

# Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 20 Minutes

11 April 2024, 10:30am - 11:30am

## Attendees

**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water:** Cameron Hutchison, Caitlin Ellis, Annette Williams, Jane Cronin.

**Coles:** Brooke Donnelly, Nina Stephens, Catherine Macneil, Lizzy Rogers, Sean O'Malley.

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

**Aldi:** Daniel Baker.

## Minutes

### Agenda item 1: Welcome

- Cameron Hutchison delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

### Outcomes

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

### Agenda item 2: Update on the stockpile and reprocessing capacity

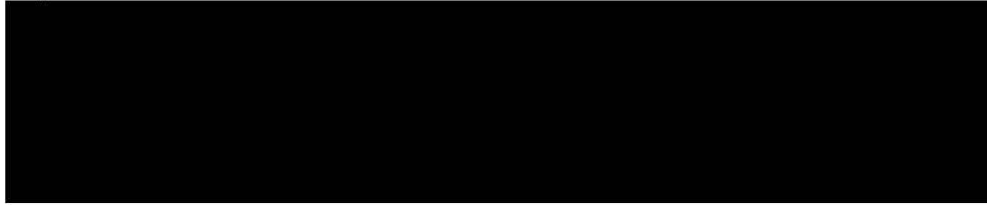
- Woolworths provided an update on the reprocessing capacity in Victoria, through Close the Loop and CDRC – both processors are currently working on a basis of approximately [REDACTED].
  - CDRC has experienced some initial teething issues and is working through an average of one container per week.
  - Close the Loop has only come online and started to receive volumes over the past week.
- Woolworths provided an update on the stockpile in NSW, noting that the focus was ensuring there was sufficient and sustainable soft plastics processing capacity in NSW in the first instance. Woolworths is working closely with some new processors in NSW and there is likely to be more capacity coming online soon such as [REDACTED].
- Woolworths noted that it is working closely with potential new players in other states ([REDACTED]) to understand what volumes they may be able to process and estimated timeframes for reprocessing.
- Woolworths provided an update on offtake markets for recycled materials and noted that export opportunities for the recycled materials may be available soon.
  - Plastic samples from NSW have been sent to Belgium and Asia – with all samples meeting quality requirements for the purpose of producing products to be sent offshore. The Department confirmed it is happy to provide advice on the process for the export of plastics materials.

## Outcomes

- **The Participants** will be in a better position to give an update on timeframes for clearing the VIC stockpile at the next Taskforce meeting.

### Agenda item 3: Update on the soft plastics instore trial.

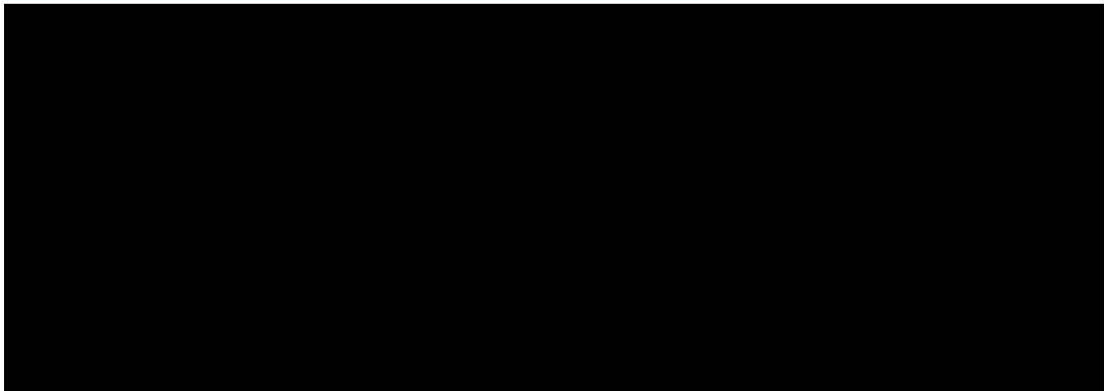
- Coles noted that it has responsibility under the trial for auditing the collected material. Coles provided an update on the audit of soft plastic materials received through the trial.



## Outcomes

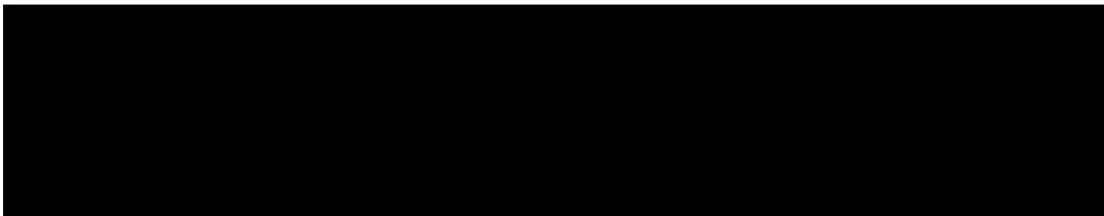
- **Coles** should be able to share the full results from the audit shortly.

### Agenda item 4: Update on progress towards establishing an independent product stewardship scheme for soft plastics with retailers and brands.



- **Outcomes**
  - [Redacted] to attend the next Taskforce meeting as a guest to provide a more detailed update on their plan for the product stewardship scheme moving forward.

### Agenda item 5: Other business



- The Participants discussed that the Taskforce had received a letter from the Inner West City Council requesting a solution for soft plastics recycling in stores.

- The Participants agreed that the parties' respective communications teams will liaise and prepare a consistent response.

Agenda item 6: Meeting close.

- Parties agreed to proceed on the basis that the next meeting will fall on 31 May 2024, noting that any relevant updates or progress can be raised through correspondence or out of session discussions.