

## Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 12 Minutes

3 March 2023, 9:00am - 10:00am

### Attendees

**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water:** Kate Lynch, Jane Cronin, Cameron Hutchinson.

**Coles:** Brooke Donnelly, Cath Macneil, Wade Mosse, Simone Brookes, Kristen Boverly-Spencer.

**Woolworths:** Eloise Fanuli, Christopher Lane, Laurie Kozlovic, Megan Hinchliffe, Simran Kaur, Nerilee Telford, Peter Bruce.

**Aldi:** Daniel Baker.

### Minutes

#### Agenda item 1: Welcome and attendance

Outcomes:

- **The Participants noted** that the discussion under Agenda Item 3 (Labelling) would give the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) an opportunity to provide the Participants with an update on packaging labelling.

#### Agenda item 2: Finalisation of soft plastics roadmap

- The Attendees discussed feedback received from APCO, the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) on the draft Roadmap to Restart (Roadmap).
- The Department provided feedback on the Roadmap to the Participants and noted that the Department was generally comfortable with the approach taken by the Participants in the Roadmap given the unknowns that remain regarding processing capacity.
- The Department asked for clarification on the timeframes outlined in the Roadmap and the Participants' intentions regarding export options.
- The Attendees had a general discussion in relation to export and the requirements under the Basel Convention to export hazardous material.

[REDACTED]

## Outcomes:

- **The Participants clarified** that they were not intending to rely on the Basel Convention to export the material in the short term and this would be reflected in the Roadmap.
- **The Department confirmed** the Minister is willing to assist in facilitating the permitting process required for export but reiterated that this was not solely a decision for the Australian Government.
- **The Attendees agreed** that the Roadmap approach was balanced and realistic based on current known information and noted that much information was still unknown or uncertain.
- **The Participants confirmed** that they would aim for public release of the Roadmap on 7 March 2023, that the Department would receive the final draft of the Roadmap on 6 March 2023 and that the ACCC and applicable Environment Protection Authorities would receive a copy of the Roadmap immediately prior to the public release.
- **The Participants confirmed** that a Q&A document would be provided to the Department for the Department's information in due course.

Agenda item 3: Labelling – Chris Foley from APCO attending

- Chris Foley from APCO joined the call to discuss packaging labelling considerations .
- APCO referred to recent discussions with the ACCC regarding soft plastics recycling labelling on packaging.
- The Parties discussed inviting the ACCC to the next Taskforce meeting to discuss the challenges surrounding changes to labelling. The Department noted this discussion should include both the consumer and competition teams within the ACCC.
- Participants noted the importance of consistency in approach, as inconsistent messaging would create confusion for consumers.
- Coles and Woolworths legal teams noted the need to consider approach to discussions on packaging labelling [REDACTED]

## Outcomes:

- **The Participants and APCO agreed** that timing was a key issue in labelling discussions.
- **The Participants agreed** on the importance of avoiding the premature removal of soft plastics messaging, only to require new messaging regarding the future stewardship program to be put on pack shortly after, and related environmental considerations.
- **The Parties agreed** on the importance of not misleading consumers, but also not creating unnecessary disruption and costs across the industry.
- **The Parties agreed** that changes to labelling should be an industry wide discussion, led by APCO.
- **The Participants agreed** that they would reflect on how to approach labelling discussions to manage any potential competition law risk.

Agenda item 4: Meeting close

## Outcomes:

- **The Attendees agreed** the next Taskforce meeting would be held on 27 March 2023 and the ACCC would be invited to join for a discussion on labelling.
- **The Attendees confirmed** that Participants would provide an advanced copy of the Roadmap to the Minister.

- **The Attendees confirmed** that Participants would provide a copy of the Roadmap to the ACCC and the State/Territory EPAs immediately prior to public release of the Roadmap.