



## Bioplastics Fact Sheet – Packaging October 2019

The Australasian Bioplastics Association (ABA) is the peak body for the bioplastics industry in ANZ.

Compostable bioplastics have a role to play in the Circular Economy through the replacement of conventional plastics in problematic packaging and as food waste bags, garbage bags and bin liners.

### Global conventional plastic production and end of life\*

- The global production of conventional plastics, such as PE, PP, PS, is estimated by many sources at around 360 million tonnes.
- It is estimated that 250 million tonnes ends up as waste with 173 million tonnes collected.
- Of this 173 million tonnes,
  - 50 million tonnes are recycled,
  - 51 million tonnes goes to energy recovery,
  - 72 million tonnes to landfill
  - 63 million tonnes is disposed of improperly (littered, improper burning or burying) and
  - 14 million tonnes otherwise lost to the systems through leakage such as floods

### Global bioplastic production\*\*

- The global production of bioplastics is estimated at around 2.62 million tonnes, in 2023.
- Bioplastics can be compostable (biodegradable), biobased (renewable raw materials) or both.
- Not all biobased bioplastics are compostable (biodegradable).
- Estimated production of compostable bioplastics is roughly 1.3 million tonnes and biobased (non compostable / non biodegradable) is also roughly 1.3 million tonnes.

### End of Life Options for Bioplastics

- Certified compostable bioplastics are suitable for organics recycling, such as industrial or home composting and anaerobic digestion.
- Non compostable bioplastics are suitable for conventional recycling, alongside their chemically identical counterparts made from fossil raw materials.

### Packaging Market Consumption of plastic and estimated consumption of bioplastics

- The volume of conventional plastics in the packaging industry is around 170 million tonnes.
- There may be limitations on the replacement of conventional plastic packaging, with compostable bioplastics.
- Depending upon the application, these may include functional performance, economics and appropriate end of life availability.
- As technologies change, more opportunity for replacement of conventional plastics with compostable bioplastics will develop.

The ABA / AORA joint policy paper on certified compostable products is available at <https://www.aora.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/website-content/180503-certified-compostable-plastics-position-joint-policy-statement.pdf>.

The ABA provides more information at [info@bioplastics.org.au](mailto:info@bioplastics.org.au).

\*Conversio Market & Strategy, October 2019, Global Plastics Flow 2018

\*\* European Bioplastics BV, Facts and Figures 2019

Mail to:

35 Colbert Rd, Campbellfield VIC 3061  
[www.bioplastics.org.au](http://www.bioplastics.org.au)