

Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 21 Minutes

31 May 2024, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Attendees

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water ('Department'):

Cameron Hutchison, Jane Cronin, Rachelle McDonald.

Coles: Brooke Donnelly, Nina Stephens, Catherine Macneil, Lizzy Rogers, Simone Brookes, Sean O'Malley.

Woolworths: Jonathan Russell, Laurie Kozlovic, Nerilee Telford, Peter Bruce, Dee Milosevic, Tom Abraham.

Aldi: Daniel Baker.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Minutes

Agenda item 1: Welcome

- Cameron Hutchison delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

Outcomes

- **Attendees agreed** Coles would take minutes for this meeting.

Agenda item 2: update on the stockpile and reprocessing capability.

- Woolworths provided an update on the Victorian stockpile. Only one warehouse with any stockpiled material remains at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Continuing to work with processors to process stockpiled material. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], after which the focus will be on the shipping containers.
- Woolworths discussed some recent issues regarding reprocessing capacity in Victoria.
 - Close the Loop is currently offline [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED] has capacity to increase processing but is facing issues in finding offtake partners.

PUBLIC VERSION

- Woolworths provided an update on the NSW stockpile.
 - [REDACTED] has just come online and started working through the stockpile at the [REDACTED]
 - The [REDACTED] is anticipated to be emptied by the [REDACTED], with the focus then to be on clearing the [REDACTED].
- Woolworths gave a brief update on the [REDACTED]. This will be shipped to Victoria in [REDACTED] and go to [REDACTED] for processing.

Outcomes

- **The Department** reiterated its offer from the last taskforce meeting to assist with any identified delays in approval processes where appropriate.
 - [REDACTED] has found a product formulation that meets specifications for exporting materials, this may require additional support.

Agenda item 3: update on the soft plastics instore trial.

- Woolworths provided an update on the progress and outcomes of the soft plastics instore trial.
 - A total of [REDACTED] have been collected, with a trend of [REDACTED] collected and sent to recycling each week.
 - Some early contamination issues due to customers depositing non-soft plastics materials were noted. Collection partners are now checking bags at pickup to leave contaminated bags for general waste.
 - Preparing to potentially extend trial [REDACTED]. At this stage, the intention is to have some overlap with kerbside collections to see any impact with instore collections.
- Coles gave an update on the audit of collected materials from the instore trial.
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Outcomes

- **The Department** to consider offline if any further details regarding the \$60 million plastic tech stream funding can be shared with the taskforce.

Agenda item 4: Update on progress towards establishing a soft plastics stewardship scheme and discuss alignment with the current co-regulatory packaging arrangement.

- Guests from [REDACTED] attended to give an update on the packaging stewardship scheme.

- The first phase [REDACTED] is being administered through an interim working group and interim Board. The focus of this work is currently on development, preparing a constitution and registration requirements.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- The Department raised questions regarding how the stewardship scheme is to function with [REDACTED] /the co-regulated scheme, and timeframes for launch.
 - [REDACTED] raised the need to make membership as efficient and easy as possible – including feedback from members on their desire for a single scheme, and [REDACTED] noted they currently have members paying duplicate fees across schemes.
 - Intention for the Taskforce/[REDACTED] led PRO development to occur in July 2024.

Outcomes

- **The Department** will be in better position by the end of the year to articulate the details of the Commonwealth legislative reform and mandatory requirements to the taskforce.

Agenda item 5: Other business and wrap-up.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Agenda item 6: Meeting close.

- Daniel Baker not available for next scheduled meeting on 28 June 2024, to advise offline if a proxy is available. Parties agree to tentatively hold 28 June 2024 as the date of the next taskforce meeting.