



MEDIA RELEASE

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Plastic bag transition a gradual one for Hastings Co-op IGAs

While many competitors, including some IGAs, will stop providing single-use plastic bags from Sunday (July 1), Hastings Co-op's Wauchope, Timbertown and Port Macquarie's IGAs will have a phase out period before they will no longer be readily available.

As announced in March this year, Hastings Co-op has been gradually "saying goodbye plastics, hello reuseables" to ensure a smooth transition for customers.

"We will still have single-use plastic bags after July 1, however, customers are being encouraged to adopt a BYO bag culture over the next few months," chief executive officer Allan Gordon explained.

"We understand this is a big adjustment for many of our valued customers and will continue providing bags until October 1, when a minimal fee will be introduced."

The community-owned co-operative said the decision to 'say goodbye to plastic' had been hugely popular, with a dramatic increase in reusable bag sales since the announcement three months ago and 82% of respondents in an April Facebook survey agreeing it as a "good idea".

"When single-use plastic bags are phased out completely we will save two million bags each year, which is a substantial win for the environment," Mr Gordon said.

"I commend our customers, and thank them for helping us keep the Hastings clean and green."

Hastings Co-op has already introduced bio-degradable bags in fresh produce departments, which complements other sustainability initiatives such as the installation of solar power at several sites, providing cardboard boxes for customers and supporting the reverse vending machines at the Bulk Fuel Depot in High Street.

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