**Sample newsletter/article content**

**Free Support for WA businesses preparing for plastic bans**

From 2023 to 2025 more plastic items, such as non-compostable produce bags, coffee cups, and takeaway containers, are being banned across Western Australia in an effort to reduce plastic pollution. The bans apply to all organisations including retailers, suppliers, hospitality businesses, importers, not-for-profits, government, online marketplaces, and community groups.

The Stage 2 Plan for Plastics came int­o effect on 1 March 2023 with bans on supply coming into effect in 4 stages.

The first ban came into effect on 1 September 2023 and included items such as plastic microbeads, degradable plastic additives, cotton bud sticks and loose-fill expanded plastic packaging. The next ban includes disposable plastic coffee cups, cup lids and unlidded food trays and comes into effect on 1 March 2024. From 1 September 2024, plastic containers, bowls and trays used in eat-in or takeaway food services, and non-compostable produce bags for fresh fruit and vegetables, will be banned. Finally, moulded expanded plastic packaging will be phased out by 1 July 2025.

It is important to note that ‘plastic’ includes bio-based or compostable plastics in any amount or type, including paper items with plastic coatings or linings (limited exemptions apply for certified compostable items).

The National Retail Association have assisted businesses with 14 bans over the past 5 years and have been engaged by the WA Government to provide a range of free resources and services to help WA businesses to prepare for upcoming bans.

The free support services include a [user-friendly website](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au/) with downloadable factsheets and signage, a toll-free business hotline, online information sessions, supplier communications, and a dedicated team visiting retailers and hospitality businesses over coming months.

National Retail Association Policy Manager, Ebony Johnson, said retailers and their suppliers are highly supportive of environmental initiatives but that many need support and advice to ensure a smooth transition.

“We find small and medium businesses appreciate the personalised support and resources, given that they are busy running their business, serving customers, and supporting their staff.”

“In 2024 we’ll be visiting over 4000 retailers across roughly 300 retail centres and precincts throughout the state providing advice, factsheets & signage, and answering questions about the regulations.” Ms Johnson said.

The team will visit precincts across Greater Perth as well as regional cities and towns, such as Kalgoorlie, Broome, Bunbury, Geraldton, Port Hedland, and many more.

“Businesses should prepare for the next bans now by considering reusable items or sustainable disposable alternatives, and by running down stocks of banned items and avoiding items that will be banned soon.”

“We encourage all impacted retailers, hospitality outlets, suppliers and manufacturers access the free services or contact our team for assistance.”

For more information, business owners should visit [plasticsbanwa.com.au](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au/), email [sustainability@nationalretail.org.au](mailto:sustainability@nationalretail.org.au) or call the NRA’s Hotline 1800 817 723.

Non-business organisations are encouraged to visit the WA Government website for community resources, information and advice or contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation at [plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au).

**Sample website content**

**WA plastic bans – comprehensive info for businesses available**

From 2023 to 2025 more plastic items, such as non-compostable produce bags, coffee cups, and takeaway containers, are being banned across Western Australia in an effort to reduce plastic pollution. The bans apply to all organisations including retailers, suppliers, hospitality businesses, importers, not-for-profits, government, online marketplaces, and community groups.

**About the WA ban**

The [Stage 2 Plan for Plastics](https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/western-australias-plan-plastics-stage-2) came into effect on 1 March 2023 with bans on supply coming into effect in 4 stages between 2023 and 2025.

The ban applies to all businesses and suppliers, as well as community/not-for-profit organisations, regardless of whether items are provided free or sold. Please also note that ‘plastic’ includes bio-based or compostable plastics in any amount or type, including paper items with plastic coatings or linings (limited exemptions apply for certified compostable items).

The first ban came into effect on 1 September 2023 and included items such as EPS cups and trays, plastic microbeads, degradable plastics, plastic cotton bud sticks and loose-fill expanded plastic packaging. The next ban includes disposable plastic coffee cups, cup lids and unlidded food trays and comes into effect on 1 March 2024. From 1 September 2024, plastic containers, bowls and trays used in eat-in or takeaway food services, and non-compostable produce bags for fresh fruit and vegetables, will be banned. Finally, moulded expanded plastic packaging will be phased out by 1 July 2025. Please note that it is an offence to provide false or misleading information about Stage 2 banned items since 1 March 2023.

[Detailed information about what’s banned and when >](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au/items/)

**Help for businesses**

The [National Retail Association](https://www.nationalretail.org.au/) have assisted businesses with 14 bans over the past 5 years and have been engaged by the WA Government to provide a range of free resources and services to help WA businesses to prepare for upcoming bans.

The free support services include a user-friendly website with downloadable factsheets and signage, a toll-free business hotline, online information sessions, supplier communications, and a dedicated team visiting retailers and hospitality businesses over coming months.

In addition, the WA Government and the National Retail Association have created a [Comprehensive Guide for Business](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au/resources/) which covers all past, current and upcoming bans in a single booklet (available on website).

Access the free support services:

* Visit the website for comprehensive information, factsheets and signage: [https://plasticsbanwa.com.au](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au/)
* Free online information sessions for businesses: <https://bit.ly/wa-plastics-ban>
* Toll-free business advice hotline: 1800 817 723 or [sustainability@nationalretail.org.au](mailto:sustainability@nationalretail.org.au)

**Other bans**

The National Retail team works across multiple bans and sustainability initiatives impacting businesses across Australia and New Zealand. More information:

* Summary of single-use plastic bans: <http://bit.ly/3r3sz69>
* Online information sessions: <https://bit.ly/nr-sustainability>
* Subscribe to the NRA’s sustainability updates: <https://bit.ly/3I1z3VN>