

APCO's Roadmap to phase out B2C EPS

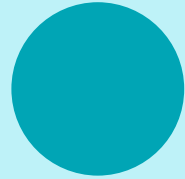
22 March 2023

Important tips for today's session:

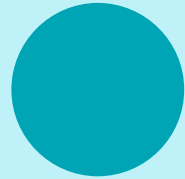
- Use headphones/earphones for clarity of sound.
- Use the chat box to say hello - enter your full name and organisation.
- Please use the Q&A function for any questions.

Please note: This session will be recorded for sharing.

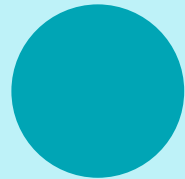
Agenda



Overview of the phase out and roadmap



National alignment



Q&A

Overview of the phase out and roadmap

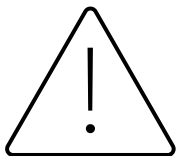
Introduction

- Business-to-consumer expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging has been identified through the **National Plastics Plan** and state govt policy as a problem. Governments want it phased out as soon as possible.
- APCO has been leading work with industry and government to set out a voluntary, industry-led approach to B2C EPS. This will enable industry to act in a measured, nationally consistent way, while providing assurance to governments that the problem is being addressed effectively.
- **The culmination of APCO and industry's work on EPS phase-outs – the delivery of an EPS Roadmap – was published late 2022.**



What's the issue with EPS?

EPS is lightweight, durable, thermally efficient, and versatile. However, EPS packaging presents a number of challenges that need to be addressed:



EPS is one of the most common materials found in illegally dumped rubbish, presenting a significant environmental challenge as it is **lightweight, highly visible and easily breaks down into small pieces.**



EPS is **not currently collected through kerbside recycling**, and national drop-off is fragmented.



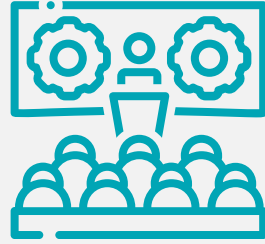
EPS takes up a disproportionately large space relative to its small weight in transport and landfill.

What's the story so far?



EPS Working Group 2018

The Working Group aimed to investigate barriers and opportunities to improve the recovery of EPS.



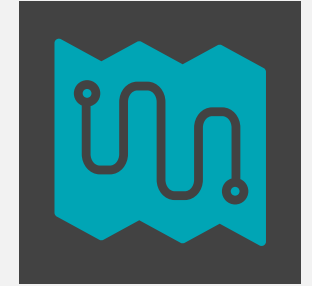
Workshops

APCO held a number of workshops including a National Workshop on EPS, bringing together industry and government to discuss the transition away from various forms of EPS packaging.



Webinars

APCO ran a series of webinars called 'Taking Action on SUPs', which provided APCO Members guidance and direction on the planned national EPS phase out, as well as a chance to provide feedback.



The EPS Roadmap

APCO has worked with government and industry to lay out the strategies, outcomes and timeframes to define a nationally consistent approach on EPS packaging, supporting the National Plastics Plan phase out of EPS.

Scope

Included in the priority list

Action 1:

Nationally coordinated industry phase-out in place for the following problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics through elimination, redesign, replacement and innovation:






- EPS loose packaging fill and moulded single-use EPS packaging for consumer products **by June 2022**.
- EPS consumer food beverage service containers **by December 2022**.³

Not included

The industry-led phase-outs do not apply to:

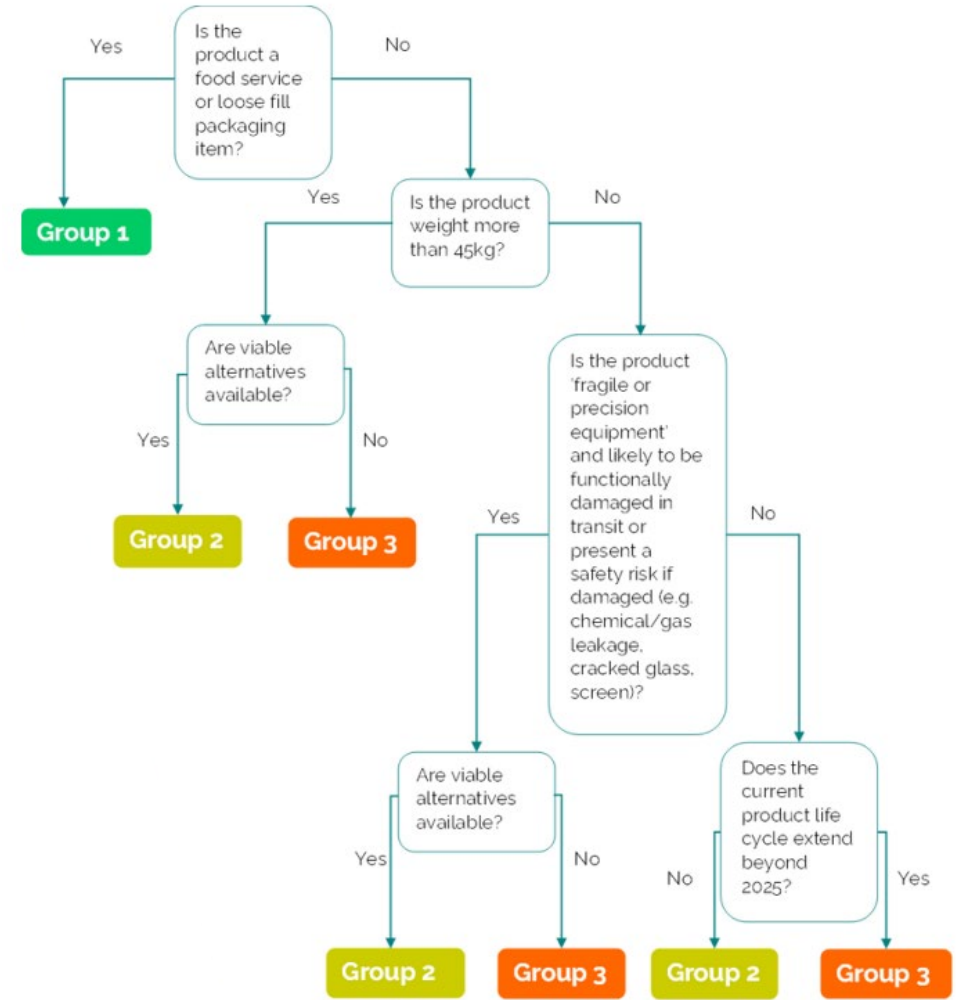
- EPS used for business-to-business packaging, such as fresh produce boxes, packaging for large pieces of business equipment and where a consumer product is installed by a professional installer and the packaging is retained by the business.
- specialist packaging used in medical applications, for example, organ transport or pharmaceuticals.
- EPS used in building and construction.
- business-to-consumer packaging where there is a demonstrated and effective reuse model in operation, for example bulk cold home-delivered meal services.

APCO Roadmap Scope

Type of packaging	Common applications	Environmental issues	Priority for the roadmap
	EPS loose-fill packaging Packing peanuts generally used to protect products during transportation e.g. void fill or cushioning in e-commerce.	Not recyclable (too small). High environmental impact when littered.	High within scope of phase out.
	Consumer food and beverage packaging Single-use hot and cold cups, tubs, bowls, plates, trays and clamshells for food service. Trays to package fresh fruit or meat for retail sale.	Not currently recyclable through kerbside and no alternative collection system available. Lightweight material with extremely high litter propensity.	High within scope of phase out.
	Moulded consumer packaging Protective packaging for white/ brown goods and electronics, e.g., computers, printers, TVs, fridges, air conditioners, ovens, fridges, toasters; as well as furniture and other homewares. Includes products requiring installation by specialists where the EPS is not retained by the specialist.	Not currently recyclable through kerbside. Limited availability of drop-off services to recycle. Low uptake of existing EPS collections by retailers. Lightweight and fragile material with high impact when littered.	High within scope of phase out.
	Produce boxes (B2B) Transporting fresh or frozen produce including fish, meat, fruit and vegetables	Limited recycling services available	Low out of scope of phase out but could be included in product stewardship initiatives.
	Specialist packaging (B2B) Medical applications e.g., organ transport or pharmaceuticals	Limited recycling services available	Low out of scope of phase out but could be included in product stewardship initiatives.

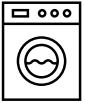
Groupings

Category	Item	Examples
Group 1	Consumer EPS packaging for immediate phase out	Loose-fill packaging. Food and beverage EPS.
Group 2	Consumer moulded EPS packaging for medium term phase out	Moulded packaging for small to medium sized electrical and electronic products. Products in Group 1 with longer life cycles beyond 2022.
Group 3	Consumer moulded EPS packaging for product stewardship	Large and heavy, fragile or precision products over 45 kg e.g. fridges, large white goods, air conditioners and pumps.
Group 4	Consumer EPS suitable for reuse	Boxes for fresh produce - meat, fish, fruit and vegetables. Gelato tubs where reuse model is in place.

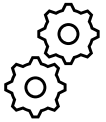


Items in scope of product stewardship

Group 3 items



Heavy = Items with a weight over 45kg

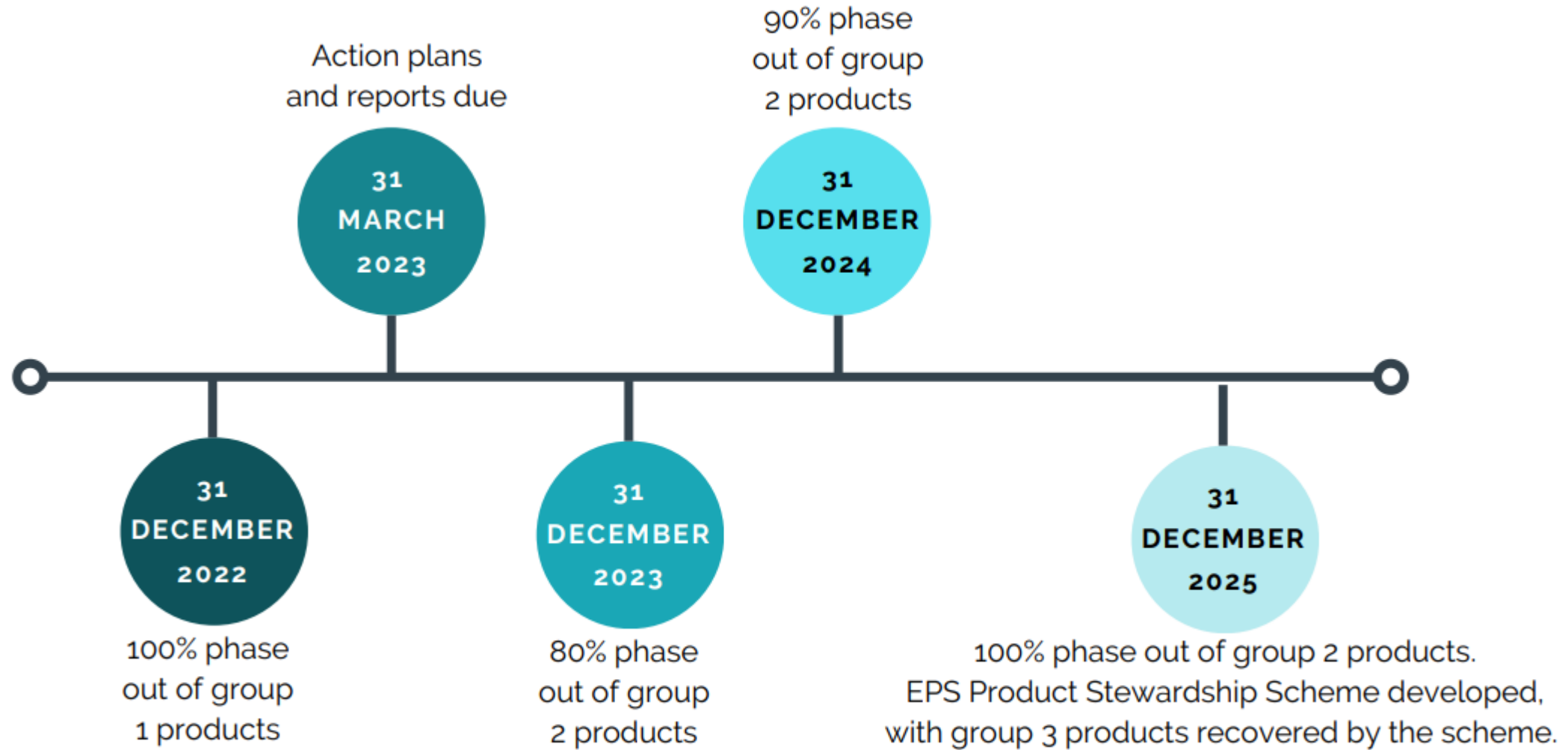


Fragile and precision = "has been identified by the manufacturer as being fragile and requiring protective packaging that complies with a standard specified by the manufacturer.



Products with a lifecycle that extends beyond 2025.

Timeline



Reporting mechanism

To track industry's progress in achieving the phase out of B2C EPS, **an Action Plan reporting mechanism has been set up**. Reporting will be collated by 31 March 2023 and all relevant organisations should submit a report to APCO.

The EPS Action Plan & Reporting Mechanism can be used in two ways by businesses:

1. A high level data input

- Total SKUs in scope within each group
- Indication of % phase out progress
- If targets are not met, an indication of why

2. A high level data input and internal tracker




- Detail provided per SKU
- Total number of SKUs in each grouping
- Phase out timelines
- If targets are not met, an indication of why
- Phase out steps

Businesses can then submit the excel document via an online form or email with APCO.

National alignment

EPS Bans across Australian & NZ jurisdictions



<i>EPS format</i>	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA	SA	ACT	NT	TAS (Hobart)	NZ
EPS food service items 	1 November 2022	1 September 2021	1 February 2023	1 January 2022	1 March 2022	1 March 2021	2025	1 July 2021	1 October 2022
EPS loose fill 	-	1 September 2023	-	1 September 2023	-	Possible ban 1 July 2023	2025	-	TBA - 2024/25
EPS moulded packaging 	-	-	-	1 July 2025	-	Possible ban 1 July 2023	2025	-	TBA - 2024/25
Other e.g. EPS meat trays	-	Possible ban 1 September 2024	-	1 September 2023	1 September 2024	Possible ban 1 July 2023	-	-	TBA - 2024/25

WA EPS ban



Inclusions

Prescribed expanded plastic packaging means any of the following made wholly or partly from expanded plastic —

- a) (a) loose-fill or void-fill packaging;
- b) (b) packaging for a pre-packaged food or drink product other than a non-perishable pre-packaged food product;
- c) (c) packaging (moulded packaging) that is moulded to protect a specific item.

Enforcement begins:

1 July 2025 for moulded

September 2023 for consumer and loose fill

Exemptions

does not apply to the supply of prescribed expanded plastic packaging if —

- a) the packaging is used to protect an item that is designed to be used for medical or scientific purposes; or
- b) in the case of moulded packaging — the packaging is used to protect an item that —
 - i. weighs 45 kg or more; or
 - ii. has been identified by the manufacturer as being fragile and requiring protective packaging that complies with a standard specified by the manufacturer.

Also does not include flexible foamed plastic wraps and sleeves, B2B packaging and consumer reuse EPS.

NZ alignment



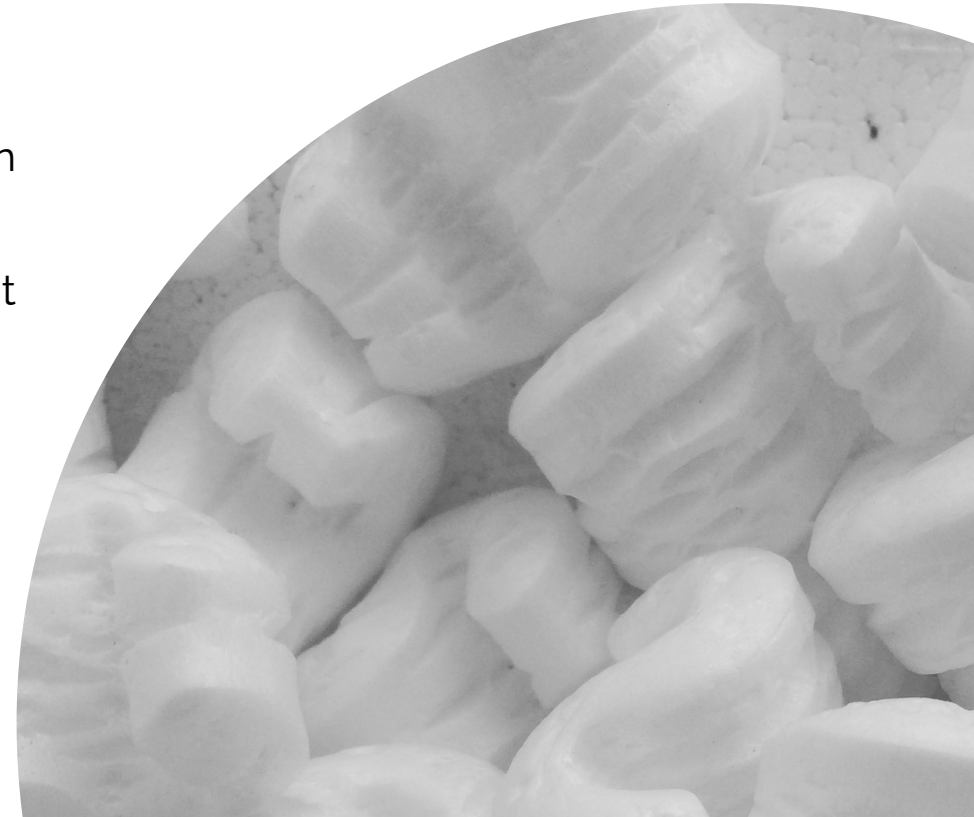
Update

Voluntary phase out to go ahead, but nothing mandated at the moment. Product Stewardship will be mandated though as EPS will fall under plastic packaging which is a Priority Product for product stewardship.

Product stewardship

Plastics NZ, along with retailers and industry associations, are working on the development of a product stewardship scheme for EPS.

APCO and Plastics NZ will work closely on the scoping and development of respective EPS product stewardship schemes, to ensure alignment.



Next steps



Take stock and
gather data.

Speak to suppliers
about alternatives.



Submit Action
Plans 31 March
2023 (extensions
permitted on
request)



Follow steps laid out in
Roadmap and Action
Plan to 2025 – gradual
reduction or product
stewardship pathway

Q&A