

Trays not included in Stage 1 bans

Enforcement begins 1 March 2024



What is proposed to be banned and when?

The sale and supply of disposable plastic trays not included in the Stage 1 ban will be phased out from 27 February 2023.

The ban includes packs of disposable trays sold by retailers as well as individual trays sold or supplied by hospitality businesses and other organisations. Examples include disposable sushi trays and bento boxes.

There will be a transition period of 12 months before the rules are enforced to allow businesses to use up supplies and source alternative products.

Enforcement of the ban on trays for food will commence on 1 March 2024.



Why ban plastic trays?

Disposable plastic trays are used in large quantities and are often littered. They usually contain food remnants which contaminates recycling streams.

What is not included in the ban?

- Plastic trays that form part of a pre-packaged product
- Compostable lined paperboard trays certified to Australian Standards for industrial (AS 4736:2006) or home (AS 5810:2010) composting
- Plastic trays designed for reuse
- Plastic trays for raw meat and seafood (e.g. from butchers and supermarket meat sections) – also see the fact sheet for EPS raw meat and seafood trays



What alternatives are there?

There are several compliant non-plastic or lined disposable tray alternatives. These are made from bagasse fibre and paperboard with both suitable for takeaway food.

Will it cost more to buy takeaway food?

Compliant alternatives for plastic trays may initially cost businesses slightly more but this is expected to decrease 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 disposable plastic food trays.