

The Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club Position Statement on single use plastics

The Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club (VBSLSC) is committed to utilising every opportunity to minimise our use of non-renewable resources, and to minimise waste. Single use plastics represent a particular concern because of the environmental impact of their manufacture and disposal.

We need whole communities like the VBSLSC which can take a systematic approach to reducing single use plastic, creating a community response and producing long lasting outcomes. Our initial emphasis is on systematically reducing plastic items commonly found in litter - straws, coffee cups/lids, takeaway containers, cutlery, bags and water bottles

As a community, our love and respect of the ocean and the impact of plastic on our waterways is immense. We are committed to ensuring that we are providing a positive community impact into the future.

OUR GOAL - PLASTIC FREE BY 2023

So far, the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club has taken the following steps to reduce and replacing single use and other damaging plastics:

- We have committed to the removal of plastic straws provided by the club and we will be replacing them with environmentally friendly alternatives
- We are looking at encouraging members and the community to bring keep cups when purchasing coffee and providing discounted coffee for those who do.
- We are replacing the bin lids to provide more effective sorting of recycling waste
- We will be collecting soft plastics from all merchandise sold and we will be delivering it for recycling.
- We have engaged with Plastics Oceans Australasia with a view to implementing more robust and comprehensive solutions in the years ahead.

Looking forward we are committed to achieving the following:

- We will remove all single use plastic bottles in our bar and canteen by summer 2023/2024
- We will educate members on the need and importance of eliminating single use plastics and create a more sustainable environment.
- Removal of waste on our beaches and in our waterways through 'beach cleans

Beach cleans address the symptoms/results of plastics pollution but deliver other benefits including:

- Removing hazards for wildlife and humans
- Maintaining the aesthetic appearance of the beach
- Creating awareness of the importance of environmentally sustainable beach attendance

Version 1

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