

Position Statement on alternatives to single-use plastic products

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Boomerang Alliance supports alternatives to single-use plastic takeaway products using the following hierarchy of recommendations.

1. Reusable items are the best alternative to single-use disposable products. Wherever possible we encourage reusable solutions.

Where reusables are not an option and single-use items are required, we recommend compostable substitutes in line with the below hierarchy, taking into consideration any plastic ban legislation in the states we operate within. We recommend in combination with strategies to reduce single-use. In all cases, we recommend sustainably sourced products. We recommend clear, specific and credible labelling as to the material used and collection process for composting. We strongly support collection systems to enable composting to occur.

2. 100% home compostable (certified under Australian Standard AS5810) paper/board/cane/leaf/wood and other plant-based products.

3. 100% home compostable (certified under foreign standard TUV OK Compost Home) paper/board/cane leaf/wood and other plant-based products.

4. A paper/board/cane/leaf/wood or other plant-based product that is uncertified or of undetermined certification. *Note: Most products made from these materials are assumed to be compostable, however this is not necessarily the case - some contain inks, dyes or glues that can contaminate compost. Many remain untested because often manufacturers do not go to the time and expense to certify them. Composters do prefer certifications but in an unregulated market this is not enforced. We will maintain communications with composters and businesses to expose unacceptable items and press for better regulation.*

5. 100% commercially compostable (certified Australian Standard AS4736) products (this includes bioplastics, wholly or partly used). *Note: While bioplastics are not preferred, in some cases there is no current available option for a home compostable product (e.g. takeaway coffee cups). It is always our practice to minimise bioplastics. If a product containing bioplastic is required, we will always recommend products containing less bioplastic (e.g. a bioplastic lined cold cup over a bioplastic clear cup).*

6. 100% commercially compostable (certified under foreign standards ASTM 6400, EN 13432 or TUV OK Compost Industrial) products. *Note: There are many products sold in Australia that are certified under foreign standards, which are less stringent than Australian standards and are often not accepted by composters. However, it is also recognised that there are not enough products certified under Australian Standards to meet the needs of businesses. We recommend that all foreign certified products undergo the Australian certification process. We will maintain communications with composters and businesses to expose unacceptable items and press for better regulation. As for 5., we minimise the use of bioplastics.*

What we do NOT Accept

- Fossil-fuel based plastic products (including oxo-degradable/biodegradable plastic) are NOT acceptable.
- Compostable/degradable/biodegradable plastic bags (with handles) are NOT acceptable.
- Uncertified products containing bioplastics are NOT acceptable.