

# Position Statement on alternatives to single-use plastic products

June 2020

**Boomerang Alliance supports alternatives to single-use plastic takeaway products using the following hierarchy of recommendations.**

**1. Reusable products are the best alternative to single-use disposable products. Wherever possible we encourage reusable solutions.**

Where reusables are not an option and single-use items are used, we recommend compostable substitutes in line with the below hierarchy. In all cases, we recommend sustainably sourced products. We recommend clear, specific and credible labelling as to the material used and collection process for composting. We strongly support collection systems to enable composting to occur.

We note that while alternative products tend to be more expensive, it is a relatively minor cost component compared to the product being sold. Additionally, businesses have the opportunity to reduce the number of items they are giving out, thereby making the transition more affordable.

**2. 100% home compostable (certified under Australian Standard AS5810) paper/board/cane/leaf/wood products.**

**3. 100% home compostable (certified under foreign standard TUV OK Compost Home) paper/board/cane leaf/wood products.**

**4. 100% commercially compostable (certified Australian Standard AS4736) products (this includes bioplastics, wholly or partly used).** *Note: While bioplastics are not preferred, in some cases there is no current available option for a home compostable product (e.g. coffee cups). In this instance, a commercially compostable option may suit the needs of the business better than a home compostable product.*

**5. 100% commercially compostable (certified under foreign standards ASTM 6400, EN 13432 or TUV OK Compost Industrial) products.** *Note: There are many products sold in Australia that are certified under foreign standards, which are often less stringent than Australian standards and are often not accepted by composters. However, it is also recognised that there are not enough products certified under Australian standards, and just because a product is certified under a foreign standard does not mean it is not an acceptable product. We recommend that all foreign certified products undergo the Australian certification process. We will maintain communications with composters and businesses to expose unacceptable items and press for better regulation.*

**6. A paper/board/cane/leaf/wood product that is uncertified or of undetermined certification.** *Note: Most products made from these materials are assumed to be compostable. However, this is not necessarily the case - some contain inks, dyes or glues that can contaminate compost. Many remain untested because often manufacturers do not go to the time and expense to certify them. Composters do require certifications but in an unregulated market this is not enforced. We will maintain communications with composters and businesses to expose unacceptable items and press for better regulation.*

## What we do NOT Accept

- Oxo-degradable/biodegradable plastic products are NOT acceptable.
- Compostable/degradable/biodegradable plastic bags of any thickness (with handles) are NOT acceptable.