

Bay no longer draws short straw

t's been very exciting hearing feedback and ideas from our community about the LoveOurBay campaign.

There's plenty of community spirit to be harnessed as we all do our bit to keep our beautiful city—and bay—clean and safe.

I'm very happy to share with you Port Phillip Council's latest initiative aimed at reducing waste and litter: As we issue permits for more than 400 large outdoor events a year, requiring or encouraging sustainability at these events is a great way of reducing waste and keeping plastics away from our bay and its vulnerable wildlife.

Under our sustainable events provisions, plastic straws can no longer be used at large outdoor events (for 200 people or more) permitted by the council.

Event providers seeking to hold outdoor events must also agree to conditions including not distributing single-use plastic bags. A recycling stream and bins must also be included in organisers' waste management plans.

We also have lots of good



BERNADENE VOSSPORT PHILLIP MAYOR

suggestions for event providers to consider, but not necessarily implement.

We have already noticed some creative sustainability solutions by event providers, including a deposit system where patrons paid a \$1 refundable deposit for every drink to encourage them to recycle.

It's important to note our sustainability requirements and guidelines don't apply to visitors and residents simply enjoying a picnic at the park or beach. It's not appropriate to hold the community to the same waste management standards as major event providers and we prefer to encourage change through education, rather than enforcement.

I would, however, urge everyone enjoying our city to think about how they can reduce waste.

The possibilities are endless let's all get on-board and #LoveOurBay!



SIP, DON'T SUCK

Port Phillip Council has issued a ban on plastic straws at large outdoor events.

It follows last year's balloon ban and is aimed at protecting the environment and vulnerable marine life.

Mayor Bernadene Voss said the move was part of the council's commitment to sustainability.

More than 400 permits for outdoor events are issued by the council each year and include strict sustainability guidelines.

"We are finding lots of event providers are keen to do this as they, and their attendees, want to do the right thing for the environment," Cr Voss said.

Single-use plastic bags, styrofoam, single-use plastic cutlery and crockery are also banned at all large outdoor events.

Cr Voss said organisers caught flouting the law would risk being banned from holding future events in the municipality.

The guidelines do not apply to families enjoying a picnic.

For more details and ideas about sustainable substitutes: bit.ly/2zOyAXb



Please contact us if you would like this information

in an accessible format.

Authorised by the Victorian

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