

**FROM
TUESDAY
14 MAY**



**WE ARE PROUDLY
PLASTIC BAG & STRAW
FREE.** 

For immediate release

Tuesday 9 April 2019

Queen Victoria Market will be plastic bag and straw free from Tuesday 14 May

Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market will be proudly plastic bag and straw free when a Market-wide ban is put in place from Tuesday 14 May 2019.

The Market is committed to sustainability and this is a major step in reducing the amount of plastic used at the Market.

The plastic bag and straw ban comes ahead of the Victorian Government's planned legislative ban in late 2019. The ban has received overwhelming support with 80% of customers surveyed in favour and more than 70% of traders supportive of banning single-use plastic bags.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp supported the move by Queen Victoria Market:

"Our beloved Queen Victoria Market is the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere and with more than 600 individual small businesses in operation, reducing single-use plastic will have significant environmental implications.

"I always bring my own reusable bags when I shop at Queen Vic and I welcome the Market's introduction of a plastic bag and straw ban to bolster the sustainability initiatives already in place at the Market."

Queen Victoria Market Chief Executive Officer Stan Liacos says:

"The Market's plastic bag and straw ban is another important move to support shopping habits that aim to reduce the long-term impact on the environment.

"We applaud the creative ways that our Market visitors already shop without plastic, from loading up trolleys, baskets and boxes, to simply bringing their own reusable bags.

"The Queen Victoria Market is committed to operating in an environmentally conscious way and this ban will complement our existing sustainability initiatives including organic waste recycling and on-site worm farms."

A number of Market traders are already leading the way as early adopters of this initiative, including traders who have operated without single-use plastic bags for more than 10 years.

Marshall Waters from ReWine sells wine from refillable glass bottles and offers hessian bags for every six bottles sold and paper bags for small quantities. Over the course of a year, ReWine will refill approximately 20,000 bottles of wine, limiting the amount of glass wasted or needing to be recycled.

Father and daughter butcher team Sally and Terry Woods from Vic Meat Supplies stopped offering plastic carrier bags from January this year and they think it's an imperative step to ensuring our environment is protected for years to come:

"The amount of food and packaging waste every person goes through is crazy so even if we all cut back a little bit, it is one step closer to a more sustainable lifestyle."

Continued over...

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Lisa Costa from Coffea Coffee on Elizabeth Street says her customers are supportive of the plastic bag and straw ban:

“Our regular market shoppers already bring their own bags or use trolleys.

“They are very happy to see the reduction of plastic around the market and the switch to more environmentally friendly practices.”

For the full list of traders leading the way, please visit gvm.com.au/sustainability/traders-leading-the-way/

What does the ban include?

- Common lightweight single-use plastic bags with handles, including biodegradable, degradable and compostable plastic
- Thick plastic bags (like those used by department stores)
- Plastic straws

Why are plastic barrier bags still allowed?

Plastic barrier bags are still allowed to avoid cross contamination of pathogens from raw to ready-to-eat product such as meats, seafood, fruit and vegetables when they are placed together in a shopping bag.

Ways to shop without plastic at Queen Victoria Market include:

- Bring your own bag, basket or shopping trolley.
- Hire a trolley from Market Espresso on Queen Street.
- Buy a reusable Market bag or straw from the Visitor Information Hub or select Queen Vic Market traders.
- Use a cardboard box to take home shopping, which can be collected from [Pick-a-Box](#) locations on Queen Street and I Shed.

For more details on the plastic bag and straw ban including FAQs, please visit <https://gvm.com.au/sustainability/>.

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