

# » reusable containers and you



**What you need to know when taking your own cup or containers to a café or restaurant**

## » Why use reusable cups and containers?

- Reduce packaging waste
- Send less waste to landfill (coffee cups cannot be recycled)
- Reduce litter in the community
- Support sustainable living

## » Can I use a reusable cup or container at a food outlet?

Yes, legislation under the *Food Act 2003* (NSW) or the *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code* does not prohibit the use of reusable cups and containers.

The purpose of the Act is to ensure food for sale is both safe and suitable for human consumption.

## » Can I take leftovers home in my own container?

Yes, the Act or Code does not prevent a business accepting a customer's container for their leftovers.

## » Can a business decline my reusable container?

It is up to the business whether they accept containers brought in by customers or not.

## » What about safety and hygiene?

Make sure your cup or containers are clean, in good condition and of food-grade material.

Under the Food Standards Code, businesses can only use packaging material which is 'fit for its intended use' and is unlikely to cause contamination during or after the packaging process. It is not recommended to use non-food containers for food or drink purposes.



**If you have any questions or concerns please contact:**

**Ballina Shire Council Customer Service Centre, ph 1300 864 444**  
e [council@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@ballina.nsw.gov.au) w [ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au)



## »» *How to reduce waste when out and about*

Small changes to your everyday activities can provide substantial benefits to the environment. Once positive habits are formed, sustainability becomes a way of living. Support businesses with a focus on sustainable practices and where possible eat in to use ceramic cups, foodware and cutlery. Only order what you need to reduce food waste.



### **REMEMBER TO PACK THESE ITEMS WHEN LEAVING THE HOUSE**

- Refillable water bottle
- Reusable compact shopping bag
- Reusable cup
- Reusable straw (if required)
- Reusable lunch container and cutlery
- Reusable produce bag



### **SAY NO TO**

- Takeaway cups
- Plastic straws and cutlery
- Over packaged foods
- Single use plastic bags
- Single use fibre-based food packaging (paper bags, paper trays, plastic containers etc.)

## »» *Organisations that support sustainable decision-making*

### **RESPONSIBLE CAFES**

a not-for-profit initiative that celebrates and promotes a network of cafes that champion reusable cups. Check out their map to find responsible food premises around you at

***[responsiblecafes.org](http://responsiblecafes.org)***

### **BYO CONTAINERS**

a self-funded project that encourages the use of BYO containers for takeaway food. Find cafes and restaurants that welcome reusable containers on their interactive online directory at

***[byocontainers.org](http://byocontainers.org)***

### **PLASTIC FREE JULY**

every year, over 3 million people across the globe participate in the Plastic Free July challenge to dramatically reduce plastic use. Take the challenge and download resources at

***[plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org)***

### **BOOMERANG BAGS**

reduce the use of plastic bags by engaging local communities in the making of reusable bags using recycled materials. To get involved or find out more visit

***[boomerangbags.org](http://boomerangbags.org)***

### **CIRCULAR CAFES**

support a wide range of businesses across the Northern Rivers to create sustainable changes to their business models. Find out more about their campaigns and projects at

***[circularcafes.com.au](http://circularcafes.com.au)***



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