



Our ref: DWERDG75/22
Enquiries: Stuart Clarke, Ph (08) 6364 6718

Mr David Stout
Director Policy
National Retail Association

Email: d.stout@nra.net.au

Dear Mr Stout

TRANSITIONAL EXEMPTIONS FOR LINED PAPERBOARD CUPS AND BOWLS

I refer to recent discussions between the National Retail Association (NRA) and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as part of the NRA's Retailer and Supplier Engagement Program.

The *Environmental Protection Regulations Amendment (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons Regulations 2021)* phase out a range of plastic items including bowls, cutlery, cups, plates, straws, stirrers, expanded polystyrene food containers, plastic bags with handles, and helium balloon releases. Enforcement provisions commence on 1 July 2022 for all items other than cups, which are scheduled to commence on 1 October 2022.

The bans do not apply to lined paperboard bowls and cups certified to Australian composting standards (AS4736:2006 for industrial composting, or AS5810:2010 for home composting).

I understand that retailers and suppliers have advised you that there will not be adequate availability of these approved alternatives before the enforcement provisions commence. I propose that a transitional exemption be provided for lined paperboard products that meet European Union composting standards while Australian certification is obtained. I would expect evidence that an application for Australian certification has been sought. I may grant exemptions for banned items from 1 July 2022.

I welcome the NRA's communication of this letter to retailers and suppliers and thank you for your ongoing support for actions to reduce plastic in Western Australia.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Andrews
DIRECTOR GENERAL

08 February 2022