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This guide also supports the plastic-free requirements of mobile vendors on Council’s Register of Preferred Suppliers- Provision of Food Service (ROPS 2465).

Remove	Making the Switch	Compostable Alternatives
 <p>Plastic Cutlery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Remove plastic cutlery including ‘landfill biodegradable’ or ‘oxy degradable’ plastics. ✓ Switch to compostable cutlery such as responsibly sourced wood or bamboo. Avoid starch-based bioplastics which persist in the environment when littered and look like plastic to customers. 	 <p>Bamboo or Wood Cutlery</p>
 <p>Paper Coffee Cups with plastic lining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Remove non-certified compostable coffee cups, including ‘landfill biodegradable’ or ‘oxy degradable’ plastic-lined cups. ✓ Stock certified compostable cups with a waxed or biodegradable (PLA) lining. Consider rewarding customers that bring their own cup with a small discount (become a Responsible Café and receive free promotional materials www.responsiblecafes.org). 	 <p>Compostable Coffee Cup</p>
 <p>Plastic Straws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Remove plastic straws including bioplastic and oxy degradable straws. ✓ Provide a paper or pasta straw dispenser at your point of sale or on request only (reducing the total required to save on any price difference). Consider joining The Last Straw on the Great Barrier Reef www.thelaststrawontheqbr.wordpress.com 	 <p>Paper Straws</p>
 <p>Plastic & Polystyrene Packaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Remove plastic and polystyrene plates, trays or clam shells, including ‘landfill degradable’ or ‘oxy degradable’ plastics. ✓ Switch to compostable plates and trays such as responsibly sourced paper, bamboo or sugarcane. Avoid clear plastic viewing panels in trays which are generally made from plastic. 	 <p>Compostable Packaging</p>

 <p>Plastic Cups & Paper Drink Cups (with plastic lining)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Remove plastic lined paper cups. ✓ Switch to certified compostable (hot or cold) cups with a thin waxed or biodegradable (PLA) lining. Avoid unmarked bioplastic cups, which are confusing for customers who mistake them for plastic and incorrectly recycle them. ✓ If water points are available on site, avoid water bottles and provide glass or canned cold drinks instead of plastic or composite packaging. 	 <p>Compostable Cups</p>
 <p>Plastic Bag</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Remove plastic, bio-plastic or degradable bags of any thickness – including plastic bags or produce bags that compliant with the Queensland Government bag ban. ✓ Provide boxes, paper bags or reusable bags for free or at a small cost. 	 <p>Paper Bag, Reusable Bag, Box</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep all recycling (yellow) & waste (red) lid bins in pairs to make responsible disposal easy for your customers. ✓ Hard, clear bioplastics (PLA) cannot be recycled and should go in the waste bin. ✓ All food scraps and compostable items go in the waste bin for commercial composting at Council’s organics recovery facility. ✓ Hard clear plastic, aluminium or glass containers (like cold drinks)and uncontaminated paper goods go in recycling. Find out more: www.recycleright.cairns.qld.gov.au 	
<p>All compostable alternatives should be disposed of in the waste bin, processed at Council’s organics recovery facility.</p>		

Sourcing Alternative Products: Always seek certified commercial or home compostable items, available from the following local suppliers:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reward • Bidfood • ChefLink • Enviromart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Packaging • Max Stocks • Winc (formerly Staples) • PFD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQ Supplies • Campbells • Reef Straw |
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Find Out More

Phone: 4044 3384 Email: sustainability@cairns.qld.gov.au Web: www.cairns.qld.gov.au/plasticfree