



SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING STRATEGY: 2024 – 2028

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Cater Mart – SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING STRATEGY

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Overview

Packaging product stewardship is commonly defined as being the collective effort by all players in the packaging supply chain to prevent or reduce the impact of packaging waste on the environment. In Australia this vision is articulated by the desire for the packaging value chain collaborate to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retain the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

To deliver on this vision governments, businesses and other organisations from across Australia's large and complex packaging value chain work together to develop the insights, resources and programs that are needed to build a sustainable national packaging ecosystem. Cater Mart aims to be an active participant and in order drive this has become a signatory to the Australian Packaging Covenant.

In developing our Sustainable Packaging Strategy (SPS) Cater Mart takes heed of the 2025 National Packaging Targets, which have established long term goals and are stated as being:

- 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging.
- 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted.
- 50% of average recycled content included in packaging.
- The phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics packaging.

These targets are to be revisited in line review of the Covenant post 2025.

In assessing and determining how Cater Mart can best contribute to the industry wide goals we apply the ten Sustainable Packaging Principles (SPP) to our thinking and systems approach, whilst balancing these with the current commercial drivers that govern our industry sector and the markets we operate in.

About Cater Mart

Cater Mart is a 100% proudly Australian owned family business. At Cater Mart, our focus has always been on providing quality and affordability backed by reliable service. In 2018 we moved into our dedicated manufacturing and warehousing facility in Berrinba (Brisbane QLD). Cater Mart services markets and customers in Queensland, New South Wales and New Zealand.

Our operation employs in the order of 18 staff and which equates to 8 full time equivalent personnel. Our operations also include a fleet of two delivery trucks which are used for filling order direct to customers in the food services sector.



Since 2012, Cater Mart has been a member of Genfac Plastics Pty Ltd group, a Melbourne based packaging manufacturer who are also a member of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). We provide brands such as Cater Mart, Genfac, Festive and house brands to name a few

The Cater Mart product range has also expanded to now supply a comprehensive range of other products for many different industries.

Our company is committed to environmental sustainability and playing an active role in the circular economy. Our products are made in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Melbourne which is largely powered by our own solar farm and the products produced and processes followed support high levels of hygiene and quality outcomes. All products produced are recyclable after use and when available, contain recyclate derived from pre-consumer production waste.

Broad Objectives

Our sustainable packaging strategy will initially focus on the following broad objectives:

- Improve the recyclability of our food packaging products range.
- Compliance with State-based regulations as they relate to single use plastics items.
- Raise customer/consumer awareness with regards to the sustainability and recyclability credentials of the Cater Mart product range and preferred end-of-life / use management options. This will include, where feasible the introduction of the Australian Recycling Logo (ARL) and communications on the reusability of our picnic/party ware range of products. (It should be noted that at the time of writing the Queensland and New South Wales governments are instituting single use plastic bans which could potentially include take away food containers. Cater Mart has therefore decided to hold off embossing the ARL on eligible products until such time as there is greater certainty as the cost of adapting moulds to include the ARL are costly).
- Explore opportunities and where commercially feasible include recycled content and / or renewable materials in the Cater Mart product range. This may include collaboration with the waste and recycling industry to establish closed loop / circular economy systems in recycle our end-of-life products into new marketable products.
- Support markets for sustainable packaging through the implementation of sustainable procurement policies for our secondary and tertiary packaging requirements.
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- Improve resource management of our B2B secondary and tertiary (transport) packaging streams.
- Actively support whole of industry initiatives to introduce and establish product stewardship arrangements for the products that we put on market. This to include support for the national expansion and harmonisation of the container deposit scheme as a mechanism for product take-back and economic circularity.

Our Commitment

Cater Mart is committed to doing business in ways that are economically and environmentally sustainable, are good for our customers and the end consumers, and play an active role in advancing the circular economy. To accomplish this vision, it is imperative that sustainability becomes a key consideration in all our business decisions. Given that our core business revolves around the manufacturing and marketing of packaging products Cater Mart applies the ten sustainable packaging principles as a leading mechanism to fulfill our aspirations. These ten sustainable packaging principles are summarized as follows:

1. Design for recovery
2. Optimise material efficiency;
3. Design to reduce product waste
4. Eliminate hazardous materials
5. Use recycled materials
6. Use renewable materials
7. Design to minimise litter
8. Design for transport efficiency
9. Design for accessibility; and
10. Provide consumer information on sustainability

We are pleased to say that Cater Mart, prior to committing to the Australian Packaging Covenant, has already come some way towards this objective. This is evidenced by the following:

- Optimised material efficiency through the light weighting of our fit-for-purpose take-away food containers product range.
- Avoidance of hazardous materials – of which none are present in the product range we produce.
- High levels of transport efficiency due to product nest ability / stack ability for our full range of products, coupled with effective use of secondary packaging to maximise pallet utilisation. In addition, our main route to market is via distributors, thereby enabling bulks loads to be collected from our manufacturing site.



- Our manufacturing process generates small amounts of post-production/pre-consumer waste – all of which recovered for recycling.
- The design and manufacturing of plastic picnic ware which is durable, sturdy, and dishwasher safe, thereby enabling reuse rather than encouraging single use and disposal. Genfac / Cater Mart has also undertaken dish washability testing for its picnic ware and is compliant with the UNE-EN 12875 (125 cycles) international standard.
- The production of affordable food storage and ribbed freezer grade food containers which are reusable and enable the hygienic and safe food storage, thereby playing a role in minimising food wastage.

Going forward Cater Mart is committed to a wide range of actions which will contribute to the attainment of the 2025 National Packaging Targets. These commitments and actions include:

- Progressively incorporate the Australian Recycling Logo (ARL) on all products produced by Cater Mart in order to support the community to make the right decisions with respect to disposal of our packaging products and support national resource recovery outcomes. (subject to regulatory certainty with respect to State based single use plastic bans)
- Play a proactive role to progressively reduce demand for / and phase-out of non-recyclable plastic packaging products through a range of measures including:
 - customer education and advocating for a shift to recyclable and recoverable alternatives.
 - collaborating, with support from APCO, and working with our sector competitors to agree an industry-wide response, either in the form of product phase-out or alternatively investigate options for the recovery and recycling of those products currently not deemed recyclable (as assessed by PREP)
- Instituting sustainable procurement practices to support industry-wide efforts and boost recycled content in packaging by purchasing our secondary packaging (cardboard boxes) from suppliers who meet or are striving to fulfill the 50% recycled content target)



Our Implementation and continual improvement plan

In developing our Implementation and Continual Improvement Plan the following guiding principles have been agreed with respect to prioritising action:


1. Focus on those areas and opportunities over which Cater Mart exercises full control and that do not adversely impact our customers, consumers or commercial realities.
2. Pay attention to the needs of our customers and the end customer and making progressive improvements that are demonstrably more environmentally and financially sustainable.
3. Consider those opportunities where there is scope for sectoral or industry wide improvement and which we can seek to influence or contribute to by taking a leadership or collaborative role.
4. Assess whether opportunities can be acted on and implemented in short, medium and long term and resources accordingly.
5. Continually review the outcomes from actions taken to measure progress and refine and re-shape plans if required.

In the context of our current day operations this means Cater Mart will, amongst other actions, undertake the following:

- Incorporate the ARL logo on internally produced food packaging products - encompassing those sold as the final product and those sold to customers who will subsequently become the brand owner (i.e., feta containers and honey buckets). (Such to regulatory certainty as outlined in the section titled "Broad Objectives" above)
- Procure secondary B2B packaging that optimise the use of recycled content.
- Assess the current internal management practices for our B2B packaging and where applicable implement processes to avoid wastage, reuse packaging materials and recover/recycle end-of-life packaging.
- Investigate the procurement and management of our tertiary (transport) packaging, and where potential exists, implement actions to avoid waste generation and enhance outcomes with respect to re-use and recovery.
- Look to phase out packaging products from our range that cannot be recycled through existing domestic kerbside sorting and recycling systems.



This plan is endorsed by:


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Glossary of Terms

APCO – Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation

ARL – Australian Recycling Logo

Carbon footprint - the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of a specific activity or activities of a particular individual, organization, or community.

Carbon neutrality - means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks

Post-consumer recyclate – is recyclate material derived from waste material generated by consumers such as households and industry as end-users of a product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

Post-production recyclate – is recyclate material derived from waste streams during a manufacturing process

Recycled content – are items and inputs produced with recovered materials

Recovered materials - those materials that have been diverted or removed from the solid waste stream for sale, reuse or recycling, whether or not they require subsequent separation and processing

Renewable content – is material that is made up of renewable resources

Renewable energy - is energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power

Renewable material - Renewable means material that is composed of biomass from a living source and that can be continually replenished. Renewable materials include paper and cardboard from sustainably grown wood fibre, or a biopolymer from a sustainable source. [APCO definition]

Renewable resources – are resources that can be replenished at a rate equal to or greater than their rate of depletion.

Recycled material - Recycled content is defined as the use of pre-or post-consumer material rather than virgin produced material. Recycled content is the proportion, by mass, of pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled material in packaging (AS/ISO 14021). 'Pre-consumer' material is material diverted from the waste stream during manufacturing (excluding rework). 'Post-consumer' material is material waste generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities. The amount of renewable or recycled



material is expressed as a percentage of the quantity of packaging material put onto the market. [APCO definition]

Sustainable polymers - A sustainable polymer is a plastic material that addresses the needs of consumers without damaging our environment, health, and economy. A sustainable polymer is one that uses renewable feedstocks, such as plants, for production.