

Environmental Standard – Event Sustainability

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Environmental Standard is to define the minimum environmental sustainability requirements accepted by the Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd ("TasPorts") to prevent **environmental harm** or **environmental nuisance** from Event activities undertaken at any of TasPorts' owned, operated or managed venues ("**TasPorts Venues**").

2. SCOPE

Events are increasingly moving to more sustainable forms of event management, nationally and globally, as general public expectations increase, and people consider their impacts on carbon emissions and the environment. All areas of event management provide opportunities to minimise environmental impacts and reduce costs, and this Standard is designed to give direction and guidance to Event Organisers on practical and effective sustainability measures.

Events can produce large quantities of waste and litter and many large festivals across Australia, and internationally, are enforcing the use of **compostable** packaging for bar, food and market vendors. Through this Standard, TasPorts aims to align with and support the Single-Use Plastic Reduction plans and associated by-laws introduced by some Tasmanian municipal councils.

As TasPorts' venues are in waterfront locations, waste must be effectively managed to reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of pollution of the surrounding marine environment. Waste and litter in marine waters can seriously harm or be fatal to marine life if ingested or if it results in entanglement. Poorly managed food waste can attract birds that can be a health hazard and nuisance due to excreta and potential aggressive bird behaviour.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Standard are to ensure that Events undertaken at TasPorts' managed venues:

1. Consider environmental impacts through the usage of energy, water, waste, transport and procurement;
2. Use compostable serving ware;
3. Implement Waste Management Plans for large-scale events;
4. Prevent litter and food waste from attracting birds and entering the waterways;
5. Divert waste produced by the Event to recycling and composting;
6. Encourage education and engagement with patrons through the Event;
7. Encourage suppliers, contractors and patrons to consider their impacts on the environment;
8. Comply with all applicable legal and other requirements; and
9. Promote the use of best available technology.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Event Organisers are responsible not just for waste produced by the Event, but for waste brought in by patrons and deposited at the Event.

Waste produced may consist of, but is not limited to:

- food & drink packaging
- food waste
- general waste
- aluminium cans
- plastic bottles
- glass
- promotional material

4.1. Food Packaging

Event Organisers are encouraged to use reusable serving ware. Where this is not appropriate (i.e., markets, festivals or concerts), only certified compostable food packaging is to be provided to patrons. This includes serving ware from food and beverage outlets.

Please note that biodegradable and compostable packaging are not the same.

Servingware includes but is not limited to:

- plates, bowls, tubs and lids;
- cups and cup lids;
- wraps and bags;
- utensils, including cutlery, stirrers and straws; and
- sachets or packets which provide single serves of condiments.

Compostable packaging

Packaging must be 100% certified compostable, and it is the Event Organisers responsibility to ensure correct compostable certification on all products sold by vendors. TasPorts suggest purchasing compostable products from local suppliers where possible.

Reusable serving ware

Where health and other regulations permit, and where practicable, packaging should be designed for reuse such as keep cups and reusable crockery, for example:

- refilled with the same product;
- returned and reused; or
- reused for the same or a similar purpose.

Successful implementation of a reusable serving wear system, including an appropriate washing facility, may require additional costs and staffing for the Event and should be considered as part of planning.

Non-Food Packaging

Packaging which is not essential to the use, distribution, retail sale, storage or safety of vendor products should be avoided. Items such as carry bags and product packaging for market goods should be compostable or recyclable where possible.

4.2. Other Product Guidelines

TasPorts encourages Event Organisers to reconsider the need for the sale or gifting of items that may have a negative environmental impact on the area, public safety, public enjoyment, or waterways, including, but not limited to;

- plastic bags;
- plastic straws;
- single-use sachets of sauce, salt, sugar, etc.;
- confetti and confetti cannons;
- plastic glitter and glitter cannons;
- balloons;
- stickers;
- magnets; and
- other high-waste, single-use promotional material.

4.3. Waste Management and Removal

A sufficient number of bins must be provided and placed around the event site, as determined by TasPorts and the Event Organisers, in consultation with the waste management contractor who will also manage waste removal throughout or following the Event.

Bin requirements are as follows:

- Compost, recycling and general waste bins must be supplied to all event and catering areas;
- Bins must be designed to avoid windblown litter and access by birds, and secured upright;
- Bins are not to be placed directly next to the water;
- Signage should be placed on bins to provide examples of items for each rubbish bin; and
- Commercial skip bins must be covered to prevent litter, bird activity and waste escaping.

All staff must be trained in the Event's waste management strategies and be aware of which waste streams are captured in which bins.

Organic and compost waste

Organic and compost waste includes all compostable packaging provided to patrons such as serving ware, utensils, napkins, leftover food, excess food scraps from preparation, and unsold food, including meat bones. Note: Organic and compost waste in Hobart is processed at the City of Hobart's compost facility. Once processed, the fertile product is then distributed for use on Council gardens or for public purchase.

Cardboard and other paper waste

All cardboard and clean paper waste must be flattened. Waxed cardboard boxes or dirty takeaway food cardboard that is not compostable must go in General Waste.

Recyclable waste

Recyclable waste includes plastics (all plastics codes 1 – 7, milk bottles, juice and cream containers), glass, aluminium & steel such as empty steel cans, soft drink cans, and aluminium foil. All recyclable material, except glass, should be compressed before placing items in the recycling bins.

Cooking oils and fats

All oil and fat must be taken offsite by the food vendor for disposal. **Cooking oils and fats must not be put in sealed containers in general waste bins or disposed of down any drains.**

General waste

All remaining types of waste, including polystyrene, may be deposited in the General Waste bins. Empty aerosol cans must be free of gas.

Soft plastic

TasPorts encourage all vendors to recycle their soft plastic waste at major supermarkets or by contacting soft plastic recyclers.

4.4. Food Donations

Event Organisers are encouraged to create a partnership with not-for-profit food distribution organisations such as Loaves and Fishes, FoodBank and Food Not Bombs, to reduce waste and provide donations to community food programs across Tasmania.

5. COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

Event Organisers are encouraged to consider the below when communicating with patrons and vendors:

- Communicate electronically, or design & print green using post-consumer recycled stationery and veg-inks, and consider layout (i.e., double-side print).
- Consider whether promotional material can be reused for future events by not including dates on banners or utilise modern technology such as electronic signs or projections.

Patron Waste

- Before the Event, publicity and communications should emphasise the waste management requirements and encourage patrons to bring reusable items such as crockery, cutlery, drink containers, and bags.
- Patrons should be encouraged via event websites, signage, announcements, screens, and volunteers to place compostables, recycling and general waste in the appropriate bins.

Caterer & Supplier Waste

- Event Organisers are responsible for providing all information regarding waste management practices to food and beverage vendors before arriving on site. A fact sheet will be supplied to Event Organisers.
- Vendors and/or the Event Organiser risk a post-festival charge if their site does not meet TasPorts standards following the Event and requires a cleaning contractor to attend.
- Where practical, encourage the sourcing and use of locally grown and produced products.
- Help with litter control - Vendors are responsible for litter around the site.
- Vendors who fail to comply with the requirements of this Environmental Standard may be required to cease operations until compliance is achieved.

6. IN-WATER CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

Event Organisers must consider the removal of litter that reaches the marine environment by wind or patrons.

Should in-water cleaning activities be deemed a requirement of your Event, the Events and Sponsorship Officer will discuss this with you further. In-cleaning water activities should be planned in consideration of forecasted weather conditions and Port operational requirements.

7. NON-WASTE SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to waste, other key considerations to improve the sustainability of Events are:

- Provision of shuttle-services, car-pooling, bike parking & lockers, valet service, and public-transport information to reduce reliance on personal vehicles;
- Consider measures to reduce water use, such as the provision of water filling stations for drink bottles;
- Discuss sustainable options with your infrastructure suppliers such as water-efficient portable toilets, energy-efficient and low community impact light and sound, reusable table linens, earth-friendly cleaning products, and non-water filled barriers for fencing or traffic management;
- Carbon offset the Event through a company donation, or by adding a ticket offset option to your ticketing check-out page;
- Investigating possibilities for reusing any waste products produced onsite such as waste cooking oil sent for diversion to bio-diesel, décor items donated to second-hand stores, and leftover food donated to food distribution organisations;
- Use hired décor equipment, or source second-hand and reclaimed décor designed to reuse; and
- Investigate new technologies such as QR codes for distributing information and digital scanning of tickets.

8. LEGAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Legal and other requirements that apply to the management of waste at TasPorts' venues include but are not limited to:

- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
- Sustainable Events Guidelines, EPA Tasmania
- Hobart City Council Single-Use Plastics By-Law No. 1 of 2020

9. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
Compostable	compostable means, when treated in an industrial composting facility, the following requirements are met: (a) 60% decomposition (aerobic) within 180 days; (b) 90% disintegration to less than 2mm in 84 days; and (c) is non-toxic [Ref. 1].
Environmental Harm	Environmental harm is defined in section 5(1) of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas) (EMPCA) to mean: any adverse effect on the environment (of whatever degree or duration) and includes an environmental nuisance.
Environmental Nuisance	Environmental nuisance is defined in EMPCA section 3 to mean: (a) the emission, discharge, depositing or disturbance of a pollutant that unreasonably interferes with, or is likely to interfere with unreasonably, a person's enjoyment of the environment; and (b) any emission, discharge, depositing or disturbance specified in an environment protection policy to be an environmental nuisance.
Event Organisers	Event organiser refers to the individual, group or company hiring the venue and organising the Event
Food Packaging	food packaging means any container which is used to carry food from a retailer's premises to the point where the food is consumed, and related items, including but not limited to: (a) tubs and lids; (b) cups and cup lids; (c) utensils, including cutlery, stirrers and straws; and (d) sachets or packets which provide single serves of condiments, including but not limited to soy sauce, wasabi, and tomato sauce [Ref. 1].

Term	Definition
Non-Toxic	non-toxic means that the following tests are satisfied: (a) Plant germination test. The germination rate and the plant biomass from a sample compost (using compost derived from the food packaging) shall be more than 90% of the germination rate and the plant biomass from a sample compost which does not contain the food packaging. (b) Packaging composition test. The food packaging will not exceed the following elemental limits: Zn 1400mg/kg, Cu 750 mg/kg, Ni 210 mg/kg, Cd 17 mg/kg, Pb 150 mg/kg, Hg 8.5mg/kg, Se 50mg/kg, As 20.5 mg/kg [Ref. 1].
Plastic	plastic means a material that contains large molecular weight organic polymeric substances as an essential ingredient but does not include plastic which is compostable [Ref. 1].
Tasports Venues	TasPorts' owned, operated or managed land and/or buildings
General Environmental Duty	As defined in the Environment Management and Pollution Control Act 1994, a person must take such steps as are practicable or reasonable to prevent or minimise environmental harm or environmental nuisance caused, or likely to be caused, by an activity conducted by that person
Risk	As defined by the TasPorts' HSE Risk Matrix included in the HSE – Risk Management Procedure [Ref.2].

"Disclaimer

The information contained in this Standard is not intended as providing professional advice to any person or organisation in relation to their legal obligations concerning the generation of nuisance noise and vibration. It is your responsibility to determine, understand, implement and comply with any legal obligations. No claim is made as to the accuracy, currency or completeness of the content in this Standard."

10. REFERENCES

1. Hobart City Council, 2020. Single-Use Plastics By-Law. First published April 2020. Viewed online on 02/09/2020, at <https://www.hobartcity.com.au/files/assets/public/rubbish-recycling-and-street-cleaning/l8897-plastic-takeaway-containers-single-use-plastics-2017initiative-single-use-plastic-by-law.pdf>
2. TasPorts, Procedure - HSE Risk Management Procedure, Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd
3. Sustainable Events Guidelines, EPA Tasmania