

OFFICIAL

Strathbogie Shire Council Waste Wise Events Policy

August 2023



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Waste Wise Events Policy

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Responsible Officer:	Environment and Waste Coordinator

PART 1 POLICY

1. PURPOSE

Events can generate large amounts of waste, with an abundance of disposable items and packaging distributed, some of which becomes litter. The general public expect the event environment to be free from litter so that it can be enjoyed by all. Litter left behind is unsightly, can pollute our streets and waterways and poses a risk to wildlife.

In addition, there is a growing awareness of the importance of avoiding and reducing waste, as this reduces the amount of waste that needs to be managed and lowers our impact on the environment. The community has come to expect effective waste management, such as through the provision of recycling and organics options.

This policy has been developed to raise the minimum standards for reducing and managing waste at events and stipulates Council's requirements to help achieve this. It targets items that are a significant risk to the environment and are easily avoidable/replaceable, whilst introducing additional requirements to improve waste management.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The objective of this policy is to minimise the impact of events on our natural environment, by banning the use of single use plastic items to ensure the best practice waste management that we practice in our homes is carried over and into the public space.

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to ensuring that waste is minimised and effectively managed at Council events, as well as at events that are held on land owned or managed by Council.

Council will educate event organisers to support the minimisation of waste at public events and to reduce the amount of waste to landfill.

All public events and functions held on Council owned or managed property must adhere to this policy.

3. APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to:

- All Council events, including internal and external events
- Commercial, community and not-for-profit events that are held on land owned/managed by Council and that require a Council event application form
- Events that receive sponsorship assistance from Council

Examples of events include (but are not limited to) festivals, ceremonies, exhibitions, parties, functions, and recreational activities.

This policy does not apply to items that are necessary to meet health and safety requirements and that have no practical alternative available.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibilities
Environment and Waste (Waste Management Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asist event organisers to order special events bins
Environment and Waste (Regional Waste Education Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support event organisers to implement the Waste Wise Guide and adhere to this policy
Events (Events and Business Relationships Support Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let event organisers know about the Waste Wise Policy and Guide Connect event organisers with appropriate Environment and Waste staff

5. PRINCIPLES

Waste prevention must always be considered alongside waste management, as by avoiding and reducing waste, there is less waste to manage and less of an impact on the environment.

For all events where this policy applies, the following requirements must be met:

5.1 Waste Management

- The number, size and locations of waste, recycling and organics bins must be sufficient for the expected number of event attendees
- Recycling and organics bins must be paired with rubbish bins and be clearly identifiable
- A waste management plan must be provided for all major events

5.2 Cleanliness of Site

- The event site must be left free of litter at the completion of the event

5.3 Prohibited Items

The use and distribution of the following items is not permitted.

Prohibited item	Alternative One	Alternative Two
Balloons at outdoor events	Flags, bubbles, and reusable decorations	
Plastic shopping bags (including lightweight and heavyweight)	Encourage patrons to bring a bag	Paper bags
Polystyrene food or beverage packaging	Washable and reusable cups, glassware, and plates	Replace with natural fibre products, paper bags, cardboard boxes, or other compostable options

Plastic straws	Recommend bring own reusable straw	Replace with paper straws
Plastic water bottles	Provide cups, jugs of water or access to tap water	Encourage patrons to bring their own reusable bottles
Plastic cutlery	Washable and reusable cutlery	Replace with natural fibres such as bamboo
Plastic plates	Washable and reusable plates	Paper plates or compostable options
Plastic drink stirrers and sticks	Washable and reusable teaspoons	Wooden sticks

These items are also banned as part of the following Victorian Government initiatives:

- Ban on single-use plastic ban (1 February 2023)
- Ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags (1 November 2019)
- Releasing balloons into the environment is littering and is illegal in Victoria (July 2021)

These items often become litter and can be easily avoided or replaced.

5.4 Packaging

- Any packaging distributed at the event should be recyclable via the waste collection service organised for the event
- Where possible, promote the use of aluminium cans over plastic and glass receptacles

6. ONGOING MANAGEMENT

This policy will be effective immediately following Council adoption. From July 2023 this policy will be enforced. Event organisers who are found to be not following the policy and are unable to show they are making changes to improve their practices will not be granted permission to hold future events on council property for up to twelve (12) months. Council sponsorship of the event may be removed if found to not be compliant with this policy.

Council officers will be available to provide assistance with the planning of events to meet the requirements of this policy.

A *Waste Wise Events Guide*, signage, and other useful documents to assist event organisers to meet their obligations are available on Council's website.

7. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Balloons	means balloons and their attachments (string, ribbon, or stick), regardless of what they are made from

Council	means the Strathbogie Shire Council
Council Event	means any internal or external event organised or run by Strathbogie Shire Council
Council Owned/Managed Land	means any public land or road that is owned or managed by Strathbogie Shire Council
Event	<p>means an organised occurrence held within the Strathbogie Shire Council where people assemble at a given time and location for the purpose of entertainment, recreation, community, ceremonial, or promotional purposes, either for free or for the payment of a fee, and includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals, fairs, and markets • Concerts, shows, film screening and exhibitions • One-off sporting events • Civic, cultural, or commemorative ceremonies or celebrations <p>This is inclusive of Council run events that are organised by Strathbogie Shire Council for members of the public or internally for Councillors and staff, Council supported events that are organised by local community groups but have either staff involvement or Council funding; and all public events and functions, markets, organised sporting and recreational activities held on land, in buildings or roads owned or managed by Strathbogie Shire Council.</p>
Plastic Shopping Bags	<p>Means any plastic shopping bag that is designed to be used for a short amount of time before being discarded. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightweight (single use) plastic shopping bags • Heavyweight plastic shopping bags • Degradable, biodegradable, or compostable plastic shopping bags

8. RELATED POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

The following Council, State, regional and national plans, and policies are relevant to this policy under each subtitle.

Environment Protection Act 2017

Strathbogie Shire Council – Event Application Forms

Strathbogie Shire Council – Sustainable Strathbogie 2030

Strathbogie Shire Council – Climate Change Action Plan 2022 – 27

Strathbogie Shire Council - Waste Wise Event Guide

Victorian Government’s Plastic Bag Ban

Waste Wise Events Policy Document 662906

9. POLICY REVIEW

Council may review this policy at any time and at least two years from the date of adoption.

10. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 AND THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT 2010

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality, and dignity.