

For Immediate Release

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## South Australia Leads in Reducing Polluting Single Use Plastics

The Boomerang Alliance of 51 community organisations has welcomed the introduction of South Australia's law banning polluting single-use plastic takeaway items. These include plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery as well as polystyrene, cups, bowls and containers.

'Once again, South Australia is the first state or territory in Australia to act on a serious litter problem. We expect to see a noticeable reduction in plastic litter and waste and less plastic pollution of the ocean, as a result,' said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance.

'Other states and territories can now follow the South Australian example. Both the ACT and Queensland plan similar legislation, and NSW are currently seeking public views on a plastics ban. Victoria is yet to move.'

These banned items (along with coffee cups and lids, other cups and heavyweight plastic bags) are amongst the most littered items found in South Australia, and they all have a better alternative. In 2019 the Clean Up Australia Report (SA) found that 36% of all litter was plastic, with takeaway packaging items a majority part of that figure. All these plastic items are a threat to wildlife and the environment.

Switching away from single use plastic takeaway is overwhelmingly supported in the community. A recent IPSOS International poll in 2019 (Throwaway World) found that *69% of Australians favoured a ban on single-use plastics, and as soon as possible.*

'As the Boomerang Alliance Plastic Free SA program is demonstrating cafes and food outlets want to do the right thing and are able to switch away from these single use plastics.'

'The PF SA program offers a service that allows cafes to easily transition away from single-use plastics. In its first six months of operations, 46 cafes have joined in Adelaide, eliminating over 38,000 single-use plastic items.'

Information for café and food outlets on how to switch from single-use plastics, and including for takeaway and delivery service under the current COVID19 lockdown, is available at [www.plasticfreesa.org](http://www.plasticfreesa.org)

\*The Boomerang Alliance PFP program is funded by the South Australian Government.