



Plastic Straws Working Group Meeting 3 Communiqué

The third meeting of the Plastic Straws Working Group was held on Tuesday 18 May 2021

Attendees:

In person

Sarah McEvoy (A/Chair)	Executive Director Strategic Policy, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Dr Tony Ryan	Physician, Australian Medical Association (WA) Inc
Janet Wagland	General Manager Community, Brightwater
Bronwynn Comerford	Sector Support Manager, Department of Communities
Julie Waylen	State Manager, WA; National Disability Services
Melissa Benson (proxy)	Business Support Pharmacist, Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Online

Michael Andrew (proxy)	Membership Manager, Australian Hotels Association WA
Esme Bowen	Chair, Carers Advisory Council WA
Christine Allen	Chief Executive Officer, Council on the Ageing WA
Mark Petrich (proxy)	Acting Principal Allied Health Advisor, Department of Health
Leticia Grant	Senior Advocate, Developmental Disability WA
David Stout	Director, Policy, National Retail Association
Rebecca Prince-Ruiz	Executive Director, Plastic Free Foundation
Brendan Cullinan	Executive Director, People with Disabilities (WA) Inc
Lesley Nelson	Chief Executive Officer, South West Aboriginal Medical Service
Kate Noble (proxy)	No Plastics in Nature Policy Manager, WWF Australia

Apologies

Mike Rowe (chair)	Director General, DWER
Matthew Tweedie	Director, Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Bradley Woods	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Hotels Association WA
David McCallum	Acting Principal Allied Health Advisor, Department of Health
Katinka Day	No Plastics in Nature Policy Manager, WWF

DWER Support

Daniel Nevin	Director Strategic Policy
Chris Ryan	Senior Manager Programs
Peter Musk	Manager Programs
Joanne O'Connor	Senior Environmental Officer
Amanda Thomas (online)	Senior Policy Officer

Invited guests

Kylie Hughes	Director, Waste Avoidance and Recovery Policy, Department of Environment and Science, Queensland
--------------	--

Meeting summary

At the third meeting:

- The A/Chair welcomed new members and existing members.
- The A/Chair advised members of the recent senior leadership changes in the WA Public Sector that will see the Directors General of DWER and the Department of Communities switch roles. Michelle Andrews will be DWER's new Director General from 31 May 2021.
- A presentation was provided by the Queensland Government on its approach and preparation for a ban on single-use plastic straws and other single-use plastics on 1 September 2021.
- The working group received a presentation on feedback provided by members following meeting two. Responses identified the benefits and limitations of potential approaches to:
 - the sale, supply or distribution of individual and packs of straws;
 - the identification of prescribed businesses (non-mandated) that can stock or supply plastics straws;
 - education and awareness raising actions and examples to increase understanding that plastic straws are required for some people in our community; and
 - the support required to adapt to the bans.
- Working group members discussed the proposed exemptions for Western Australia. This included consideration of the approaches applied by South Australia and Queensland.
- Working group members were asked to seek feedback and input from their members on the suitability of the draft exemptions.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 July 2021.

Secretariat

Telephone: 08 6364 7000

Email: plastic-action@dwere.wa.gov.au