



1.0 AUTHORITY

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025:

- 1.2 - A healthy ecosystem, in which our coastline, bushland, wildlife and green wedge is resilient to the climate emergency and development.
- 1.2.6 - Continue towards our goal of zero waste to landfill by 2030, by strengthening our circular economy as part of our Beyond Zero Waste Strategy.

2.0 INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles and decision-making framework for Council, the community, and businesses to phase out single-use plastics in all Council business, on Council owned and managed land, and in Council buildings. This policy supports Council's ambitious target of zero waste to landfill by 2030.

The purpose is to:

- reduce carbon emissions caused by producing, transporting, recycling, and disposing of single-use plastics
- reduce single-use plastic pollution in our beaches, reserves, parks, bays, waterways, and oceans
- minimise the volume of valuable resources going to landfill
- enhance Mornington Peninsula Shire as a clean, green, and healthy place to live and visit
- increase community pride and encourage leadership in environmental stewardship, and
- maximise opportunities for resource recovery and support our transition to a circular economy.

3.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all Council business (staff, leases, and contracts) where single-use plastics may be used, such as but not limited to purchases; packaging, merchandise or transportation;
- all Council sponsored activities; and
- all individuals, groups, or organisations planning to use, hire and/or lease Council owned or managed sites (buildings and land) that require Council's approval, formal notification, or a permit to conduct an activity. This includes, but is not limited to, all events where a permit is required; information sessions; workshops and meetings; parties and festivals; club activities.

4.0 GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must give effect to the following overarching governance principles:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law(s)
- priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
- the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making
- innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued



- collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
- regional, state and national plans and policies are to be considered in strategic planning and decision making
- the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured

5.0 POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 Council will lead the community by:

- first eliminating single-use plastics within all Council business
- prioritising the avoidance of single-use plastics wherever possible
- supporting staff, contractors, lessors, events and the community directly impacted by this policy through the provision of single-use plastics resources and guidance
- continuing community education on the environmental impacts of single-use plastics and encouraging the wider community and businesses to avoid waste, and phase out single-use plastics
- recognising and celebrating 'single-use plastic free' businesses, communities, and events
- enabling community ambassadors, and
- supporting or advocating for State and Federal Government legislation to ban single-use plastics and support sustainable procurement and supply chains

5.2 Prohibited single-use plastics items

These will be listed in the accompanying Single-use Plastics Guidelines. Council reserves the right to amend this list by adding or removing items at any given time, whilst remaining aligned with the regulatory framework of State and Federal Government.

The following provisions apply for all Council facilities, buildings, contracts, and operations:

- single-use plastic items as identified in the Single-use Plastics Guidelines, are not to be procured, used, sold, or distributed
- Council run buildings and operations are only to use reusable alternatives wherever possible
- if a washing facility is not available on site, AS 5810-2010 certified home compostable products may be used to substitute reusable cutlery and crockery
- a customised list of additional single-use plastics items, in addition to items listed in the Guidelines, may be specified for exclusion from use by individual Council units/teams

5.3 Exemptions

Single-use plastics required to meet health, safety, and/ or accessibility requirements, or where no practical alternative is available, are exempted from this policy.

5.4 Transition periods

This policy will take effect upon adoption; at which date all parties must commence phasing out single-use plastics.

From February 2023, all stakeholders directly impacted by this policy with reoccurring agreements with Council must have developed, and be actively working towards implementing, a single-use plastic avoidance plan. The single-use plastic avoidance plan will be reviewed annually with a key focus on areas for improvement and opportunities to phase out additional single-use plastic items.



5.5 Monitoring of compliance

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy will be shared across Council.

Monitoring of the implementation and regular reviews of single-use plastic avoidance plans will be overseen by the Circular Economy and Waste team.

6.0 HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER COMPATIBILITY

This policy has been assessed as being compatible with *the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

7.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Beyond Zero Waste Strategy 2030
- *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*
- Climate Emergency Plan – Ensuring Our Future: Our Climate Emergency Response
- Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021 - 2025
- Procurement Policy
- [Environment Protection Amendment \(Banning Single-Use Plastic Items\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](https://legislation.vic.gov.au/Environment-Protection-Amendment-(Banning-Single-Use-Plastic-Items)-Regulations-2022)

8.0 DEFINITIONS

Activity	Any planned event, workshop, information session or gathering of people where pre-approval from Council is required to either hold the event and/or hire an internal or external space.
Commercially Compostable	An item that will biodegrade in a commercial composting facility in accordance with Australian Standards.
Council	The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.
External	Any individual, group or organisation that is not employed or contracted by Council.
Home Compostable	An item that will biodegrade in the home compost bin within a measured amount of time in accordance with Australian Standards.
Leases	An agreement to use all or part of a property or land owned by Council, for a specific amount of time in return of either a payment or no payment.
Single-use Plastics	Items, products, and packaging made from or composing of fossil fuel-based materials that are disposed of after one or limited use.



9.0 POLICY SPONSOR

The Manager Climate Change and Sustainability is responsible for overseeing the application and review of the Single-use Plastic Policy.

10.0 DOCUMENT CONTROLS

The Single-use Plastic Policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as required.

Administrative Updates

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Shire department, the change to an existing policy or document referred to in this policy, and minor updates to legislation and the like which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters the document must be by endorsement of Council.