



MEDIA RELEASE

Under embargo until February 26, 2020, 7pm AEST

## Planet Ark releases report on potential dangers of BPA Encourages transition to safer alternatives

### Report highlights:

- Bisphenol A (BPA) is a known Endocrine Disrupting Chemical (EDC) with studies linking BPA exposure to a range of negative health impacts in humans and animals.
- Common analogues such as Bisphenol S (BPS) are available and often used as alternatives but have similar negative impacts to BPA and should also be avoided.
- Guided by the precautionary principle, Planet Ark suggests reducing exposure to products containing BPA and its analogues and a transition to phenol-free (free from BPA and analogues including BPS, BPF etc.) alternatives.
- Planet Ark also supports the conclusions of organisations such as Project TENDR, who recommend regulations requiring manufacturers of new chemicals to prove they are safe.

Planet Ark is encouraging a transition to phenol-free alternatives following the release of its report investigating potential dangers of Bisphenol A (BPA) to human health and the environment.

Guided by the precautionary principle, the *Forever Chemicals: Health and Environmental Risks of Bisphenol A and its Analogues* report recommends reducing exposure to products containing BPA and its analogues and a transition to phenol-free alternatives.

“BPA and its analogues are what we call ‘forever chemicals’ due to their stability and mobility in our environment,” said Paul Klymenko, Planet Ark CEO.

“Based on this review of recent literature and in accordance with the precautionary principle, businesses and consumers should be seeking safe alternatives to BPA due to the likely risks of its long-term and widespread use.”

BPA is an industrial chemical widely used in a range of products we use in everyday life, such as plastic containers, the lining of food tins and thermal paper receipts and tickets. It is also a known Endocrine Disrupting Chemical (EDC) that has been linked to negative health impacts due to its ability to mimic and compete with naturally occurring hormones in our body.

Studies have highlighted associated health impacts of BPA exposure including breast and prostate cancer, reduced fertility, Type 2 Diabetes, hypertension, obesity and neurodevelopment issues, among others.

The report makes the following recommendations to consumers and business owners:

- Planet Ark encourages businesses to move away from products containing BPA and its analogues and ensure alternatives are safe for consumers.
- As consumers, items such as tinned food cans, plastic containers and drink bottles (especially when heated or aged) should be avoided if no phenol-free options are available. Furthermore, we recommend consumers use their purchasing power to expediate the transition to safer options.

Full report available at <https://planetark.org/research/forever-chemicals>. Embargo to 26 February, 2020 at 7pm AEST.





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**About Planet Ark**

Planet Ark Environmental Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world where people live in balance with nature. Established in 1992, it is one of Australia's leading environmental behaviour change organisations with a focus on working collaboratively and positively. Planet Ark promotes and creates simple, positive environmental actions – for everyone.

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