

PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN

FOCUS AREA

MARINE



This outcome area focuses on reducing plastic waste that impacts on the marine environment from marine industries, and land-based industries that cause marine pollution.

This fact sheet identifies some sources of marine plastic waste, and how to avoid them.

The issue. Plastic waste is particularly problematic in the marine environment, as it is difficult to recapture, and breaks down into microplastics which impact entire food webs, including commercial fisheries and aquaculture.

Fishing and boating. Abandoned fishing nets, traps, pots and lines are a huge problem globally, causing ongoing damage to many species as long as they are in the environment. The Queensland Government will work with LGAQ and local governments to increase facilities for safe disposal of these items, as well as food and drink packaging, at popular fishing and boating spots.

Aquaculture. Severe weather is the major cause of loss of aquaculture gear into the marine environment, but other causes include lack of maintenance and poor waste management. Plastic abrasion also contributes microplastics. Using reusable plastics where possible, for items such as gloves, and avoiding mixed-plastics materials, which are hard to recycle, can help.

Shipping. Shipping can contribute to marine plastic pollution through lost shipping containers, poor on-board waste management, and in extreme weather.

Cruise ships. Cruise ships are traditionally high-users of single-use plastics like cutlery, cups, straws, water bottles and stirrers. Globally, there have also been instances of releases of plastic along with food waste into the ocean.

Land-based. Litter and illegal dumping are other major sources of marine plastic pollution. The Queensland Government is working with the LGAQ and local governments to improve waste collection points, infrastructure and behaviour change.

QUICK TIP

Remember to use the waste hierarchy, which ranks the **most preferred** (avoid), to the **least preferred** (recycle) options when considering how to reduce waste and save money:

1. Avoid
2. Reduce
3. Reuse
4. Recycle

WASTE TO RESOURCE

Innovative solutions for recycling aquaculture gear are emerging around Australia, including Envorinex in Tasmania, which has been recycling PVC, HDPE, LDPE and LLDPE since 2015.

From the aquaculture industry this includes recycling feed lines for salmon farming, manufacturing salmon ponds, life rafts, salmon pond stanchions, oyster baskets, fishing floats and chemical drums.

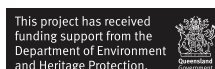
These are reprocessed into materials for building, fencing, road safety, horticulture, sanitation, landscaping and more.

NEXT STEPS

1. Register your business for the free ecoBiz program, to receive a waste assessment, and to measure and reduce your energy, water and waste use and costs.
2. Check out the other resources in this series, including case studies.
3. Look at Plastic Free July's guide to reducing plastics through procurement.
4. Know your plastics, with this handy identification guide!

THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.

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