1. Local, state and national governments in Australia and around the world have identified that there are significant environmental, community and economic impacts associated with plastic in the environment. Although there is no comprehensive data available on the amount of single use plastic used in Queensland, it is reported that Australians use an estimated 10 million plastic straws per day.
2. The high functionality and relatively low cost of plastic means that this material is commonplace in everyday life. Plastic plays a useful role in the economy and provides essential applications in many sectors. However, its growing use in short-lived and single use (convenience) items, which are not designed for re-use or cost-effective recovery and recycling, means that the lifecycle of these items has become increasingly linear.
3. The *Tackling Plastic Waste – Queensland’s Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan* (the Plan) identifies and prioritises actions that will reduce plastic waste and the impacts of plastic pollution on the environment and economy.
4. A headline action under the Plan is to introduce, subject to a Regulatory Impact Statement, legislation to ban the supply of specific plastic products, starting with straws (taking into account the disability needs of people), stirrers, plates and cutlery and, following further analysis, extend legislation to include coffee cups, other plastic cups and heavyweight plastic shopping bags.
5. The Regulatory Impact Statement consultation will assist the Government to understand the impact on consumers, business and the environment of banning certain single-use plastics and to consider how the net benefits of a ban compare with other options to address plastic pollution.
6. Cabinet approved the release of the Single Use Plastic Items Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for public consultation.
7. *Attachments*
   * [Single Use Plastic Items Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement](Attachments/RIS.PDF)