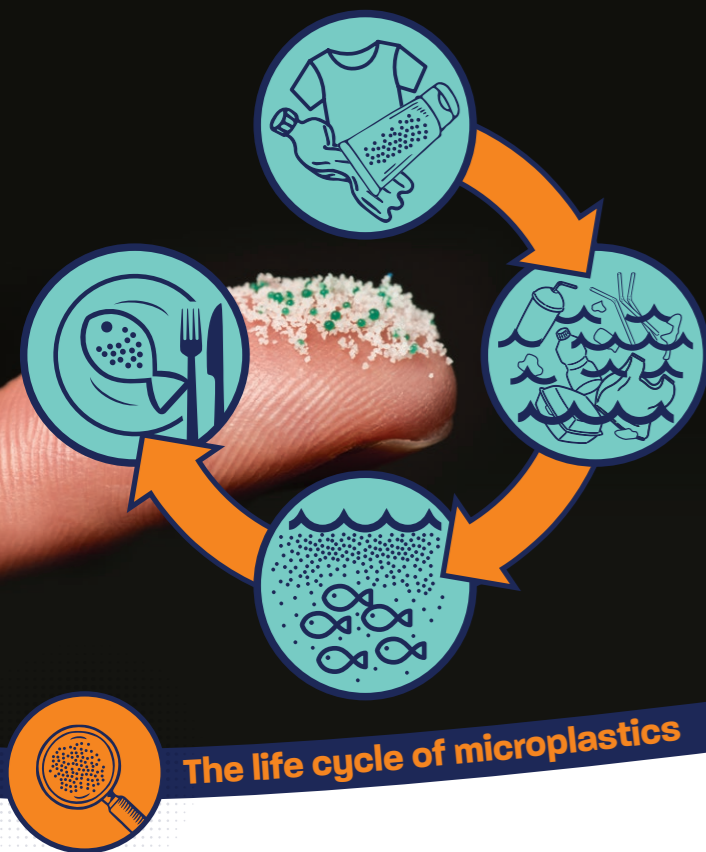


Plastics AND OUR Oceans



Why we must act now to turn the tide on single-use plastics.



The life cycle of microplastics

From microbeads in our products, microfibres from our clothes, to tiny pieces of broken down plastic - microplastics are tiny killers - hidden pieces of a huge crisis, poisoning our oceans and marine life and ending up on our own plates.



Lives are at stake

Plastic pollution is pouring into our oceans at an alarming rate, entangling and suffocating our marine life. Tragically, over **100,000** dolphins, whales, turtles and other vulnerable marine creatures, and **millions** of sea birds die each year due to plastic pollution.

EVERY DAY CHOICES

Plastic pollution comes from everyday items. Every day we can make choices to refuse or reduce plastic - and make a huge difference for our oceans.

The longer we wait the worse it gets.

It will take the actions of many to make the ripples of change. **Together we can turn the tide on plastic pollution.**

We must choose to refuse single-use plastic, and stop it at the source.

Microplastics:

Problem: Microbeads, microfibres and tiny pieces of broken down plastic are poisoning our oceans and marine life.

Solution:

1. Avoid products with microbeads.
2. Nationwide ban on microbeads.
3. Microfibre filters required to be fitted in washing machines.



We must act now

Did you know one rubbish truck worth of plastic ends up in our oceans every minute?

We must stop the toxic cycle of plastic use at every level, before it's too late.

Plastic Containers:

Problem: Plastic bottles and containers are one of the most common types of plastics that end up in our oceans.

Solution:

1. A container deposit scheme in every state and territory.
2. Say 'no' to plastic bottles and disposable coffee cups and 'yes' to reusable drink bottles and cups.
3. Avoid using single-use straws, containers, utensils and packaging.

Plastic Bags:

Problem: Discarded, lost or blown from inland, plastic bags end up in our oceans. Mistaken for food, they choke, starve and kill our marine life.

Solution:

1. A nationwide ban on disposable and single-use plastic bags.
2. Choose to use non-plastic alternatives and refuse single use plastic (eg bags, straws).



Every piece of plastic here was found in the stomach of a single albatross chick.

Photographer Mandy Barker for National Geographic, Planet or Plastic

Plastic doesn't go away

Plastic doesn't go away. It just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. It's designed to last forever, yet water bottles, bags and straws are used just once and thrown away.

Single-use plastics are one of the single biggest threats to our ocean, and our planet. **But we have the power to stop them.**



Australians deserve clean, healthy oceans full of life.

Plastic pollution is choking our oceans, entangling and suffocating our marine life. **It's reached crisis point - but there is a solution.**

Together we can turn the tide on plastic pollution. We must choose to refuse plastic, and stop it at the source.

How to Donate

- Call 1800 066 299
- Visit www.amcs.org.au/plasticfree
- Mail to: PO Box 5815, West End QLD 4101 AUSTRALIA

Australian Marine Conservation Society



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