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Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Global Plastics Treaty: Australia's priorities and domestic implications

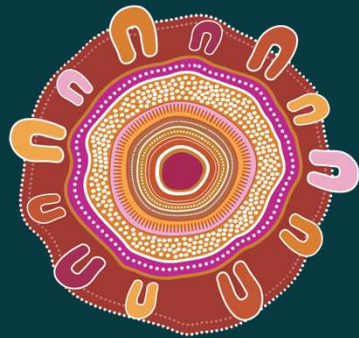
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Acknowledgment of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The plastic problem

Locally

In 2021-22:

- 3.92 million tonnes of plastics were consumed in Australia in 2021-22
 - 43% of plastics consumed was for packaging.
- 2.85 million tonnes of plastics reached end-of-life
 - 14.5% was recovered
 - 13.9% was recycled

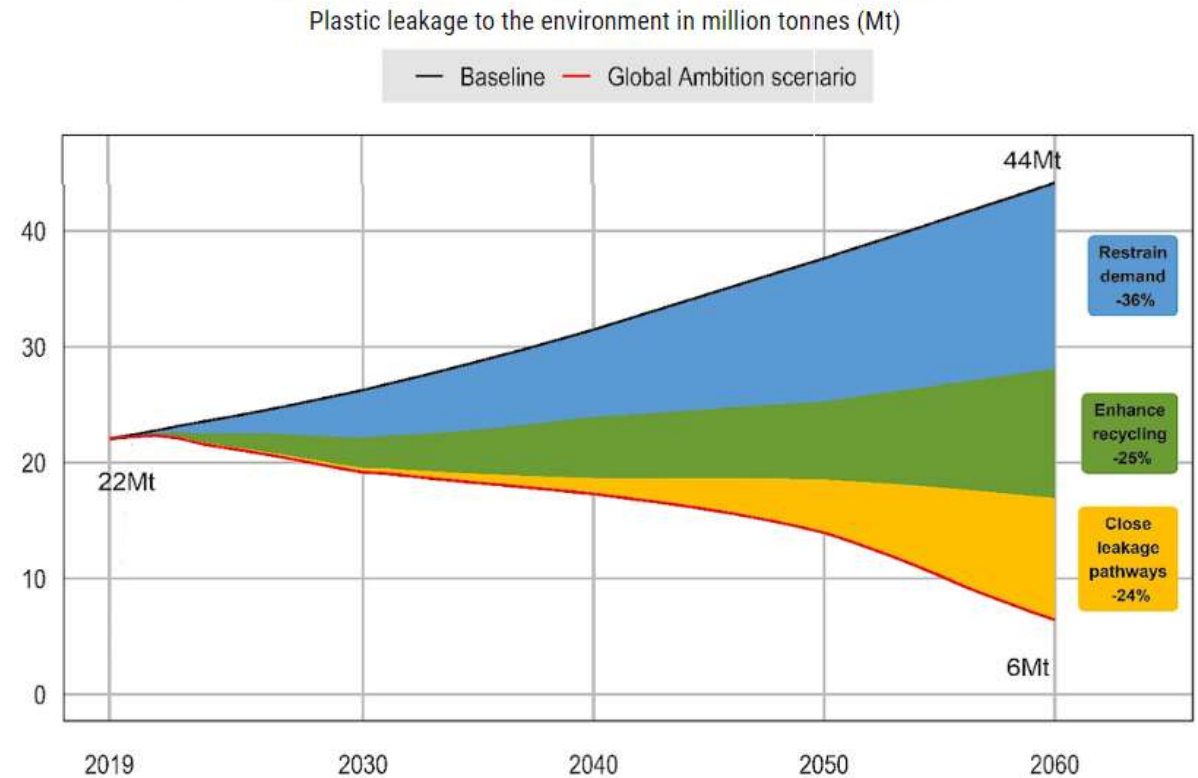
Globally

- Plastic consumption quadrupled over past 30 years
- About 9% is recycled
- More than 10,000 unique chemicals are used in plastic production
- Recycling is part of the solution, but not the whole solution

Sources: UNEP Plastic Pollution Facts; OECD Global Plastics Outlook, 2022; APFF, 2021-22

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Figure 8.7. All pillars combined reduce plastic leakage to the environment dramatically



Source: OECD ENV-Linkages model, using the methodology adapted from Ryberg et al. (2019[10]) and Cottom et al. (2022[11]).

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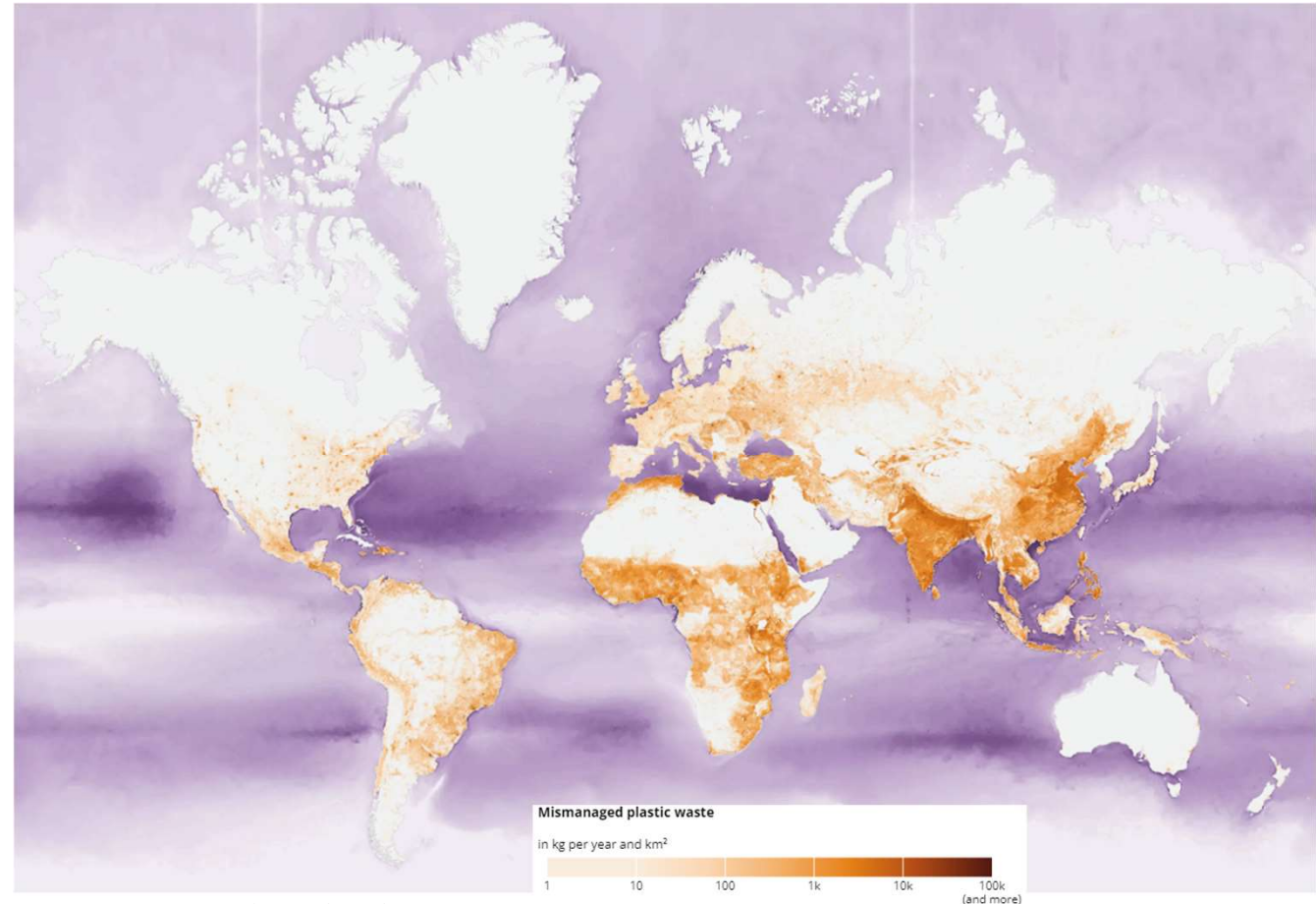
Global Plastics Treaty

We are negotiating an international, legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

Australia is a member of the High Ambition Coalition, calling to:

1. Restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels
2. Enable a circular economy that protects the environment and human health
3. Achieve environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste

Global average of mismanaged plastic waste entering our environment



• Source: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) 2023 Global Plastic Navigator Tool

International plastics treaty – Australia’s priorities

Australia’s overall objective throughout treaty negotiations is to:
End plastic pollution from all sources across the full lifecycle of plastics and
protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of plastic pollution

The **outcomes and measures** Australia is pursuing include:

1) Minimise unnecessary and problematic plastics	2) Safe circularity for plastic products	3) Prevent leakage of plastic into the environment	4) Global Harmonisation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrain primary plastic production to sustainable levels • Eliminate and manage problematic chemicals and polymers from plastics • Phase-out unnecessary, problematic and avoidable plastic products, such as single-use plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonised design standards for plastic products • Promote reuse, refill and recycling options • Extended producer responsibility schemes to ensure the producers of plastic take responsibility for their products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate leakage of plastics across each stage of the value-chain • Effective controls for environmentally sound end-of-life management of plastic waste • Measure, monitor and report plastic leakage • Remediation of legacy plastic waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global approaches to level the playing field for industry • Processes and procedures to support informed trade of plastic products • Transparency, disclosure and labelling of the chemical composition of plastic to improve traceability • Facilitate a fair, equitable and inclusive transition

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International action supports domestic interests

Relevance to Australia

- Northern Australia is a recipient of transboundary plastic pollution
- 61.3% of plastics consumed in Australia are imported.
 - Given Australia's limited market power, globally harmonised approaches are necessary to ensure the plastics we import are designed for safe recycling and circularity.
- An ambitious treaty will support:
 - Transparency and traceability of plastic products ensuring safe circularity
 - Australian business' continued access to high-value export markets
 - Stronger end markets for recycled products
 - Reduced plastic pollution emissions across the plastics life cycle



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Questions and discussion

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