



TOTAL RECALL

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The war on plastic is impacting our every day, specifically single-use plastic products require a re-think. Designed to be used once and then thrown away because they're cheap and convenient, plastic has a cost. Australia & New Zealand are joining the rest of the world to remove plastic from our every-day lives.

With 60% of all litter in NSW coming from plastic packaging and single-use plastic items, the NSW Government has recently passed legislation to stamp out single-use plastic. Under the Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021, the government has sought to prevent an estimated 2.7 billion plastic items from entering the coastal, marine and bushland environments in the state over the next 20 years.

The legislation provides a comprehensive framework that will help NSW residents towards achieving a circular economy.

Other states in Australia are following NSW's footsteps, having already banned certain single-use plastic items with many other proposed items to be banned by the year 2025.

NSW Minister for Environment James Griffin said, "the new 'Stop it and Swap it Campaign' is a stark reminder of why the NSW single-use plastic ban is critical to our environment."

"As consumers we must all change our behaviour," said Griffin, furthering that "about 95% of the litter on beaches and waterways comes from suburban streets, and the vast majority of that litter is single-use plastic. The amount of plastic in our oceans is predicted to outweigh the amount of fish by 2050."

New Zealand has already banned most single-use plastic bags in 2019. However, the changes will now include packaging for produce as well as a range of other items between 2022 and 2025.

New Zealand is currently one of the top 10 per-capita producers of landfill waste in the world, and so it has announced it will ban a wider range of single-use plastics.

"Every day, New Zealanders throw away an estimated 159g of plastic waste per person, making us some of the highest waste generators in the world," the environment minister, David Parker said.

The bans, running between 2022 and 2025, will "ensure we live up to our clean, green reputation," he said.

Officials estimate that the new policy will remove more than 2bn single-use plastic items from the country's landfills and environment each year.

Now that's a great example of governments doing good!

Sources:
NSW Government, 2022
NSW Government Environment Protection Authority (EPA), 2022

KEY FACTS

- 1) From 1 November 2022 bans will apply in NSW to single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls (without lids) and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene foodware and cups, and rinse-off personal care products containing plastic microbeads.
- 2) Plastics never completely degrade. They decompose which can take anywhere between 20 to 500 years.
- 3) Single-use plastic break into smaller pieces of plastic that can be ingested by wildlife, killing or injuring them, and can even enter the human food chain impacting health.
- 4) 575 million plastic items were littered in NSW in 2019.
- 5) 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.

