

<b>Policy number</b>	Policy 260
<b>Policy title</b>	Single-use plastic and polystyrene
<b>Strategic outcomes supported</b>	EN1 – protecting and enhancing the natural environment EN2 – facilitating the reduction of waste

## Policy objective:

- To provide controls that minimise potential adverse impacts of single use plastic and polystyrene on the community and the environment.
- To provide education and community leadership on the issue of single use plastic.

## Policy scope:

This Policy applies to:

- all Council buildings except those buildings which are, or may become, a subject to a lease or licence permitting the use of the building for commercial tenancy or residential occupancy;
- all Council-run events; and
- all market stalls held on Council land.

This Policy does not apply to:

- Events within the Town that are not Council-run;
- Traders and businesses that do not require a permit from the Town under a Local Law; and
- Activities operating under current lease agreement from the Town.

## Policy definitions:

**Compostable** means materials capable of breaking down completely or decomposing to produce a soil product without toxic residue. These materials should be certified compostable under AS 4736 – Industrial Composting or AS 5810 – Home Composting.

**Event** means any planned activity that occurs in a certain place, during a certain time, which involves a gathering of people and has some level of impact on the immediate surroundings.

**Local Government Property** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Local Law** means the relevant Town of Victoria Park Local Law. At the time of writing this Policy it included the Activities and Trading Thoroughfares Public Places Local Law 2000; Local Government Property Law 2000; and Health Local Law 2003.

**Market Stall** means a stand or booth where goods are sold at a market or event.

**Permit** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Plastic** means synthetic materials manufactured from fossil fuels such as oil and petrochemicals. Can be either soft, flexible or rigid.

**Polystyrene** means synthetic resin which is a polymer of styrene, used chiefly as lightweight rigid foams and films.

**Public places** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Serving material** means any items that are distributed for the intended use as food or beverage serving and/or consumption aids, including but not limited to: plates, cutlery, take away food containers, hot/cold beverage cups and lids (including paper coffee cups with plastic lining or lids), drinking straws.

**Single use** means materials that are manufactured for disposable usage and an intended short lifespan.

**Trader** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

**Thoroughfares** has the meaning given to it in the Local Law.

## Policy statement:

1. Single-use plastics (or disposable plastics) and polystyrene are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items include, but are not limited to, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.
2. Council acknowledges that widespread use, distribution and misuse of single-use plastics and polystyrene at events and facilities can have a significant impact on our environment; particularly as events are predominantly held outdoors.
3. The phasing out single use plastics and polystyrene products will:
  - a. reduce the amount of plastics being disposed to landfill or ending up as litter in our community;
  - b. help to reduce the degradation of the Australian marine environment including the Swan River;
  - c. reduce the adverse impacts on the Town's environment and human health;
  - d. educate the Town's community to shift away from single use plastic and polystyrene products;
  - e. support businesses to embrace alternative options to single use plastic and polystyrene products and those already utilising alternatives; and
  - f. reduce the carbon and greenhouse emissions associated with creating plastic from non-renewable oil resources.

## Restrictions

4. Single-use plastic or polystyrene serving materials are not to be used, sold or distributed, where suitable, fit for purpose alternatives are available.
5. Bottled water is not to be provided at Town functions where potable drinking water facilities are available.
6. All avoidable plastic and polystyrene packaging must not be used in the purchase, sale, distribution and transport of food or goods, unless required under other conditions or legislation.
7. Plastic and polystyrene event materials are to be reused where possible, including event signage and promotional banners.

## Suitable alternatives

8. Suitable alternatives to single-use plastic and polystyrene serving materials, packaging and other items must be:
  - a. Compostable;
  - b. Available; and
  - c. Fit for purpose.
9. For more information on suitable alternatives, please refer to the [Plastic Free Vic Park guide](#).

## Exemptions

10. This Policy exempts single-use plastic items necessary to meet health and safety requirements, or where there are no suitable alternatives.
11. Unless necessary to satisfy other conditions of the permit, exemptions will require prior approval from the Town at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

## Related documents

[Local Government Act 1995 \(WA\)](#)

[Town of Victoria Park Activities and Trading Thoroughfares Public Places Local Law 2000](#)

[Policy 226 Recreation reserves - hire](#)

[Plastic Free Vic Park guide](#)

<b>Responsible officers</b>	Environment Officer
<b>Policy manager</b>	Manager Technical Services
<b>Approval authority</b>	Council
<b>Next evaluation date</b>	April 2024

## Revision history

Version	Action	Date	Authority	Resolution number	Report number
1	Approved	20/08/2019	Council	155/2019	Item 14.1
2	Reviewed and amended	20/04/2021	Council	78/2021	Item 15.4
3	Administratively amended	24/08/2023	Delegation		