

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

139. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the government media release titled “Coffee cups in WA to go compostable with single-use plastic ban” and the ABC news article of 2 March in which Minister Whitby is quoted as saying that “more than a billion single-use plastic items, including more than 154 million coffee cups, will be saved from landfill annually.”

- (1) Are the compostable single-use paperboard cups that are still allowed able to be composted in Western Australia?
- (2) Are the FOGO facilities used by local governments able to compost these single-use paperboard cups?
- (3) If yes to (2), why does the WA government’s Recycle Right website state that these should go into the red-lid general waste bin?
- (4) If they are not compostable, what happens to these disposable cups?
- (5) Does the government intend to create facilities that can compost single-use paperboard coffee cups?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1)–(5) To meet the requirements of the WA ban, coffee cups must be certified to Australian Standards for composability. This certification ensures that they can be managed by existing facilities licensed to receive food organics and garden organics—FOGO—wastes. As a transitional measure, the WA government is currently advising that all single-use coffee cups should be disposed via the general waste bin. This is due to the continued existence of noncompliant products in the market, and the challenge for consumers and FOGO facilities to differentiate between compostable and non-compostable cups. The state government is actively working with the retail and organics processing industries to identify an appropriate point to update the official advice to allow disposal of cups in the FOGO bins.