

## Expanded polystyrene food packaging trays (meat and seafood)

Enforcement begins 1 September 2023

### What is proposed to be banned and when?

The sale and supply of expanded polystyrene (EPS) trays used in the sale of fresh produce was banned in Stage 1. Stage 2 bans EPS trays for raw meat and seafood.

The phase-out will commence on 27 February 2023. There will be a transition period of six months before the rules are enforced to allow businesses to use up supplies and source alternative products.

**Enforcement of the ban on EPS trays for raw meat and seafood packaging will commence on 1 September 2023.**



### Why ban EPS food packaging?

EPS food packaging is sent to landfill or littered as there are no recycling options in Western Australia.

It is a lightweight material easily transported by wind and water when littered and breaks into small pieces posing a hazard to wildlife.

### What is not included in the ban?

- foam boxes for home delivery of fresh food and pre-prepared meals where there is an opportunity for collection and reuse
- all business-to-business EPS packaging.



### What alternatives are there?

- EPS trays for meats or seafood can be replaced with polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene (PP) trays which can be recycled
- butchers commonly wrap meat products without a tray.

### Will it cost more to buy meat and seafood?

Compliant alternatives for EPS food trays may initially cost businesses slightly more but this is expected to decrease over time as more options become available.

## Who will the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all businesses, manufacturers, retailers and distributors that sell or supply EPS food packaging trays.

### Quick fact

The Australian Government committed to phasing out EPS for food and beverage packaging, including fresh food trays, as a problematic and unnecessary plastic, by December 2022.

