

Waste Wise Events Policy

(A4021776)

1. Policy Statement

Frankston City Council is committed to ensuring that waste is minimised and effectively managed at Council events, as well as at events that are held on land owned or managed by Council.

2. Reason for Policy

Events can generate large amounts of waste, with an abundance of disposable items and packaging distributed, some of which becomes litter. The general public expect the event environment to be free from litter so that it can be enjoyed by all. Litter left behind is unsightly, can pollute our streets and waterways, and poses a risk to wildlife.

In addition, there is a growing awareness of the importance of avoiding and reducing waste, as this reduces the amount of waste that needs to be managed and lowers our impact on the environment. The community has come to expect effective waste management, such as through the provision of recycling options.

This policy has been developed to raise the minimum standards for reducing and managing waste at events and stipulates Council's requirements to help achieve this. It targets items that are a significant risk to the environment and are easily avoidable/ replaceable, whilst introducing additional requirements to improve waste management.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Council events, including internal and external events
- Commercial, community and not-for-profit events that are on land owned/ managed by Council and that require a Council event application form.

Examples of events include (but are not limited to) festivals, ceremonies, exhibitions, parties, functions and recreational activities.

This policy does not apply to items that are necessary to meet health and safety requirements and that have no practical alternative available (see section 8. *Exemptions*).

Those involved in the planning, running or approving of events that sit outside of the scope of this policy are encouraged to voluntarily adhere to the principles and general intent of the policy to minimise and effectively manage event waste.

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4. Principles

Waste prevention must always be considered alongside waste management, as by avoiding and reducing waste, there is less waste to manage and less of an impact on the environment.

For all events where this policy applies, the following requirements must be met:

4.1 Waste Management

- The number, size and locations of waste and recycling bins must be sufficient for the expected number of event attendees
- Recycling bins must be paired with rubbish bins and clearly identifiable as recycling (e.g. yellow bin lid/ cap plus recycling symbol and information about what can go in the recycling bin)
- If no recycling bins are present, the waste collected must be sorted into waste and recycling after the event so that recyclable items can be recovered and recycled
- A waste management plan must be provided for all major events (see section 13. *Definitions*)

4.2 Cleanliness of Site

- The event site must be left free of litter at the completion of the event

4.3 Prohibited Items

The use and distribution of the following items are **NOT** permitted:

- balloons at outdoor events (see section 13. *Definitions*)
- plastic shopping bags (including lightweight and heavyweight plastic shopping bags) (see section 13. *Definitions*)
- polystyrene food or beverage packaging (e.g. foam cups, bowls and hamburger boxes)

These items often become litter and can be easily avoided or replaced.

4.4 Restricted Items

The use and distribution of disposable straws **MUST** be restricted by:

- storing them out of the customers' line of sight
- providing them **only** on request

Plastic straws cannot be recycled and can have a devastating impact on marine life when littered. However they are occasionally needed by people with disabilities.

4.5 Packaging

- Where feasible, any packaging distributed at the event should be recyclable via the waste collection service organised for the event

Council is committed to providing access to free unpackaged drinking water (such as via a South East Water Hydration Station) at its major events to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles. Council will also encourage patrons of these events to avoid waste by bringing their own reusable bag, water bottle and coffee cup.

5. Transition Period

This policy will be effective immediately following Council adoption.

There will be a transition period of twelve months from the date of policy adoption. This will allow time for event organisers, stallholders, food and/or beverage vendors, event entertainment providers as well as Council staff to adjust to the new requirements and comply fully with the policy.

During this transition period, Council officers will be available to provide assistance with the planning of events to meet the requirements set out in this policy. The implementation of this policy will be monitored throughout its transition period and reviewed at the end of the transition period.

6. Authorisation

This Policy is managed by the Sustainable Assets Department, and is approved by Frankston City's Mayor and Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO):



Mayor, Frankston City
in accordance with Frankston City Council resolution at its Ordinary Council meeting of 2 September 2019.



CEO, Frankston City Council

7. Revision date

This policy will be reviewed within two years from the date of policy adoption, following the transition period. The policy will remain in effect until it is revised or revoked by a resolution of Council.

8. Exemptions

An exemption may be obtained in relation to an item which is necessary to meet health and safety requirements and that has no practical alternative available.

A request for an exemption must be made in writing to Council's Waste Minimisation Officer, phone 1300 322 322 or email info@frankston.vic.gov.au

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9. Roles and responsibilities

Implementation of this policy is the shared responsibility of all those involved in the planning, running or approving of events within the scope of this policy.

Council will lead by example in its adherence to this policy and will support event organisers, stallholders, food and/or beverage vendors and entertainment providers to be aware of and comply with this policy.

Council staff will:

- Only provide a 'letter of no objection' for commercial, community and not-for-profit events on Council owned/ managed land if they meet the requirements set out in this policy
- Ensure that permission for events is only granted to event organisers, stall holders, food and/or beverage vendors and event entertainment providers that:
 - agree to the terms and conditions (which will be updated to reflect this policy)
 - demonstrate how they will adhere to this policy
- Participate in training on the implementation of the policy
- Undertake annual spot checks to assess compliance with the policy
- Provide educational support on request and offer it to non-compliant event organisers, stall holders, food and/or beverage vendors and event entertainment providers, to assist with compliance and further waste minimisation, where appropriate
- For Council events, adhere to this policy in full

It is the responsibility of the event organiser to ensure that all relevant contractors, employees and individuals associated with the event comply with this policy.

Event organisers, stall holders, food and/or beverage vendors and event entertainment providers are expected to:

- Adhere to this policy in full
- Contact Council with any questions about this policy, to request an exemption and/or for educational support to fulfil the requirements set out in this policy

10. Policy non-compliance

Non-compliance with this policy may negatively affect the natural environment and consequently individuals and the broader community. This could compromise nature and society's ability to flourish and also impact on environmental sustainability, as outlined in this policy. Non-compliance may also negatively affect Council's ability to continuously improve and exercise its legal and moral obligations.

Non-compliance with this policy will be addressed with the provision of educational support to help prevent the issue/s arising again in future events. Repeat non-compliances may result in the

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individual/ group/ organisation/ company being denied permission to participate in future events on land owned/ managed by Council in the same/ a similar capacity.

The Victorian Government's ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags will be enforced by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and supported by community reporting mechanisms. Fines will apply to those that fail to comply with this legislated ban.

Litter left behind at the event site following the event, can result in the event organiser losing their bond.

11. Related documents

- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Frankston City Council - Event Application Forms
- Frankston City Council's Environmental Sustainability Policy 2010
- Frankston City Council's Event Planning Guide (includes guide to waste minimisation and management)
- Frankston City Council's Greening Our Future Environment Strategy (2014 – 2024)
- Frankston City Council's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (2015 – 2020)
- Frankston City Council - Terms and conditions for stallholders, food and/or beverage vendors and entertainment providers at Council's major events
- Local Government Act 1989
- National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources 2018
- Victorian Government's Plastic Bag Ban – Retailer Transition Program online information

12. Implementation of the Policy

This policy (in conjunction with the related documents outlined in section 11.0 *Related Documents*) will be used to assist in the planning of Council events and provide a basis for reviewing event application forms.

Annual spot checks will be undertaken to assess compliance. Educational support will be provided on request and offered to non-compliant event organisers, stall holders, food and/or beverage vendors and event entertainment providers to assist with compliance to this policy and if appropriate, further waste minimisation.

13. Definitions

Balloons: Balloons and their attachments (the string, ribbon or stick), regardless of what they are made from. When littered, all types of balloons, including those claimed to be biodegradable, remain in the environment long enough to cause entanglement, injury and death to pets and wildlife.

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Council event: Any internal or external event organised or run by Frankston City Council.

Council owned/ managed land: Any public land or road that is owned or managed by Frankston City Council.

Event: Any planned occasion that involves a gathering of two or more people in a certain place at a certain time.

Event application form: A form that is submitted to Council to host or run an event in a public space on Council owned/ managed land within the Frankston municipality, to ensure that the event is safe and well run. Event application forms are currently required for major events (over 500 participants and/or spectators) and minor events (under 500 participants and/or spectators) and are required when the event organiser wants to reserve a site for their exclusive use. The majority of major and minor events are outdoor events. The conditions under which an event application form must be submitted to Council may change over time and is at Council's discretion.

Major event: Any event on Council owned or managed land with more than 500 participants and/or spectators.

Outdoor events: Any event or part of an event on Council owned or managed land that is not inside a building. This includes (but is not limited to) events in reserves, parks, city centre and at the beach.

Plastic shopping bags: Any plastic shopping bag that is designed to only be used for a short amount of time before being discarded. This includes:

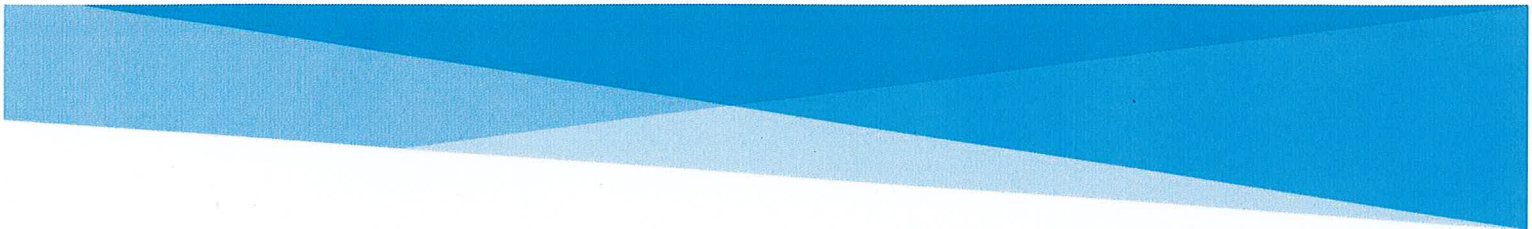
- Lightweight (single-use) plastic shopping bags – less than 36 microns thick
- Heavyweight (thick) plastic shopping bags – bags heavier in weight than single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags, at least 36 microns thick (e.g. show bags and bags typically given out by department and boutique stores)
- Degradable, biodegradable or compostable plastic shopping bags, including those that meet the Australian Standard for Industrial Composting (AS4736).

Recyclable: Items that can be recycled and made into new products. Recycling reduces the need for raw materials that are extracted from the environment, refined and processed to make new products. This means that there is typically less damage to the natural environment, as well as less air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling also reduces waste to landfill and can help create jobs in the recycling industry.

Victorian Government's ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags: This legislative ban, which will commence from November 2019 makes it illegal for:

- a retailer to supply a lightweight (single-use) plastic shopping bag, including those that are degradable, biodegradable or compostable

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- a person who supplies or manufactures plastic bags to give false or misleading information about banned bags

It applies to all retailers, including supermarkets, greengrocers, bakeries, pharmacies, clothes stores, restaurants, cafes, markets, food outlets and online stores.

Waste collection service: Service for the collection and transportation of rubbish for disposal in landfill and/ or the collection and transportation of recyclables for recycling.

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