

Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name: **Brownes Food Operations Pty Ltd**

Trading As:

ABN: **60146849881**

About APCO

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is a co-regulatory not-for-profit organisation leading the development of a circular economy for packaging in Australia. APCO's vision is a packaging value chain that collaborates to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retains the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

Each year, APCO Brand Owner Members are required to submit an APCO Annual Report and an APCO Action Plan. This document is the Annual Report and Action Plan output for the organisation listed above. This document provides the overall performance level of the organisation, as well as any commitments they have made to work towards on their packaging sustainability journey. This document may also include additional information provided by the Member in their report.

Overall Performance **Leading**

The chart below indicates the overall performance level of this organisation listed above in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. The organisation's reporting period was **January, 2023 - December, 2023**



Understanding APCO Annual Reporting performance levels:

- 1 Getting Started:** You are at the start of your packaging sustainability journey.
- 2 Good Progress:** You have made some first steps on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 3 Advanced:** You have taken tangible action on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 4 Leading:** You have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 5 Beyond Best Practice:** You have received the highest performance level and have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.

Contact

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Additional Information

The information below indicates additional information that the organisation included in their APCO Annual Report.

Describe initiatives, processes or practices that you have implemented during your chosen reporting period that have improved packaging sustainability

2023 saw Brownes Dairy appoint a Sustainable Packaging Officer for the first time. Our commitment to this resource has helped us to understand more across the packaging sustainability space, take learnings from global best in class, and ensure we are continually moving forward in this space.

The opening of 2023 saw Brownes Dairy complete the phase out of rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging from our portfolio. 100% of our cream and yoghurt portfolio are now available in 20% post-consumer recycled polypropylene (PP).

We also continued to educate about packaging sustainability within our own business. A part of this is ensuring that the correct disposal methods for recovery are being used across our sites. We moved away from desk bins with implementation of a new waste segregation system. The Method recycling bins are centralised communal recycling stations containing several segregation options that allows us to segregate waste on site for maximum recycling impact. They are also made of 50% recycled content, and fully recyclable at end of life.

Describe any opportunities or constraints that affected performance within your chosen reporting period

Soft plastics continue to be a challenge, and whilst ensuring that we transition to CEFLEX standards, ongoing trials for recycling at this stage are not taking place in WA. Partnering with the National Plastics Recycling Scheme will be an important piece of our commitment to ensure we can continue to be involved in trials and processes in this area.

With changing Prep outcomes with check locally etc, managing exiting existing artwork to ensure advising consumers as accurately as possible is a balance with ensuring there are no unnecessary end of life outcomes for exiting packaging.

Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation.

Continuing to improve circularity outcomes in packaging is a focus for Brownes Dairy. Over the course of the reporting period, we successfully transitioned to clear caps across over 20 SKUs in our juice, flavoured milk and some white milk brands. We continue to trial across a wider range of our brands and working with both customers and suppliers to move to clear caps across our full white milk range within the next 12 months.

Brownes transitioned all our PET bottles to 100% post-consumer recycled polymer which saw a significant reduction of virgin plastic being put onto the market. Used plastic feedstock (PET bottle and containers) is recycled by Circular Plastics Australia is collected through Cleanaway's Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) and Container Deposit Schemes (CDS). The food-grade recycled PET (rPET) is made available by Cleanway is purchased by our supplier for production of these bottles.

In 2023 we began transitioning our crate stocks (Brownes supplies over 50% of its volume to customers in returnable crates) to 100% post-consumer recycled PP crates. The feedstock comes from mixed rigid

plastics from kerbside collection.

APCO Action Plan Commitments

For each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria listed below, a description is provided along with the commitments made by the organisation in their APCO Action Plan.

Criteria 1:

Governance & Strategy:

This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.

- Develop a strategy that includes goals (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent.
- Include a commitment to achieving the 2025 National Packaging Targets in our strategy.
- Have our executive or board of directors review our strategy and have the strategy integrated within our business processes.
- Regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within our organisation.
- Regularly engage or communicate with our external stakeholders about the environmental impacts of our packaging.
- Actively participate in initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of our organisation.

Criteria 2:

Design & Procurement:

This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).

- Review **100%** of our packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Incorporate the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent) into procurement processes.
- Consider the following Sustainable Packaging Principles in our packaging reviews:
 - Design for recovery
 - Optimise material efficiency
 - Design to reduce product waste
 - Eliminate hazardous materials
 - Use of renewable materials
 - Use recycled materials
 - Design to minimise litter
 - Design for transport efficiency
 - Design for accessibility
 - Provide consumer information on environmental sustainability
- **70%** of our packaging to be optimised for material efficiency.

Criteria 3:

Recycled Content:

This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.

- Develop a policy or procedure to buy products and/or packaging made from recycled materials.
- Use recycled content in:
 - Primary packaging that we use to sell our products
 - Secondary packaging that we use to sell our products
 - Tertiary packaging that we use to sell our products
 - Other items which we purchase (e.g. office stationary and suppliers etc.)
- 35% of our packaging to be made using some level of recycled material
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding use of recycled materials.

Criteria 4:

Recoverability:

This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of reusable packaging.

- 91% of our packaging to be designed to have all packaging components be recoverable at end-of-life.
- Use PREP to assess the recyclability of our packaging through kerbside collection in Australia and/or New Zealand.
- Investigate opportunities to use reusable packaging.
- Participate in a close-loop recovery program/alternative collection system.

Criteria 5:

Disposal Labelling:

This criteria considers the extent to which packaging has been labelled to help consumers determine what to do with packaging at end-of-life.

- 95% of our packaging to have on-pack labelling to inform correct disposal.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding labelling.

Criteria 6:

On-site Waste:

This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being diverted from landfill.

- Have recycling programs for the following materials:
 - Paper/cardboard
 - Rigid plastics
 - Timber

- Aim for 80% of our on-site waste to be diverted from landfill.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding on-site waste.

Criteria 7:

Problematic Materials:

This criteria considers the extent to which organisations are actively phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging and preventing/reducing litter.

- Help reduce litter by:
 - Conducting regular clean ups
 - Participating in Business Clean Up Day
 - Delivering a litter education campaign
 - - We partnered with Containers for Change for their official launch of 'Containers for Change Collect', a on-demand collection service that allow Western Australians to return their 10c containers. This will help in bringing awareness to WA that flavoured milk cartons available at Brownes can be returned to Containers for Change refund points.
 - - National Recycling Weeks - internal comms on VIVA Engage
 - - Addressing correct disposal of items and diversion from landfill updates at monthly assemblies
 - -Through Brownes Dairy's school tour program, we educate 8400+ young minds on environment impact of food miles, circularity and more. Our school tours are free for all primary schools in Perth.
- Phase-out the following problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items: