

## Summary of the Bill

This Bill will:

- Reduce the amount of plastic being consumed.
- Reduce the amount of plastic waste entering the marine environment.
- Increase the rate and quality of recycling and composting of all packaging.
- Increase the use of recycled content in all packaging.

The Bill does this by establishing a mandatory product stewardship scheme that will require the manufacturers, importers and distributors of packaging and certain plastics to ensure the following:

- 100% of all packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.
- 70% of all packaging will actually be recycled or composted by 2025.
- Specifically, 70% of plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025.
- All packaging will include, on average, 30% recycled content by 2025.
- The consumption of plastic containers and cups, and thin-film plastic packaging will be reduced by 25% by 2025.
- The consumption of cigarette butts containing plastic will be reduced by 50% by 2025.
- Information campaigns for balloons and sanitary products by 2021.
- A 20c national container deposit scheme will be introduced by 2021, and 90% of all beverage containers will be recycled by 2025.
- The phase-out of problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging.

The Bill also bans the following single-use plastics from use by 2025:

- 6-pack plastic rings.
- Non-compostable straws and stirrers.
- Non-compostable cutlery and utensils.
- Non-compostable plates and bowls.
- Cotton buds.
- Sticks for balloons.
- Polystyrene containers and cups.
- Oxo-degradable plastic.

Lightweight plastic bags and products containing microbeads will be banned by 2021.

Exemptions to the bans on plastics items will be able to be granted for hygiene, access, medical or security reasons.

Breaches of the mandatory product stewardship scheme are subject to civil penalties.

The measures in this Bill are almost entirely drawn from the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's 2025 National Packaging Targets and the European Parliament's 2018 Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.

## Source for targets and actions

APC – Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation’s 2025 National Packaging Targets

EU– European Parliament’s 2018 Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

### Packaging targets:

- 100% of all packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 (APC)
- 70% of all packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025 (Greens)
- 70% of plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025 (APC)
- All packaging will include, on average, 30% recycled content by 2025 (APC)
- Problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging will be phased-out (APC)

### Plastic food containers and cups for beverages:

- Consumption reduction target by 2025 (EU)
- Recycling target by 2025 (APC)

### Beverage containers

- Container deposit scheme by 2021 (EU and in place in a majority of states)
- Recycling target by 2025 (EU)

### Thin-film plastic packaging

- Consumption reduction target by 2025 (EU)
- Recycling target by 2025 (Greens)

### Plastic six-pack rings

- Product ban by 2025 (Greens)

### Lightweight plastic carrier bags

- Product ban by 2021 (largely in place at a state level)

Polystyrene containers and cups; plastic cotton bud sticks; non-compostable plastic cutlery, plates, stirrers, straws; plastic sticks for balloons

- Product ban by 2025 (EU)

### Cigarette filters containing plastics

- Consumption reduction target of 50% by 2025 (EU)

### Balloons; sanitary products

- Use instructions and information campaign by 2021 (EU)

### Oxo-degradable plastics

- Product ban by 2025 (EU)

### Microbeads

- Product ban by 2021 (forecast by federal government)