

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

## **Answers to Questions on Notice**

### **Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Disposable plastics**  
Question: **33**  
Written **Senator Whish-Wilson**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017**

Does DPS have procedures to ensure the recycling of disposable and single use plastics?

#### **Answer**

DPS provides facilities to recycle co-mingled waste (including disposable and single use plastic), paper, cardboard, printer cartridges, lamps, used oil, grease, batteries, landscape material, metal, and organic food waste.

DPS provides information on recycling through the APH website, internal circulars and departmental newsletters. DPS encourages participation in annual environmental events such as National Recycling Week.

Recent initiatives to reduce, or improve recycling of disposable and single use plastics at Parliament House include:

- Plastic water cups, plastic takeaway food containers and plastic cutlery used in catering operations replaced with 'environmentally friendly' types including compostable food containers.
- Collection facilities introduced in the basement for soft-plastics packaging (e.g. cling wrap) – for recycling offsite.
- Scoping study underway to replace (non-recyclable) 'plastic-coated' takeaway coffee cups with an 'environmentally friendly' type at all DPS operated cafes.
- Reusable 'Keep cups' to be available for purchase at DPS operated cafes for staff and building occupants (planned).