* wThe NSW Government is also running a consumer awareness and education campaign: [Let’s Stop it and Swap it](https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-energy-and-science/plastics-action-plan/stop-it-swap-it).
* The phasing out of certain single-use plastics is part of the [NSW Plastics Action Plan](https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/environment-heritage/plastics-action-plan).