



Restaurant
& Catering

SAVOUR
AUSTRALIA



25 November 2019

ATTN: Single-use Plastics Draft By-law Review

By email: coh@hobartcity.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 47,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses across Australia. The café, restaurant and catering sector is vitally important to the national economy, generating over \$37 billion in retail turnover each year as well as employing 450,000 people. Over 92 per cent of businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector are small businesses, employing 19 people or less.

R&CA delivers tangible outcomes to small businesses within the hospitality industry by influencing the policy decisions and regulations that impact the sector's operating environment. R&CA is committed to ensuring the industry is recognised as one of excellence, professionalism, profitability and sustainability. This includes advocating the broader social and economic contribution of the sector to industry and government stakeholders, as well as highlighting the value of the restaurant experience to the public.

R&CA appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the City of Hobart Single-use Plastics Draft By-law Review and Regulatory Impact Statement.

As the only national industry association acting on behalf of the café, restaurant and catering sector, including 800 individual businesses in Tasmania, R&CA supports the need to continue. As a key industry stakeholder, R&CA is keen to be actively involved in government consultations regarding proposals which aim to restrict the use of single-use plastic takeaway food packaging.

Restaurants, cafes and hospitality providers are a critical component of the retail and tourism offering in Tasmania. Restaurants complement the retail offering in shopping precincts, encouraging greater patronage and expenditure, while activating leisure destinations. Takeaway coffee, beverages and food at restaurants while shopping for pleasure are the two most popular activities for international and domestic visitors to Tasmania.

Food Industry Foresight Data states that Australians use and subsequently discard over 1 billion takeaway coffee cups every year. Plastic or single use waste in the restaurant, café and catering industry is an important issue and one that R&CA is actively working with state governments across Australia on addressing.



RESTAURANT & CATERING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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R&CA believes that measures aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics should be lead and co-ordinated by state governments, not at a local government level to ensure consistency of approach across jurisdictions and reduce complexity for single site operators which form over 90% of the restaurant, café and catering sector.

R&CA has not yet been formally consulted by the City of Hobart as a peak industry organisation in relation to the City of Hobart's Draft By-Law Proposal. We would recommend that the City of Hobart pause the progression of this proposal to ensure we can properly survey our members whose businesses are located within the City of Hobart to gather their views on this proposal before proceeding.

We have also copied the Tasmanian State Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Small Business into this letter to express our concerns.

If you wish to discuss R&CA's views further, do not hesitate to contact Tom Green, Manager – Policy and Government at R&CA by email at tom@R&CA.asn.au.

We thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes Lambert', written in a cursive style.

Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD

Chief Executive Officer

Restaurant and Catering Australia

Cc:

The Hon. Michael Ferguson MP, Minister for Small Business

The Hon. Mark Shelton MP, Minister for Local Government

