



## Plastic Straws Working Group Meeting 2 Communiqué

The second meeting of the Plastic Straws Working Group was held on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

### Attendees:

Mike Rowe (Chair)	Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Janet Wagland	General Manager Community, Brightwater
Melissa Benson (proxy)	Business Support Pharmacist, Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Bronwynn Comerford	Sector Support Manager, Department of Communities
Sophie Keay (proxy)	Project Officer, Building the Talent Pool, National Disability Services
Brendan Cullinan	Executive Director, People with Disabilities (WA) Inc
David Stout	Director, Policy, National Retail Association
Rebecca Prince-Ruiz	Executive Director, Plastic Free Foundation
Lesley Nelson	Chief Executive Officer, South West Aboriginal Medical Service
Katinka Day	No Plastics in Nature Policy Manager, WWF Australia
Dr Tony Ryan	Physician, Australian Medical Association (WA) Inc
Esme Bowen	Chair, Carers Advisory Council WA
Christine Allen	Chief Executive Officer, Council on the Ageing WA
David McCallum	Acting Principal Allied Health Advisor, Department of Health
Leticia Grant	Senior Advocate, Developmental Disability WA

### Apologies

Bradley Woods	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Hotels Association WA
Julie Waylen	State Manager, Western Australia, National Disability Services
Matthew Tweedie	Director, Pharmacy Guild of Australia

### DWER Support

Sarah McEvoy	Executive Director Strategic Policy
Daniel Nevin	Director Strategic Policy
Chris Ryan (online)	Senior Manager Programs
Peter Musk	Manager Programs
Joanne O'Connor	Senior Environmental Officer
Bryce Pitts-Hill	Senior Program Officer

## **Invited guests**

Ian Harvey (online)	Director Strategy and Policy, Green Industries South Australia
Alana Potts (online)	Project Officer, Packaging and Plastics Reform, Green Industries South Australia
Marije Van Hemert	Advisor, Minister for Environment

## **Meeting summary**

At the second meeting:

- The Chair welcomed members including new membership from the Department of Health.
- A revised Code of Conduct was endorsed.
- A presentation from the Department of Health was provided, covering the infection, patient/consumer safety needs and COVID-19 considerations for plastic straws. Health implications will be considered in future discussions.
- The working group received a presentation on feedback provided by members following meeting one. Responses identified the impacts, opportunities, barriers and accessibility and environmental considerations for a phase-out of plastic straws. Feedback will inform discussions to ensure appropriate exemptions are introduced as part of phasing out plastic straws.
- A presentation was provided by the South Australian Government on their approach to developing regulatory exemptions in their legislation to ensure ongoing access for those requiring plastic straws on 1 March 2021.
- Working group members were asked to seek feedback and input from their members on the suitability of South Australia's exemptions being applied in Western Australia's regulations. Responses will be discussed at the third working group meeting.
- Working group members were requested to review materials for a community survey investigating plastic straw consumption behaviours and barriers to change. Results will be presented to the working group in future meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 May 2021.

## **Secretariat**

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