

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

Explanatory Notes

FOR

Amendment To Be Moved During Consideration In Detail By The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP

Title of the Bill

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020.

Objective of the Amendment

The objective of the amendment to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 (the Bill) is to include single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups as banned single-use plastic items.

Achievement of the Objective

To achieve the policy objective, clause 5 of the Bill is amended to include a takeaway food container or cup made, in whole or part, of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the definition of banned single-use plastic item.

Alternative Ways of Achieving Policy Objective

There are no alternative means of achieving the policy objective.

Estimated Cost for Government Implementation

There is no additional cost to government in implementing the amendment.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

The proposed amendment to the Bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) had previously undertaken public consultation between 13 March and 30 April 2020 on the proposed introduction of legislation to ban specific single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. Details of this consultation was released in a consultation report on 15 July 2020. The results of this initial consultation also supported the inclusion of EPS.

A previous version of the Bill was introduced in 2020 and lapsed because it was not debated prior to the 2020 Queensland General Election. The previous version of the Bill was referred to the former Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee (NRAIDEC) for consideration and a Committee report was tabled on 28 August 2020 (Report No. 8, 56th Parliament). The submissions to the NRAIDEC supported the inclusion of EPS. The report made five recommendations including that the Bill be passed and be amended to include EPS takeaway food containers in the first tranche of the banned single use items.

Between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021 further public consultation was undertaken by DES through an online survey and targeted retailer consultation about the inclusion of single-use EPS takeaway food containers and cups in the proposed ban of single-use plastic items in 2021. The amendment to clause 5 responds to the results of that consultation. Submissions to the Health and Environment Committee (the Committee) in 2021 about this Bill included support for the inclusion of EPS. This amendment also responds to the NRAIDEC Recommendation 2.

On 12 February 2021, the Committee tabled the Report No. 3, 57th Parliament about the Committee's consideration of the Bill. The Committee took the NRAIDEC report into consideration and included it as part of its report making one recommendation – that the Bill be passed.

NOTES ON PROVISIONS

Amendment 1 amends clause 5, to insert a new section 99GC(1)(a)(vi) to include a takeaway food container made, in whole or part, of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the definition of banned single-use plastic item.

Amendment 1 also inserts a new section 99GC(1)(a)(vii) to include a cup made, in whole or part, of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the definition of banned single-use plastic item.

The insertion of new 99GC (1)(a)(vi) and (vii) amends the definition of banned single-use plastic item to include EPS takeaway food containers and cups.