

Media Release

Woolworths Group reaffirms its commitment to a Greener Future

Monday, 4th June, 2018 (Embargoed 11am): A phase out of the sale of plastic straws, further reductions in plastic packaging in fruit and vegetables, and the launch of a new reusable shopping bag that'll support the next generation of environmental champions are amongst a number of sustainability initiatives announced today by the Woolworths Group.

On the eve of World Environment Day, Woolworths Group CEO Brad Banducci made the announcements at an industry sustainability event hosted at the Group's Support Office in Bella Vista, Sydney.

The new initiatives announced, include:

- By the end of 2018, all stores within the Group in Australia and New Zealand will no longer sell plastic straws - saving 134 million plastic straws from going into circulation each year.
- With the nationwide phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags on June 20th, Woolworths Supermarkets will offer a new green reusable shopping bag - with a lifetime replacement offer - for customers to purchase. All money made from the sale of the Bag for Good™ in FY19 will go towards the Junior Landcare grants program.
- In an ongoing effort to remove unnecessary packaging in produce, Woolworths is committed to trial the removal of plastic packaging on a further 80 lines over the next year. This will build on the 140 tonnes of plastic saved in the fruit and vegetables range in the last year.
- A commitment for 100% of Woolworths Supermarkets to have a food waste diversion partner by the end of 2018.
- Woolworths to lead the establishment of a new Packaging Coalition Roundtable bringing together government, NGOs and key industry partners including Unilever, Nestlé, Simplot, VISY and the Australian Packaging Covenant to find ways to move towards a circular economy in Australia.

Woolworths Group CEO Brad Banducci said; "In the last year we have seen a shift towards more sustainable attitudes from our customers and the momentum is growing, with recent research showing a 15% increase in Australians now saying that taking care of the planet is important to them.

"While we've made progress in reducing the amount of plastic in our stores, supported recycling labelling initiatives, and made improvements in energy efficiency, sustainable sourcing and reducing food waste, we know that more needs to be done to meet our customers' expectations.

"Today's initiatives represent further small, but important, steps in our commitment to make positive change happen. We understand the journey towards a more sustainable future has its challenges, but together with our customers and industry partners we are committed to moving our business, our country and our planet towards a greener future."

The sustainability event at the Woolworths Support Office also included global perspectives on sustainable retailing from Peter Skelton from WRAP UK, while Craig Reucassel from ABC's War on Waste facilitated a panel of industry leaders discussing the challenges and opportunities of moving to a circular economy.

The panel included Angus Harris (Co-CEO Harris Farm Markets); Anthony Pratt (Executive Chairman, Visy Australia & Pratt Industries); Claire Peters (Managing Director, Woolworths Supermarkets); Clive Stiff (CEO Unilever, Australia and New Zealand) and Paul Klymenko (CEO Planet Ark Australia Foundation).

You can follow the progress to date and the changes being made at Woolworths at woolworths.com.au/greener

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