

# PLASTIC FREE NOOSA



## 2018 REPORT

Plastic Free Noosa



with funding from Queensland Government

## ABOUT PLASTIC FREE NOOSA

Plastic Free Noosa is a project to reduce Noosa's plastic footprint. The project was initiated by The Boomerang Alliance, as part of our '**Plastic Free Places**' program, which focuses on achieving wide scale change away from plastic pollution.

This year, Plastic Free Noosa set a goal to reduce the use of identified single-use plastic packaging used by our member food retailers, markets and events by 50%. We targeted six single-use plastic items which represent problematic and prolific sources of the litter stream. These items are; water bottles, food ware (cups, cutlery, plates etc.), straws, coffee cups/lids, takeaway containers and plastic bags.

To achieve this, we utilise direct engagement with businesses, events and markets to assist them to eliminate single-use plastic items, which can be replaced by reusable or 100% compostable items. We also encourage individuals to take up a plastic-free lifestyle.



# KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES 2018

## OUR PARTNERS

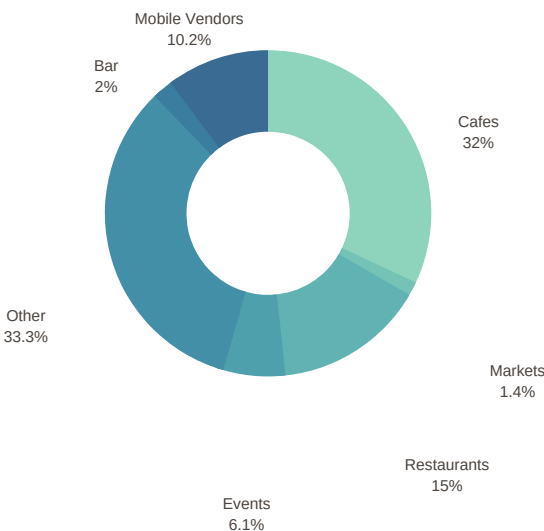
Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa, Noosa Chamber of Commerce, IN Noosa, Noosa FM, NCBA, Boomerang Bags, Take 3, Surfrider Foundation, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Sunshine Coast Environment Educators' Alliance, Laguna Signage Solutions (printer), TAP (water refill network application) and Biopak. Funding is provided by the Queensland State Government.

## OUR PROGRAM MATERIAL

Our website ([www.plasticfreenoosa.org](http://www.plasticfreenoosa.org)), Instagram and Facebook (@plasticfreenoosa, #plasticfreenoosa, shopfront and in-store signage and web badges, flyers and brochures, member guidelines - for café's/ restaurants, events/markets, event/stall pop-up banners and a promotional video ([www.plasticfreenoosa.org/video](http://www.plasticfreenoosa.org/video)).



## OUR MEMBERS



As of Nov 30, we have 144 members.

These mostly comprise of food retailers, markets and events. There are also a number of members who have joined from a sector we are developing, or yet to develop.

'Other' sectors include schools, offices and tour operators. We will look into expanding our program offerings.

## CAFES & RESTAURANTS

Primary targets for the project, we directly work with each member to help them transition away from plastic. This involves looking at what they are currently using, offering them alternatives and where to get them, and giving them advice, resources and follow up support. Members who eliminate all six of our identified single-use plastic items become 'Plastic Free Champions'. Currently, around a third of our cafe & restaurant members have achieved Champion status.

To quantify our project, we collect ordering data from our members and their suppliers. For data collection, we only use members who have reached or near reached Champion status because we know they have made the required changes and we can assign a date to which those changes have occurred by.

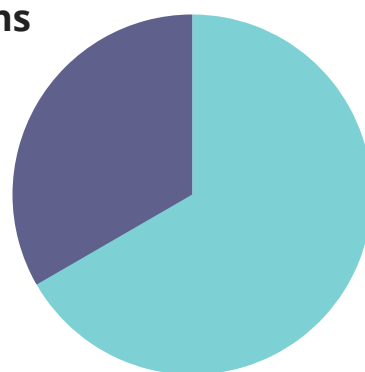
# 1.46 MILLION

Total calculated number of plastic items removed from Plastic Free Champion cafes & restaurants from 1st Feb 2018 – Nov 30 2018\*

\*Data is from the elimination of the following plastic items: straws, coffee cups/lids, takeaway containers, foodware (cutlery, cups, etc) and water bottles. Only items that were eliminated after joining the program were counted. Plastic bags were not included due to the introduction of the bag ban during the data collection period.

**Champions**

33%



**Members**

67%

## EVENTS & MARKETS

We directly assist events and markets to go 'plastic free'. This involves working with organisers and vendors to only supply preferred products and managing source separation, signage, collections and transport to a commercial composter.

This year we worked with eight events (which included Noosa Food and Wine Festival and Noosa Triathlon), plus two markets (including Eumundi markets).

# 0.48 TONNES

of compostable food and packaging waste used at the Noosa F&W Festival that was sent for composting.

# 180 000 CUPS

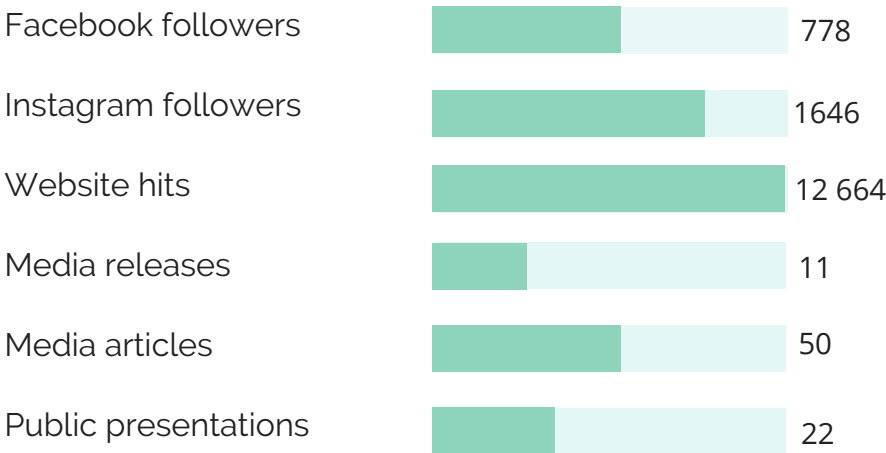
compostable cups that were composted at this years Noosa Tri, instead of plastic cups (which were used in previous years and landfilled).



SUPPLIERS

We engage with suppliers and manufacturers of packaging products which is a key component to program success. This has facilitated businesses maintaining current supply chains, reduced the incidence of suppliers providing misleading advice and 'green-washed' products, and created a system which reduces time and effort to find and order suitable products.

PROMOTION



**Noosa cafes brew a plastic free future**

MORE than 1.1 million single-use plastic items have been removed from 40 cafe and food outlets in nine months through the Plastic Free Noosa community initiative.

“We work directly with businesses, as well as council, suppliers, manufacturers, consumers and waste operators to deliver real solutions to these businesses.”

“It’s not easy for businesses to make the switch. There has been such a great response from the community and other business sectors wanting to get involved.”

“Plastic Free Noosa doesn’t just work together, it

Benelli said sustainability was at the heart of everything they do.

“Since joining we’ve made a range of significant changes across the business, and we’re thrilled to have been awarded ‘Plastic Free champion status’,” he said.

“We look forward to working alongside the Plastic Free Noosa team and the wider community as we continue our efforts to reduce our use of single-use plastic items.”



**Zero waste for Fusion Festival**

COOROY Fusion Festival Committee will Target Zero to 2019 to be a waste and plastic free event.

The approach is in line with Noosa Council’s Waste Behaviour and Recycling Plan 2016-2024, and Towards Zero Waste program.

“It’s an acknowledgment that our community needs to be part of the solution for both waste and composting outcomes,” Mr Enzo said.

“Raising awareness is the first major step in changing people’s behaviours.”

“We hope to... (interact) with local business, stallholders and food service providers at our event.”

Festival's future green blueprint

THIS year was a standout for the Noosa Food & Wine Festival, with the introduction of a range of innovative and successful green initiatives.

They will now provide a blueprint for other festivals in Noosa wanting to be eco-friendly and significantly reduce their environmental footprint.

Through the initiatives 18.3 tonnes of waste was recycled and composted, compared to 15 tonnes of general waste.

Festival director Alesha Gooderham said respecting the environment was a core value and green initiatives were an important part of operations and planning.

“We now have a blueprint to deliver the greenest possible outcome that respects our natural environment. We will continue to work with Plastic Free Noosa and share our learnings to support other Noosa events,” Ms Gooderham said.

Initiatives included a ban on plastic straws throughout the Festival Village.

The festival team also negotiated a special exhibitor rate on supplies to encourage and support the switch to fully bio-degradable items.

Waste Warriors were stationed at the 30 bins help educate visitors, combined with a dedicated back-of-house area where staff could sort rubbish by hand to limit contamination of compostable waste.

**“We now have a blueprint to deliver the greenest possible outcome ...”**

— Alesha Gooderham

The festival also invested in 12,000 recyclable, polycarbonate glasses to remove single-use plastic glassware and a system introduced to remove paper ticket stubs.

The effects of the green focus and the relationships built have been ongoing with venues such as Bistro C determined to extend their commitment to reducing waste.

PLASTIC-FREE THE WAY TO BE

Globally, 95 per cent of all plastic packaging is used once and then wasted, often as litter, with two thirds of marine debris found along the coastline actually plastic. A walk along the beach will reveal what looks like small, broken shells settled along the high-tide line are often actually tiny pieces of plastics that have come ashore.

From plastic water bottles to chip packets and even those little tags that seal our bread bags, it’s easy to forget their impact on the environment once we pop

test sites for the Plastic Free program because our community has already shown a commitment to the environment.

The ambitious Plastic Free Noosa team-of-two are aiming to reduce the amount of single-use plastic packaging used in Noosa by 50% with a deadline of November 2018. One half of the dynamic duo, Chad Buxton, says once single-use plastics are created, they exist forever.

“They can break down to smaller pieces and wash up on the shore or sit for hundreds of years in the local dump,” he explains.

Queensland, and Noosa in particular, is known around the world for its pristine natural environment, yet Queensland has been cited as the most littered state in Australia. Jolene Ogle meets the locals on a mission to change that!



For participating businesses, that change is easy with Chad helping them make the switch from single-use plastics to eco-friendly options by assisting with ordering. For the public, Plastic Free Noosa Champion window signage helps consumers choose a company that is actively reducing its plastic waste.

Restaurants such as Rickys, Wood Fire Grill, Sunspace Café and Clandestino Roastery are among the impressive list of Plastic Free Champions who have significantly reduced their use of plastics

throughout their operations.

As Chad explains, the restaurants have eliminated their use of the six priority plastics as well reducing soft-plastic food packaging in the kitchen, providing water on tap and even buying artful light fixtures made from recycled plastics.

“If you think about single-use plastic, why does it exist? It’s for convenience,” he says.

“If we can live in a community that doesn’t offer single-use plastics anyway, we’re more likely to help change behaviours and reduce our impact on the environment.”

CHAD'S TOP TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE WHILE DINING

huge impact, so go support them, guilt-free!  
4. Recycle at home - instead of





contacting us

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