

Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 19 Minutes

23 February 2024, 10:30am - 11:30am

Attendees

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: Cameron Hutchison, Caitlin Ellis.

Coles: Brooke Donnelly, Simone Brookes, Nina Stephens, Cath McNeil.

Woolworths: Alice Yang, Jonathan Russell, Laurie Kozlovic, Nerilee Telford.

Aldi: Daniel Baker.

Minutes

Agenda item 1: Welcome

- Cameron Hutchison delivered an acknowledgement of country.

Outcomes:

- **Attendees agreed Woolworths would take minutes for this meeting.**

Agenda item 2: Update on the stockpile and reprocessing capacity

- Woolworths provided an update on the reprocessing capacity in Victoria, noting that one soft plastics processor ██████ is now operational and two other processors, ██████ are also progressing, with ██████.
- Woolworths provided an update on the stockpile in NSW, noting that Woolworths and Coles' focus was ensuring there was sufficient and sustainable soft plastics processing capacity in NSW in the first instance. Woolworths noted that ██████ is in the process of building their facility. Woolworths and Coles noted that they would look to provide an update as to the status in NSW at the next Taskforce meeting.
- Woolworths noted that Government support to stimulate offtake markets for recycled materials would be appreciated to ensure a sustainable soft plastics recycling industry.

Outcomes:

- Participants to provide a further update as to soft plastics process capacity and NSW stockpile progress in NSW at the next Taskforce meeting.
- The Department noted Woolworths' request for Government support to stimulate offtake markets for recycled materials and highlighted the Australian Government's work on proposed recycled content thresholds under packaging regulatory reform and government sustainable procurement.

Agenda item 3: Update on the soft plastics instore trial

- Woolworths provided an update on the Victoria instore pilot recollections, noting that 12 Participants' stores had commenced instore collections. Woolworths noted it was a relatively

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quiet start with [REDACTED] collected instore to date, with Victorian stockpile material being processed simultaneously.

- ALDI confirmed that the trial was running smoothly in ALDI stores from an operational perspective and customer feedback to date had been positive.
- Coles also confirmed that it had received positive customer feedback to the pilot. Coles noted that it has responsibility under the trial for auditing the collected material and intended to undertake the first round of sortation and testing in the coming week. This would include classifying the collected material by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
- The Participants noted the need to ensure sufficient and sustainable soft plastics processing capacity in Victoria prior to any further expansion of the pilot.

Outcomes:

- Participants to provide a further update at the next Taskforce meeting.

Agenda item 3: Update on progress towards establishing an independent product stewardship body for soft plastics with retailers and brands Update on the soft plastics instore trial

- Coles noted that Coles had [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
- Woolworths and ALDI confirmed they were considering the proposal.

Outcomes:

- Participants to provide a further update at the next Taskforce meeting.

Agenda item 4: Other business and wrap-up

- The Attendees agreed the next Taskforce Meeting would take place on 11 April 2024, given the upcoming Easter period.

Agenda item 5: Meeting close