

Phasing out single-use plastics

Katherine Harrington

Director, Community and Industry Engagement

ACT NoWaste



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Our timeline so far

August 2018

Minister Chris Steel becomes Minister for City Services

August 2018

Responsibility for the *Plastic Bags Ban Act 2010*, and tabling of *Unfantastic plastic*

April 2019

Phasing out single-use plastics discussion paper released. Submissions close end July 2019.

Jun – Jul 2019

Community and business information sessions. Pop-up stalls across the ACT.

August onwards

Determining next steps



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Why focus on single-use plastics?

Plastic is highly convenient as a low-cost manufacturing option

but....

- Persists in the environment
- Consumption is increasing
- True costs aren't accounted for

Single-use plastic: avoidable or replaceable, intended to be used only once.

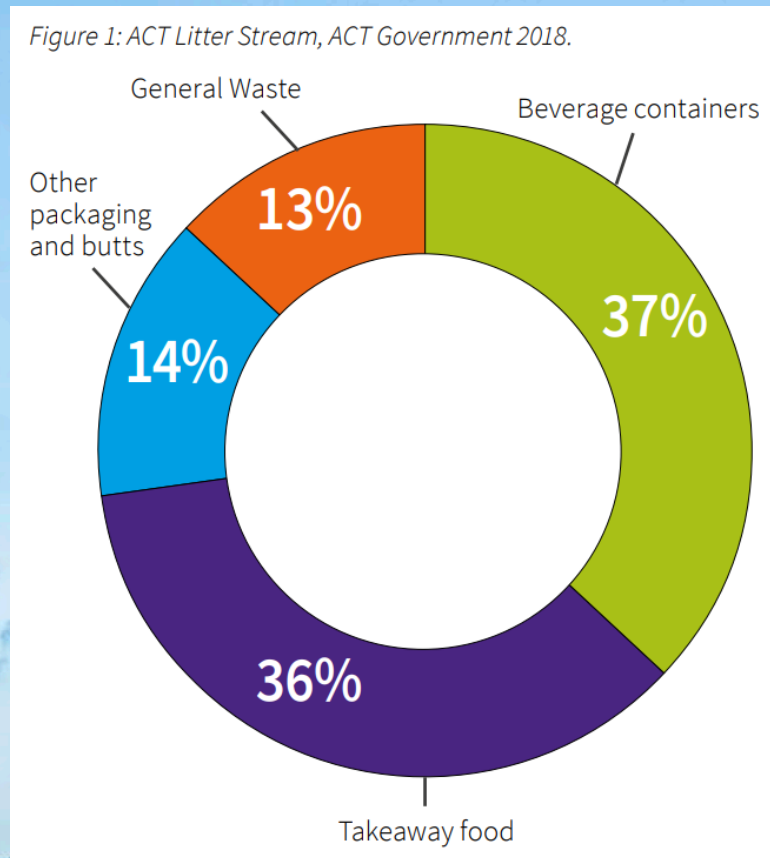


ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Plastic litter

- Plastic litter in the ACT has increased
- less litter overall, but more of it is plastic



Why consult?

- Engage early and ‘take the journey’ together
- Understand views from community and business
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Gauge the appetite for change
- Inform policy development



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

The context

Globally:

- Canada ban by 2021, EU ban by 2021, India ban by 2022, UK plastic pact, UN plastic waste protocol
- Malaysia, India, China – restricting acceptance of plastic waste

Nationally:

- National Waste Policy
- South Australia, Western Australia, ACT, City of Hobart, some local councils (including Bega)
- APCO targets



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

APCO 2025 TARGETS

- > **100%** of packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- > **70%** of plastic packaging will be recycled or composted
- > **30%** average recycled content will be included across all packaging and
- > Problematic and unnecessary single use plastics packaging will be phased out through redesign, innovation or alternative delivery methods.⁵⁵



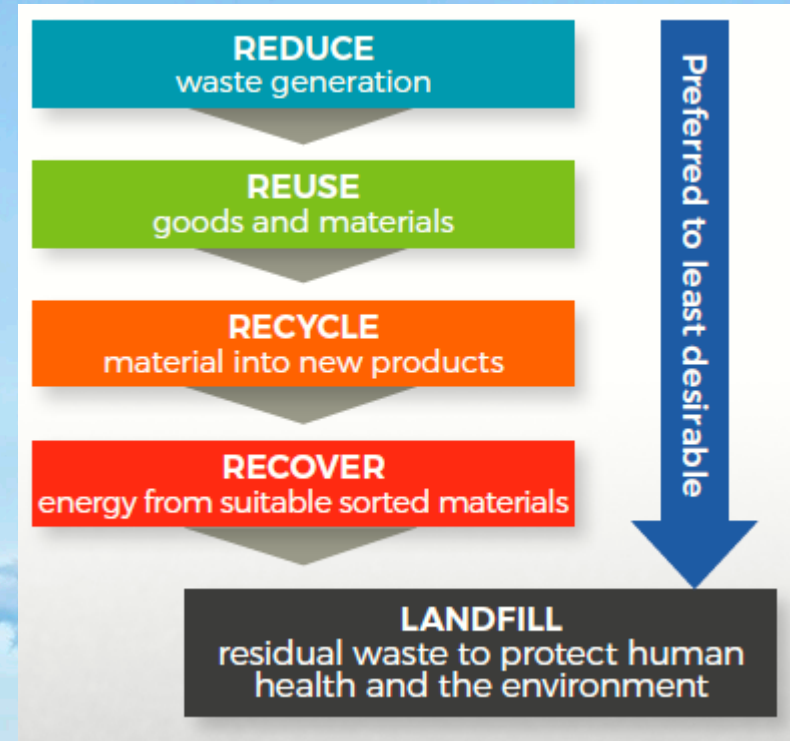
ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

The ACT context

- *Taking the plastic bag ban one step further*
- *Increasing resource recovery to 87%*

The ACT Waste Management Hierarchy



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

The opportunities:

- Avoid the generation of waste
- Reduce the use of virgin materials
- Moving towards a circular economy
- New business opportunities



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

The challenges

- Need to find feasible alternatives
- Need to consider impacts on different segments of the community
- Need to consider impacts on business and business models











ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

What single-use plastics are we looking at?

-  ✓ Plastic straws and stirrers
-  ✓ Plastic cutlery
-  ✓ Disposable plastic plates and cups
-  ✓ Disposable plastic-lined coffee cups and lids
-  ✓ Polystyrene (foam) plastic food containers and beverage cups
-  ✓ Light-weight fruit and vegetable barrier bags
-  ? Other non-recyclable plastics

-  ✗ Microbeads (already being phased out)
-  ✗ Plastic beverage containers
-  ✗ Other plastic packaging (e.g. food packaging, consumer goods)
-  ✗ Sanitary items
-  ✗ Nappies and incontinence products
-  ✗ Reusable plastic bags above 35 microns in thickness, including 'green bags', 'biodegradable' and 'compostable' bags
-  ✗ Health related sterile items (e.g. syringes)
-  ✗ Cotton buds

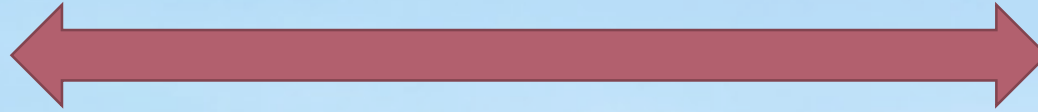


ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

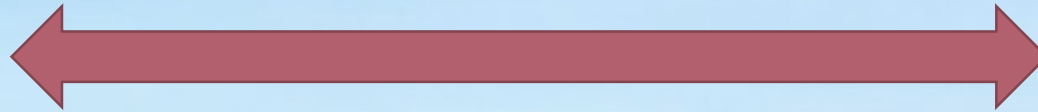
How could we do it?

voluntary



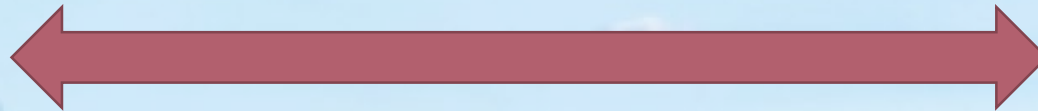
regulatory

phase-out over time



hard ban

pilots



at scale



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

The views so far - submissions

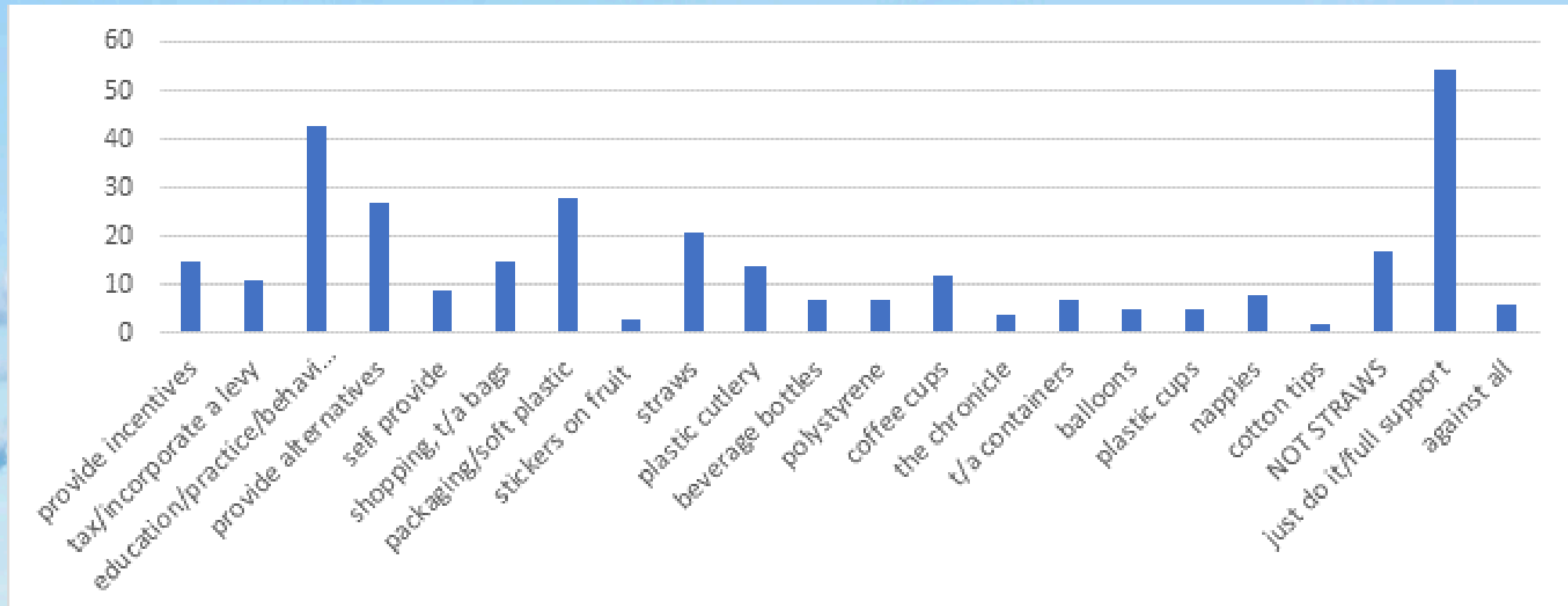
- Over 360 comments received so far on Your Say. Views are overwhelmingly positive

Ban them now! All of them!!

I support immediate action.....

We should not add to the barriers disable people face.....

Please consider unintended consequences of your policy



The views so far – surveys and community sessions

- More than 1970 surveys completed

Two community sessions and one business session held. Second business session to be held 11 July.

Community

- Strongly supportive of phasing-out single use plastics

Business

- Majority are supportive, but are concerned about the costs of alternatives



Want to have your say?

- Visit the Your Say site www.yoursay.act.gov.au
- Read the discussion paper
- Take the survey
- Make a submission

Consultation period closes end July



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Thank you

Questions?



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services