



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development



**CLOSED  
LOOP**

# Packaging and Waste Framework

Events ACT & Closed Loop

April 2025

# Who we are

---

## Events ACT

Events ACT is recognized as the lead agency for the development and delivery of major, local and community events in Canberra.

One responsibility of Events ACT is the planning, marketing and delivering a suite of significant events for the city

## Closed Loop

Closed Loop is a circular economy solutions provider working with businesses to improve their environmental impact.

Over the past 20 years Closed Loop has delivered sustainable experiences across various industries such as hospitality, entertainment and sports

# Introduction

This packaging and waste framework is to set out what disposable packaging can and cannot be used onsite at events run by Events ACT.



## Purpose

The following framework ensures that the correct disposable packaging is used at this event so that it can be composted, recycled, upcycled or repurposed locally to avoid ending up as waste in landfill. What you may have been used previously might no longer be accepted for use at this event.



## Products

We understand that as vendors you may wish to present your food in a particular way, so we have tried to feature a wide variety of options (and locations to source them!) that meet our sustainability criteria and will hopefully meet your packaging requirements.



## Plan

We've provided lists and we can discuss with you whether your current packaging is accepted or help you source packaging if needed. Planning your packaging well in advance before arriving on site will ensure that you can trade without delay.



# Kraft Range

All takeaway packaging should be Kraft as it is made from sustainable Food Grade paper.

Packaging (if not overly soiled) can be recycled.



# Approved Packaging | Kraft Range

Product	Details
Kraft Clamshells	Includes Kraft Burger Boxes
Kraft Chip Cups	
Kraft Boxes	Includes Kraft Pizza boxes, Dinner Boxes, Snack Boxes, etc
Kraft Carry Boxes	
Kraft Open Trays	Includes Tray 1, 2, 3, 4 ,4 and Hot Dog Boats



# Cutlery and Accessories

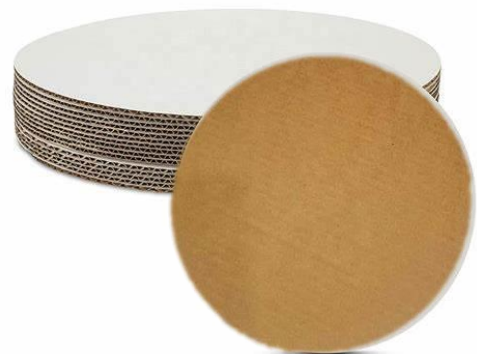
Wooden cutlery is sustainably sourced, and commercially compostable.

It is the better choice to reduce single-use plastics and bioplastic.



# Approved Packaging | Other and Accessories

Product	Details
Paper Plates (uncoated)	Ensure you choose an option that is 100% paper that is uncoated
Wooden Cutlery	Ensure you choose an option that is 100% wood that is uncoated
100% Paper, Greaseproof Paper	This grease proof paper is a fantastic way to turn you Kraft Tray or Box into a great branding moment whilst adding an extra layer of protection for the food
Paper Napkins	
Cardboard Discs	Great alternative for serving pizzas.



# Drinks and Accessories

Choosing beverage packaging can be difficult, but we're making it easy by limiting the options to packaging that can be recycled and dealt with in the region

Paper cups, paper straws , paper accessories are the only drink and accessories allowed.

The only exception at this stage is for rPET 1 cups and lids which Closed Loop will sort and recycle locally.



# Approved Packaging | Drinks and Accessories

Product	Details
Paper Cups	Aqueous Lined Cups with Home Compostable Certification preferred, any paper/coffee cups accepted. We encourage you to look for the Drop Off Only ARL logo when purchasing.
Carry Trays	Includes Kraft or Paper Pulp carry trays.
Kraft Coffee Sleeves	Includes Kraft or Paper Pulp coffee sleeves.



# Approved Packaging | Drinks and Accessories cont.

Product	Details
Paper Straws	No plastic or PLA straws allowed.
RPET # Cups & Lids	Plastic #1 RPET and #5 RPET cups and lids are also acceptable.
Plastic Soft Drink Bottles	Only soft drinks in aluminium cans are allowed.



# Non-Approved Packaging and Accessories

The following two pages set out what disposable packaging cannot be used onsite at Events ACT run events.

These products cannot be recycled, composted or upcycled locally, and will end up as waste in landfill.

The Australian Government is phasing out and banning certain hard-to-recycle plastics and single use items in phases.

Not using these products will reduce waste, improve our recycling initiatives and increase the event's sustainability and landfill diversion goals.



Alternatives for the products listed can be found within our Approved Packaging List.



# Non-Approved Packaging

Product	Details	Australian Government Status
Bagasse Packaging*	As this product may contain <u>PFAS</u> , it cannot be composted locally This packaging is also known as Bamboo/Sugarcane Packaging	N/A
Bamboo Cutlery*	Avoid bamboo and choose uncoated wooden items instead	N/A
PLA or Non-Recyclable Plastic Cups*	Refers to Plastic #7 cups made from PLA (Bio-Plastic)	N/A
PLA Packaging**	This can include paper or cardboard packaging that has a PLA lining	N/A
Plastic Cutlery	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2021
Plastic Plates and Bowls	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2023
Plastic Straws	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2022

\* Although these items are not banned by ACT Government they have been included in the not-approved list as they cannot be recycled, composted, or upcycled at this event and will go to landfill.

\*\* PLA lined paper cups are accepted, but all other PLA packaging will go to landfill.

\*\*\* Previously the *Plastic Reduction Act 2021*.

# Non-Approved Packaging continued

Product	Details	Australian Government Status
Polystyrene Food and Drink Packaging	Includes expanded polystyrene (EPS) Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2021
Plastic Drink Stirrers	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2021
Plastic with pro-degradant additives	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act</i> ***	Banned 1 July 2022
Pre-formed PVC food trays and containers*		N/A
Lightweight plastic bags (less than 35 microns in thickness)	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> ***	Banned 2011
Heavyweight and boutique plastic bags (greater than 35 microns in thickness)	Banned in the ACT under the <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> ***	Banned January 1 2024

\* Although these items are not banned by ACT Government they have been included in the not-approved list as they cannot be recycled, composted, or upcycled at this event and will go to landfill.

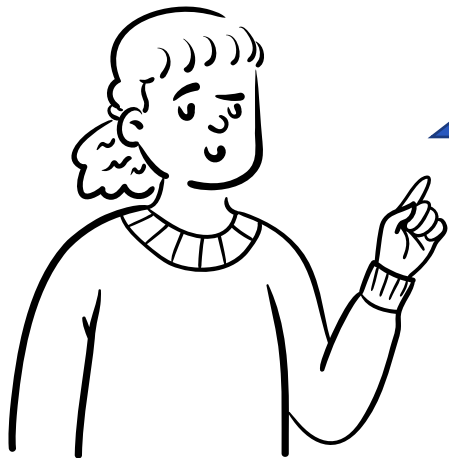
\*\* PLA lined paper cups are accepted, but all other PLA packaging will go to landfill.

\*\*\* Previously the *Plastic Reduction Act 2021*.

# Plastic Bottle Restrictions

To support the circular economy and to reduce unnecessary plastics, Events ACT are restricting the number of single use plastic drink containers available for purchase onsite and where possible replacing these with aluminum cans.

This restriction on plastic bottles onsite will be implemented through a phased approach and from 2024 we are restricting SOFT DRINKS BEING SOLD IN PLASTIC BOTTLES.



## Did you know?

Aluminum's recyclability contributes to a lower environmental footprint over its lifecycle compared to many plastics, which can be challenging to recycle and often end up in landfills.



# Plastic Bottle Restrictions continued

**✗ BANNED**

## Plastic Soft - Drink Bottles

Soft drinks served in PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) will not be permitted to be sold at ACT events.



**✓ APPROVED FOR USE**

## Water Bottles and Juice Bottles

Single Use PET bottles containing water or juice will be permitted, however alternatives (such as cans or cartons) are encouraged.



## Soft Drink - Cans

Soft Drinks may only be sold in Aluminium Cans at events run by Events ACT.



# What about Food Waste – onsite options

Minimize food waste by organizing food donations / pick-ups of your excess ingredients/stock. For food scraps that need to be binned, please ensure all packaging is removed prior to waste food being placed in the composting bins available back of house.



For any food that has been prepared and not sold and can't be kept for following days trade, the hard-working staff (volunteers & paid from all suppliers) are always happy to help reduce the waste – please bring it to the site compound for distribution to the volunteers and site staff.



This event will have organic waste bins onsite. These bins will be able to accept purely food waste (with no contamination).

# What about Food Waste – beyond the site

If you are struggling to find an appropriate company willing to accept your donations or are unsure where to begin with finding them, feel free to reach out to the Closed Loop team and we can work with you to find the correct solution | [info@closedloop.com.au](mailto:info@closedloop.com.au)



Oz Harvest

Website: [www.ozharvest.org](http://www.ozharvest.org)  
Ph: 1800 108 006  
Email: [info@ozharvest.org](mailto:info@ozharvest.org)



Food Bank

Website: [www.foodbank.org.au](http://www.foodbank.org.au)  
Ph: 02 9756 3099  
Email: [office@foodbanknsw.org.au](mailto:office@foodbanknsw.org.au)



FareShare



Website: [www.fareshare.net.au](http://www.fareshare.net.au)  
Ph: 03 9428 0044  
Email: [info@fareshare.net.au](mailto:info@fareshare.net.au)

# WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDE



# Will you produce waste at the event?

Closed Loop manage all waste at the event and are making it simple so you know what can be recycled, upcycled and composted at the event.

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT EVENT 	TAKE THESE ITEMS HOME 
<b>Paper and Cardboard</b> Please break down any boxes so that they are flat and try keep it clean.	Polystyrene boxes
<b>Glass</b> For back of house only i.e. bars, green rooms and vendor ingredients.	Wooden Pallets
<b>Soft Plastic</b> Try and keep it clean as we can upcycle into a new product and avoid taking it to landfill.	Milk Crates
<b>Food Waste and Organics</b>	Oil Drums
<b>Aluminium and Steel Cans</b>	Treated Timber
<b>Plastic 1's, 2's and 5's</b>	
<b>Oil (in provided Oil Drums)</b>	
<b>All food and beverage packing in this framework</b>	



# Front of House Waste

This is what the event attendees can see and use.

## General Waste



- Food & snack wrappers
- Nappies
- Food waste
- Coloured or dirty soft plastics

## Mixed Recycling



- Plastic bottles
- Clean plastic containers
- Steel & aluminium cans
- Newspapers, paper & magazines
- Cardboard
- Clean, clear soft plastics

## Simply Cups



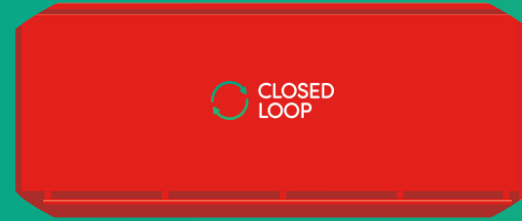
- Coffee cups
- Paper cups
- Ice-cream/gelato cups
- Donut cups
- Slushie cups

# Back of House Waste

Closed Loop hand-sort all waste behind the scenes and have a variety of skips and bins to hold the below waste streams.

- Cardboard (flattened) & Paper Recycling
- Glass (Sorted Clear, Green, Brown)
- Soft Plastic
- General Waste
- Food Waste & Organics
- Aluminium & Steel Cans
- Plastic 1's, 2's & 5s
- Tetra Pak (such as alternative milk cartons)
- Packaging\*
- Paper Cups

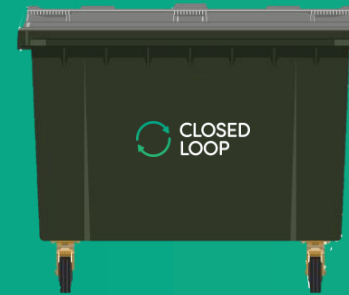
**WE DO NOT ACCEPT:** Oil containers, Wooden Pallets, Milk Crates or Polystyrene. These must be removed by the vendors.



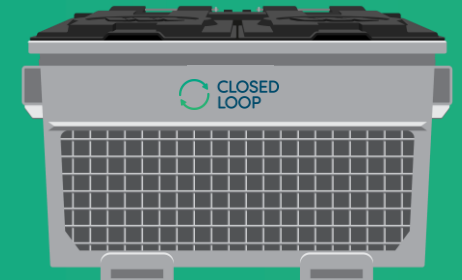
30m<sup>3</sup>, 23m<sup>3</sup> & 15m<sup>3</sup> Hook Bins



9m<sup>3</sup> Skip Bins



1100L Wheelie Bins



4.5m Cage Bin



1t Bags



\*see event approved packaging list

# Single-use plastics **BAN**



**These single-use plastic items will be banned in the ACT**

**From 1 July 2023:**

- ✗ single-use plastic plates and bowls
- ✗ expanded polystyrene loose fill packaging and trays
- ✗ plastic microbeads in personal care and cleaning products

**From 1 January 2024:**

- ✗ heavyweight and boutique plastic bags (greater than 35 microns in thickness)

**Items already banned in the ACT**

- ✗ single-use plastic cutlery
- ✗ single-use plastic stirrers
- ✗ expanded polystyrene food and drink containers
- ✗ single-use plastic straws (with exemptions for those who need them)
- ✗ plastic cotton buds sticks
- ✗ oxo-degradable plastics



**ACT**  
Government

**Find out more**  
[www.act.gov.au/single-use-plastics](http://www.act.gov.au/single-use-plastics)



# Thank you.

Any questions? Please email  
[event.vendors@act.gov.au](mailto:event.vendors@act.gov.au)