

TURNING THE TIDE ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SINGLE
USE PLASTICS DISCUSSION
PAPER

SUBMISSION
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Turning the tide on single use plastic products

Submission Summary

The Detmold Group (Detmold) is a packaging manufacturer, specialising in sustainable paper and board packaging. Detmold is a private, family owned company with its global head office in Adelaide, South Australia. Detmold has been operating for over 70 years, employs over 3,000 people, of which 350 are based in South Australia, and has manufacturing operations in Australia, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and South Africa.

Detmold are recognised as a leader in packaging sustainability, winning multiple awards from the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) and many of the world's largest foodservice brands. We already work closely and collaboratively with APCO, Planet Ark, KESAB, other South Australian packaging companies, waste collection partners, recyclers and paper mills globally. We are uniquely placed to support the transition with our global exposure to sustainable packaging solutions, our relationships with thousands of foodservice, grocery and retail brands, and our genuine commitment to making a better South Australia.

“We believe the SA Government should legislate that all single use carry bags, cups, straws, plates and grocery bags must be recyclable by 1st July 2020. By taking a strong stance on recycling and working with the many organisations who want to create a better future for our state, we believe that together we can inspire the population in pursuit of this important goal.”

We strongly support introducing measures to address single use straws and coffee cups. All acceptable alternatives should be recyclable or genuinely reusable. The measures should extend to all beverage cups (not just coffee) and include plates.

Detmold agree with the Victorian study quoted in the discussion paper^[i] that biodegradable, degradable and even compostable bags present a high risk to the environment in terms of microplastic residues and marine pollution. Detmold believe PLA straws, compostable plastic carry bags and grocery bags all present the same risk for marine pollution, litter and wildlife as other plastics, and therefore should not be approved alternatives.

[i] Reducing the impacts of plastics on the Victorian environment – join the discussion 2017'

Whilst there are established industrial composters servicing parts of the South Australian community, this does not mean that composting is a viable commercial solution for packaging, or that it is a globally scalable solution[i] [ii].

“Only through recycling do we reduce the number of trees being cut down to make paper products, and only through recycling are we ‘keeping products, components and materials at their highest utility’[iii] which is fundamental to supporting the global move to a circular economy.”

Detmold offer the RecycleMe™ cup solution which utilizes a next generation coating and provides a collection system which guarantees that every cup and lid collected will be recycled. There is finally a viable, innovative, global solution developed in South Australia to the issue of disposable coffee cups not being recycled.

The RecycleMe™ coating is Green Dot certified as ‘AAA’ recyclable (EN 13430) which means that it is approved to be recycled with Mixed Waste Paper, type 5.01. If the SA legislation required all coffee cups to be made out of recyclable materials of this standard, then South Australia would be able to recycle coffee cups through our existing kerbside recycling streams.

If the SA Government decides not to champion recycling over composting, then a compromise of allowing both recyclable and compostable solutions is a common concession, that still moves the economy somewhat forward towards its goal of becoming circular.

Detmold also support future consideration of a bold approach that requires all retailers to accept back all used packaging that is not recyclable through other widely available streams, and that those retailers are required to ensure that this returned packaging is disposed of appropriately.

[i] ‘Introducing compostable packaging before processing systems are in place is creating a problem not solving one’, AUCKLAND, May 30, 2018, The Packaging Forum

[ii] ‘The compostable cup you can’t compost, and the trouble with our recycling system’, By Liam Mannix, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 July 2017

[iii] vGreen Industries SA ‘Potential Benefits of a Circular Economy in South Australia’ (2017)