

FOOD SAFETY NEWSLETTER

HOW TO BE A WASTE CONSCIOUS FOOD BUSINESS

Welcome to Maranoa Regional Council's March Food Safety Newsletter, to help keep you informed on current food matters. This month we are focusing on helpful tips and ideas for Maranoa food businesses to become more waste conscious and environmentally friendly.

The damages of plastic straws

Single use plastic bags and straws sit in landfills and do not degrade for hundreds of years or they find their way into our waterways. There are over 500 million plastic straws used and discarded everyday.

The Last Straw is a campaign which aims to change the culture of unnecessary straw use one drink, one customer and one consumer at a time. The campaign provides venues with free resources, including posters and social media banners, and offer other alternatives to plastic.

The campaign will help your venue be recognized nationally as an environmentally aware, waste conscious venue.

A recent report to the World Economic Forum states that by the year 2050, at current rates of consumption, there will be more plastic in the ocean by weight than fish.

How you can apply the campaign in your business:

- ✂ Start a 'on request only' policy for straws
- ✂ Offer substitutes to plastic
- ✂ Start using reusable stainless steel straws
- ✂ Use the option of pasta straws

Pasta straws can hold their strength and form for over an hour in a cold beverage. For more information about pasta straws, please visit www.pastastraws.org/faq.

The goal is to have as many businesses in the Maranoa as possible signed up and phasing out plastic straws for environmentally friendly straws.

Responsible Cafes'

Responsible Cafes' is a not-for-profit initiative started to help make a difference in the growing issue of plastic waste polluting our oceans. The main goal is to help cafes around the world improve sustainability.

For more information, please visit www.responsiblecafes.org

Benefits for signing up:

- ✂ Simple online registration process with downloadable poster
- ✂ Inclusion on searchable, mobile-responsible app of participating cafes'
- ✂ Capture latent income stream by attracting environmentally-aware customers and selling reusable cups
- ✂ Increase customer loyalty
- ✂ Reduce ecological and waste footprint
- ✂ Cost savings through reduced disposable cup/lid expenditures
- ✂ Activate cafe culture and community pride
- ✂ The reduction of litter and landfill, carbon, water, paper and oil footprint in our community
- ✂ Building public awareness of waste and litter

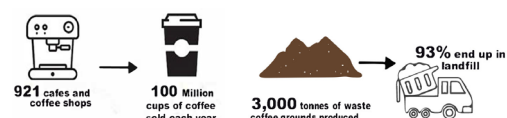
Helpful solutions to improve sustainability:

- ✂ Change the 'purchase 9 coffees and get 10th free' when you use your reusable cup
- ✂ Offer a small discount on coffees when a keep cup is used

Phasing out single use plastics in kitchens to reusable containers can change the world one straw or cup at a time.

The benefits of coffee grounds for the environment

Used coffee grounds are a valuable organic matter that can be utilised for a range of recycling initiatives instead of taking up valuable space in landfills. Composting coffee grounds helps to add nitrogen to compost piles, clean waste streams and can be used as fertilizer and garden mulch. **Idea: Advertise the availability for customers to collect or purchase used coffee grounds.**



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Containers For Change

The Container Refund Scheme will help to reduce litter and plastic pollution in the environment. To participate in the scheme, members of the community can exchange eligible empty containers for a 10 cent refund at drop-off points, or residents can donate the containers at donation points organised by local community groups, charities or not-for-profit organisations, who will then receive the 10 cent refund.

Across the state, the Container Refund Scheme has collected over 344,161,076 containers to help clean up Queensland since starting in November 2018.

Eligible containers:

Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard beverage containers between 150ml and 3,000ml (three litres) are eligible for a refund. Please have all container lids removed.

Excluded containers:

Containers for cordial, plain milk, wine and pure spirits are excluded from the scheme. This includes containers filled with one litre or more of flavoured milk, pure fruit or vegetable juice, cask wine, or cask water. The initial scheme focus is on those beverages that are consumed out of the home.

Residents wanting to be involved in the scheme will need to register at www.containersforchange.com.au.

Once registered, participants will receive a registration number (Scheme Account ID). This number will need to be displayed on each bag of containers when dropping off at any drop-off point. Please note that you will not receive your refund at Maranoa's drop-off points. Containers will be counted at a Bulk Sorting Depot and you will receive your refund via electronic funds transfer (EFT) transferred into your Scheme Account.



Container Drop off Points and times:

Roma – Administration Office – 1 Cartwright Street Roma
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm (Maximum number of eligible containers is 100).

Roma – Roma Refuse Site – 269 Short Street Roma
Wednesday to Friday 1.00pm to 4.00pm and Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Mitchell – Administration Office – 100 Cambridge Street
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm (Maximum number of eligible containers is 100; for more than 100 containers, please make an appointment with the Mitchell Office at 1300 007 662).