



**Rowan Williams, President**  
**Ending Plastic Waste Symposium**  
**Sofitel Melbourne on Collins**

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Australasian  Bioplastics**  
*association*



## **Australasian Bioplastics Association?**



# The Australasian Bioplastics Association (ABA)

- is the peak Industry body for the *bioplastics* industry in ANZ, representing producers, converters and users of these materials and advocates for the appropriate use of bioplastics.
- manages the only verification program in ANZ to the requirements of the Australian Standards AS 4736 and AS 5810 for products with *commercial* and *home composting* as intended end of life.
- manages the only verification program for certified *soil biodegradable mulch films* to the requirements of ISO 17033 and ISO 23517.
- manages a verification scheme for *biobased* bioplastics with renewable resource content.
- interacts with other global Industry Associations – European Bioplastics, BPI USA, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, India and Taiwan, plus certifying bodies such as DIN CERTCO (Germany) and TUV Austria.



## Bioplastics?

  
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# Bioplastics and Certification

- Bioplastics are a family of materials that are *certified compostable, certified soil biodegradable or certified biobased*.
- Bioplastics are niche products in the plastics portfolio that offer new properties and application possibilities.
- All certified compostable and soil biodegradable bioplastics have the inherent property of biodegradability as per the respective Standards/s.
- Verification is provided in the form of a Certificate of Conformance, issued by the ABA after confirmation from the independent auditor that all requirements of the Standard/s have been met.
- Compostability (and therefore biodegradability) is assured as the article has met all the requirements of the applicable Standard/s.

# The benefits of a certified product and claims

- ***Certified compostable*** – a product has met all requirements of the Australian Standards
  - Thereof certified compostable packaging such as ready to eat meal trays , freezer and pantry food packaging.
  - Thereof certified compostable food service ware such as cutlery, coffee cups, hot & cold drink cups, takeaway containers.
- Certified compostable packaging such as fibre based and multi layer is a valid option where post consumer packaging cannot be reused or recycled e.g.to replace non-recyclable and non-reusable packaging condemned to landfill such as PET trays.
- ***Claims of*** “compostable” or “biodegradable” stand alone is not endorsed by ABA.
- Certified *soil biodegradable* and certified *biobased* in respective proportions supported by Certificates of Conformance.

# Certified compostable appropriate applications

- Examples of packaging applications are:
  - Teabags and coffee pods,
  - Fruit and vegetable stickers,
  - Ready Meal Trays as always food contaminated post consumer
  - Films for food trays
  - Cling film used in food packaging
  - Multi layer food packaging and wrappers
- Food service ware such as catering plates, cups, bowls and cutlery perhaps limited to specific closed loop environments such as music festivals, concerts and sporting events in closed loops
- \* Further reading - [A Plastic Planet – The Compostable Conundrum 2021](#)



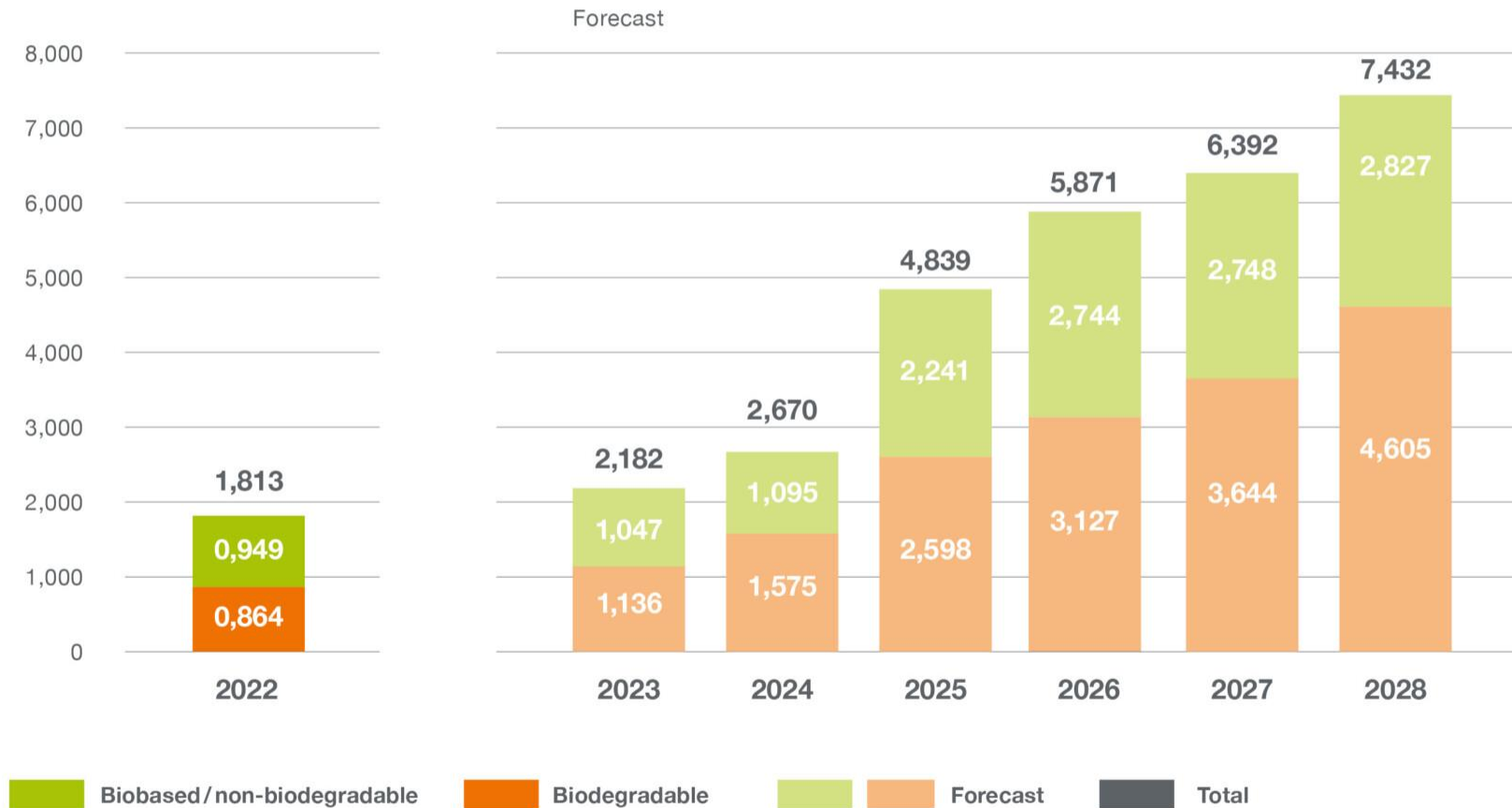
# Global Production of Bioplastics 2023-2028 Forecast

  
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# Global production capacities of bioplastics

in 1,000 tonnes

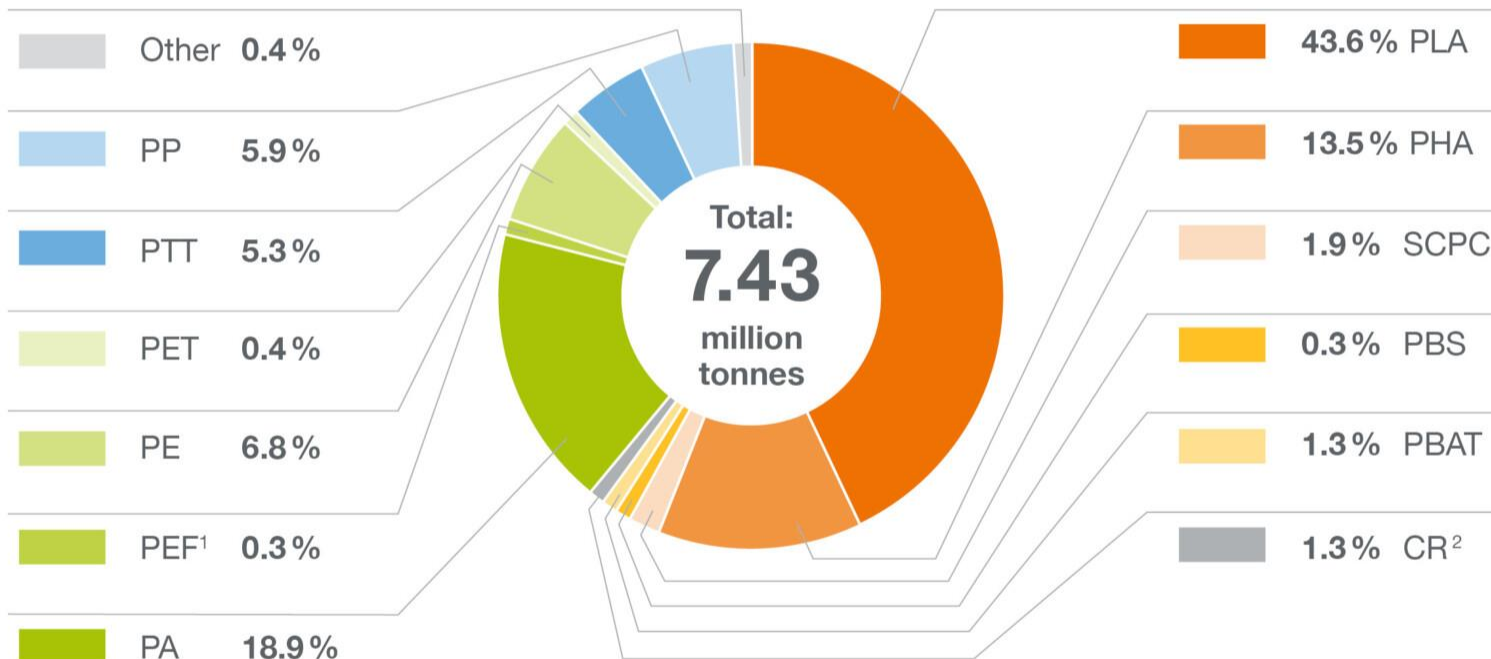


Source: European Bioplastics, nova-Institute (2023)

# Global production capacities of bioplastics 2028

**Biobased/non-biodegradable**  
38.0 %

**Biodegradable**  
62.0 %



<sup>1</sup> PEF is currently in development and predicted to be available in commercial scale in 2024. <sup>2</sup> regenerated cellulose films

Source: European Bioplastics, nova-Institute (2023)

# Further information?

- Please visit our website at <http://www.bioplastics.org.au>
- Or contact the ABA Executive directly by email at

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