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South Australia Bans Single-Use Plastic Items from September

August 15, 2025

– Categories: General News



South Australia is set to phase out several single-use plastic items, including takeaway soy sauce fish packets, as part of its ongoing environmental measures. The new regulations will come into effect on September 1, targeting plastic straws attached to drink containers, cutlery included with pre-packaged foods, and plastic fruit stickers.

Deputy Premier Susan Close said the bans aim to encourage South Australians to adopt reusable, recyclable, or compostable alternatives. “South Australians are increasingly

seeking ways to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics,” she said. “These measures support the environment while helping businesses transition toward sustainable options.”

The state government has committed to assisting local businesses in adjusting to the new requirements. Programs are in place to guide enterprises in replacing single-use plastics with eco-friendly alternatives. Many businesses in South Australia have already implemented reusable or compostable solutions in their operations.

Since 2021, local companies have removed more than eight million single-use plastic items from circulation, according to government records. Past bans in the state have included plastic stemmed cotton buds, pizza savers, single-use plates and bowls, plastic bags, balloon sticks and ties, plastic confetti, bread tags, and single-use coffee cups and lids.

Elliott Horner, venue and events manager at Evergreen Deli in Adelaide Botanic Garden, welcomed the latest initiative. “Being located within the Botanic Garden, environmental awareness is central to our operations,” he said. “Moving away from single-use plastics aligns with our efforts to protect the natural environment we are part of.”

Other Australian states, including New South Wales and Victoria, have also introduced measures to reduce single-use plastics, reflecting a broader national trend toward environmental sustainability.

The South Australian government emphasizes that the bans are not intended to penalize businesses but to promote long-term environmental benefits and encourage innovation in sustainable product alternatives. The move also aims to reduce the impact of plastic waste on local ecosystems and wildlife.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to explore reusable or compostable products as replacements for items affected by the ban. By taking proactive steps, South Australia hopes to continue reducing the environmental footprint of plastic waste while supporting businesses through the transition.