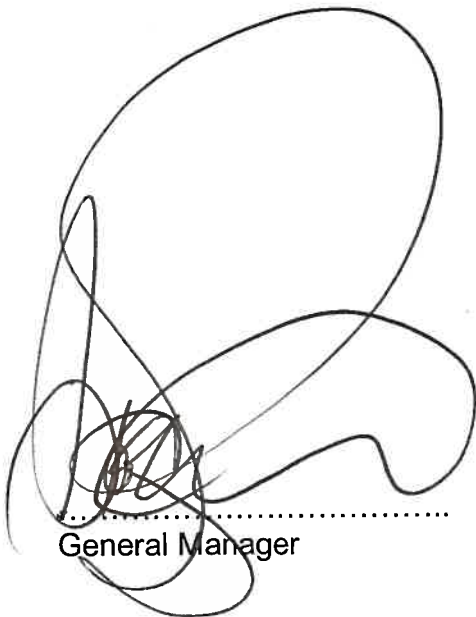




Single Use Plastic Policy

DOCUMENT AUTHORISATION

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:		GRAHAM PRICE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES.			
REVIEWED BY:		Pramod Lamsal Waste and Environmental Management Officer			
DATE ADOPTED:		25 March 2021			
ADOPTED BY:		Glen Innes Severn Council			
RESOLUTION NO:		27.03/21			
REVIEW DUE DATE:		November 2021(internal transition review), May 2021 (12 month external Transition review)			
REVISION NUMBER:		1			
DOCUMENT NUMBER:		SUPP:POL:1			
PREVIOUS VERSIONS:	DATE:	RESOLUTION NO:	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS:	AUTHOR / EDITOR:	REVIEW / SIGN OFF:



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General Manager

17/5/21
.....
Date

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics from our Council operations, facilities and buildings
- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics at events held in Council facilities or on Council lands and promote re-use and waste avoidance principle
- Take leadership in phasing out the use of single-use plastic to our highland community within LGA

APPLICABILITY

This policy* applies to all Councils staffs, contractors and other Council's representatives; all events and individuals or organisations who are planning, organising, running, and/or approving events to be conducted in or on Council owned or managed sites. This includes, but not limited to, all civic, commercial or community events; all large or small-scale events, meetings, functions, workshops, markets, festivals, expos, parties, information sessions, conferences and sports or recreational events.

Single use plastics include all disposable plastic items which are designed to only be used one. Single use plastics included in this policy are

- Lightweight plastic shopping bag (less than 35 microns thick)
- Polystyrene food containers/cups
- Coffee cups with plastic lining and/or lids, plastic lined noodle box
- Balloons
- Plastic drinking straw
- Sauce sachets
- Cling wrap
- Single use water bottles
- Ready to eat plastic serving containers/takeaway food containers & utensils

*Exemption on the use of single-use plastic products may be granted by department managers if necessary, to meet OH&S requirements, emergency response needs or when no other suitable option is available.

Some of the alternatives to single use plastic that Council encouraged its staff members to adopt include woven polypropylene bag – recyclable; hessian bags – biodegradable that is made from natural jute fibre; paper bags – recyclable; paper plates and cups – recyclable; and more water cooler and drinking water taps within Council premises for people to refill their water bottles.

OUTCOMES

Glen Innes Severn Council is committed to be a role model in reducing and recovering resources by

- Generating less waste through replacement of the use of single-use plastics products for easily re-used and/or recyclable products
- Progressively phase out the use of single-use plastics in Council's operations so as to reduce its environmental impacts.

The adoption and implementation of this policy will

- Minimise the amount of valuable resources going to our landfills
- Reduce single-use plastic pollution in our town and villages
- Reduce carbon emission caused by producing, transporting, recycling and disposing of single use plastics
- Make Glen Innes LGA a clean, green and healthy place to live and enhance tourism
- Help in achieving state and national targets on waste management

Phasing out single use plastic across Council operations and facilities and at events may result in minor additional expense to event stallholders and suppliers, however, could result in savings to Council in managing waste and litter on site and reduce the impact on the environment. It will also help deliver on the objectives of the 2017-2021 Council Delivery Plan, under strategic direction Environment and Heritage, strategic action EH 1.2.1; EH 1.2.2.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy will commence once approved by Council. This policy allows a transition period of **six (6) months** from the commencement date, allowing Council departments to engage and procure alternative options to single use plastic products. **Twelve (12) months** transition period from the commencement date is applied to non-council event organisers to allow for the transition to the Policy requirements. Manager of Planning and Regulatory Services, Waste and Environmental Management officers and other Council officers to coordinate with all departments and event organisers and provide necessary assistance on the implementation of the policy during this transition period. All Council departments and their staffs are expected to fully follow this policy. This transition period policy condition to be monitored and reviewed at the first policy review.

DEFINITIONS

<i>Balloon</i>	An inflatable device made from rubber, latex, foil or plastic most commonly used for decoration, promotional materials, children's entertainment or ceremonial purposes.
<i>Civic event</i>	All events that are organised by Council staffs.
<i>Council</i>	Glen Innes Severn Council
<i>Council owned site</i>	Buildings, venues, roads, lands or any other location owned and managed by Council, including sites leased from Council.
<i>Event</i>	Any planned activity that occurs at a certain place, during a certain time, which involves a small or large gathering and has some level of impact on the vicinity.
<i>LGA</i>	The geographical area governed by Glen Innes Severn Council.
<i>Plastic</i>	Non biodegradable polythene made from petrochemical compounds.
<i>Polystyrene</i>	synthetic resin which is a polymer of styrene, used chiefly as lightweight rigid foams and films.
<i>Single use plastic Bag</i>	A plastic bag, polybag or pouch is a type of container made of thin flexible plastic film, non-woven fabric or plastic textiles.
<i>Single use plastic Product</i>	Any disposable plastic material used only once or short period of time

POLICY STATEMENT

Single-use plastics can create challenges for our waste management and resource recovery systems, the environment and the community as a whole. Australia has established the 2025 National Packaging targets in a bid to make packaging industries more responsible toward environment. Its four targets include: 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging; 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted; 50% of average recycled content included in packaging; and the phase out of problematic and unnecessary single use plastics packaging.

To support these national objectives and fulfill Glen Innes Severn Council's commitment to sustainability through waste and litter reduction and the diversion of waste from its landfill, Single Use Plastic Policy has been developed in response to a resolution passed by Council on 25 March 2021. Grounded on the waste hierarchy principle, this policy prioritises single use plastic substitutes that are where possible, locally sourced and made from renewable resources with low carbon footprint. This policy finally aims to have ultimate flow-on effect of encouraging local business and the community to follow suit later to make Glen Innes region an example in fight against plastic pollution.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Relevant Legislation, Regulations and Industry Standards include:

- Protection of the Environment Act (PEOA) 1997
- NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001
- Local Government Act 1993
- NSW EPA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014 - 21
- National Waste Policy 2018 – Less Waste More Resources
- National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019

Relevant Council Policies and Procedures include:

- GISC Domestic Waste Management Policy (2020 update)
- GISC Procurement Policy
- GISC Community Strategy Plans 2017-27
- GISC Delivery Program 2017-21
- GISC Destination Management Plan 2021-2026
- GISC Australian Celtic Festival Strategic Plan 2020-2025

VARIATION AND REVIEW

The Single Use Plastic Policy shall be reviewed in every three (3) years, or earlier if deemed necessary, to ensure that it meets the requirements of state and commonwealth legislation and the needs of Council. The term of the Policy does not expire on the review date, but shall continue in force until superseded, rescinded or varied either by legislation or a new resolution of Council.
