

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.



Lives are at stake



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.

Plastic doesn't go away

Every piece of plastic here was found in the stomach of a single albatross chick. National Geographic, Planet or Plastic Photographer Mandy Barker for



Plastics AND OUR Oceans



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



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



AMCS is committed to create a clean and sustainable future. Please print on recycled paper.

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.



Microplastics:

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.

EVERY DAY CHOICES



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.

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).



Plastic Bags:

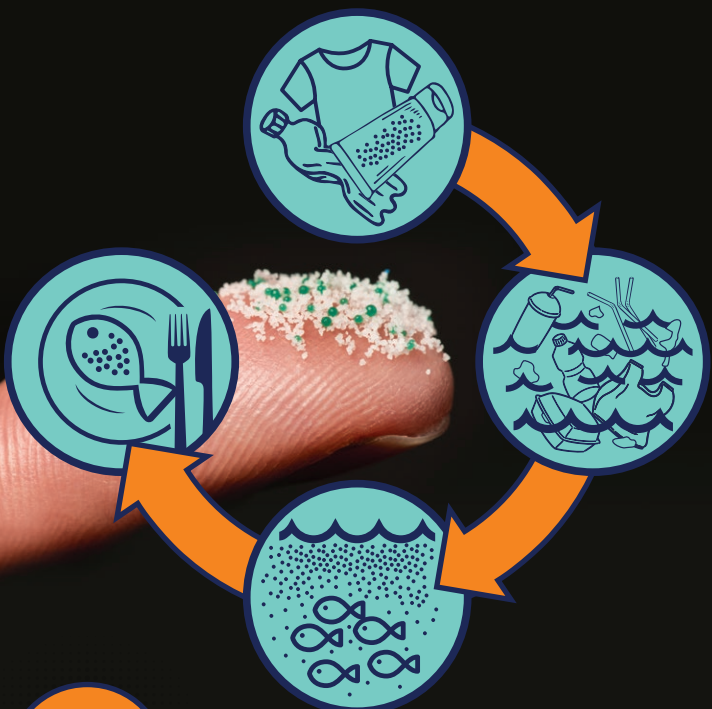
Problem: Plastic bottles and containers are one of the most common types of plastics that end up in our oceans.

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 Containers:



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.



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the largest accumulation of plastic in the sea, in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean. This plastic-filled garbage wasteland is now bigger than the size of the Northern Territory, and grows larger every day.



Plastic in the ocean kills marine animals, choking, drowning and poisoning them.



More than 270,000 tonnes of litter are estimated to be floating throughout the Earth's oceans!



Did you know that half of all seabirds and a third of our turtles have plastic in their stomachs?



It's estimated that millions of seabirds die each year due to plastic pollution.

But it's not the only massive 'patch' of plastic in our oceans. There's five 'gyres' - zones of circular ocean currents - each with its own massive garbage patch. Together these five currents are the 'backbone' of the world's currents and they're all getting clogged by plastic.

Plastics are literally choking our oceans.



It is estimated there is more plastic than plankton in the Pacific Ocean already, and there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050.



In Australia 75% of all items washing up on our beaches are plastic!



It's estimated that over 100,000 marine mammals die each year due to plastic pollution.

Every year more and more plastic pollution is washing up on Australia's beaches!

The biggest plastic culprits picked up off Australian beaches are:

- 1** Plastic bits & pieces hard & solid: **2,532,319** pieces
- 2** Cigarette butts & filters **921,338** pieces
- 3** Lids & tops, pump spray, flow restrictor & similar **687,671** pieces
- 4** Plastic film remnants (bits of plastic bag, wrap etc) **512,396** pieces
- 5** Plastic packaging food (wrap, packets, containers): **460,957** pieces
- 6** Plastic drink bottles (water, juice, milk, soft drink) **402,539** pieces
- 7** Fishing line in metres (Recreation): **366,312** pieces
- 8** Straws, confection sticks, cups, plates & cutlery **229,351** pieces

We can't clean this mess up forever! We have to stop it at the source!

Based on ten years of data from 1/1/2008 > 1/1/2018 from Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris Initiative.

How does it end up in the ocean?

Our plastic rubbish travels to our oceans blown from inland, comes through stormwater drains or is thoughtlessly dropped.

"But I recycle - won't that stop it polluting?"

Yes, recycling is important! Keep it up! BUT... we can't out-recycle our plastic usage. Our plastic consumption has risen so dramatically over the past few decades that we can't keep up with the recycling. We even tried to outsource it to other countries - and now they can't keep up either. We can't rely on these Band-Aid solutions anymore - we've hit a crisis. We must choose real, long terms solutions and stop single-use plastics at the source.

DETOX FROM OUR TOXIC PLASTIC ADDICTION

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

As stewards of an incredible marine natural heritage, Australia can and should be a world leader in stopping plastic pollution. Australia must lead by example and change our domestic plastic consumption and help our neighbours do the same.

SINGLE-USE Plastic Free REVOLUTION

How to ditch Single-Use Plastic:

STEP 2 Influence others - inspire your local business, club, groups, workplace on board and stop single-use plastics in the community.

STEP 3 Think BIG! Go straight to the top! Help bring governments and big business on board to create a plastic free nation.

STEP 1 Be the change you want to see in the world - make a commitment and pledge to reduce single-use plastic in your everyday life.

The longer we wait the worse it gets. We must act now to protect our oceans and marine life.

Every time you and I refuse to use a piece of plastic it is one small victory for our marine life.