

ELECTED MEMBERS' BRIEFING SESSION COVER SHEET

Date of Workshop: 07 March 2022
Subject: Single Use Plastics
Department: City Development

Presenter(s): Taryn Hansen- Plastic Free SA

Session: Open to the public

Attachments: *Attachment 1 (Single Use Plastics)*

PURPOSE

To present Elected Members with the details of the *Plastic Free Places Program*, run by Plastic Free SA, which aims to engage with local business precincts to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics.

DISCUSSION

On 9 September 2020, State Parliament passed the *Single-Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020 (Act)*.

Under the Act, there is a staged approach to implementation. From 1 March 2021, single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers were prohibited from sale, supply or distribution. Similarly, from 1 March 2022, this has been expanded and polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers have been prohibited.

Council's Economic Development Growth Strategy 2021-25 (Strategy) and Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan 2021-25 (Plan) have both identified the importance of reducing reliance on single-use plastics (including plastic bags) and encouraging sustainable business practices.

The education of retailers within Unley to assist in the reduction of provision of single-use plastic bags will be addressed through complementary actions set out in both the Strategy and Plan. It should be noted, however, that whilst Council can and will advocate for and encourage this initiative via implementing its Strategy and Plan, it does not possess any legislative powers, nor have the jurisdiction to enforce the non-use of single-use plastics or plastic bags within the City. This is the responsibility of the South Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

A great first step in Council providing assistance to its business precincts regarding this matter is to consider engaging with Plastic Free SA insofar as rolling out their Program within the City. The Program is free to join for businesses and Council could partner with the Traders Associations in promoting and supporting the Program through Plastic Free SA.

Key Considerations

Ms Hansen's presentation will outline the following key considerations:

- Introduction to Plastic Free SA and their services.
- Key items to target with businesses.
- Understanding the South Australian legislation.
- Plastic free precincts in South Australia.
- Resusable and compostable alternatives.
- Sustainable options and reducing cost and waste.
- How Unley can support and the support currently provided by other councils.

Preparation for Members

A copy of the presentation to be made by Ms Hansen on the night is attached however, please refrain from distributing the document until after the briefing. Elected Members are encouraged to review the presentation and ask questions, or seek clarification regarding the Program and Council's involvement.

The Administration is also aware of a recent submission by KESAB to the Discussion Paper titled *Turning the Tide – The Future of Single-Use Plastic in South Australia* released by Green Industries SA. The Administration will consider this document to ascertain what further actions Council can take regarding this matter, in providing its advocacy role.

Specific Questions for Members

- Do Elected Members consider the *Plastic Free Places Program* to be ideal for the City of Unley?
- Should the City of Unley partner with Plastic Free SA to roll out the Program within the Unley business precincts?

Should Elected Members provide feedback on the night that this Program should be implemented within the City, the Administration will present a report to Council for its consideration on the matter.

SPEAKERS

Ms Taryn Hansen, Plastic Free SA.

THE BRIEFING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC