

Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name: **Tassal Operations Pty Ltd**

Trading As: **Tassal, De Costi Seafoods**

ABN: **38106324127**

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 **Advanced**

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

We have transitioned to moisture retention trays which resulted in the elimination of soaker pads for many of our pre-packed salmon products. We are reviewing the possibility of transitioning across other species (e.g. prawns) and larger format moisture lock trays. The success of this transition will depend on our suppliers' availability and shelf-life performance of these products. We are also continuing our momentum for eliminating other single-use plastics such as expanded polystyrene (EPS) by reviewing alternative corrugated board substitutes. During the 2023 calendar year, we launched a 4 kg retail poly replacement for fresh prawns which diverted a substantial number of EPS boxes from landfill. We are also continually improving our packaging recyclability as well as increase in post-industrial waste (PIW) and when possible, post-consumer recycled content (PCR) in our packaging. Currently, our polypropylene trays contain 30% PIW and we continue to increase both PIW and PCR in secondary packaging such as shippers. We also update our ARL logo regularly based on our PREP reports to ensure that consumers are disposing or recycling end of life packaging accordingly. Each year, we hold an Innovation Packaging Symposium where we invite suppliers from diverse industries to pitch their latest innovation with sustainability as a key criterion.

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

One of the main obstacles is ensuring that any novel, sustainable packaging is fit for purpose in seafood processing. Packaging needs to withstand wet, oily, refrigerated and freezer temperatures making it necessary to rely on plastic liners and laminates on cardboard. When possible, we look at reducing the use of these materials or substitute for more sustainable alternatives. Packaging solutions also needs to be fit for purpose from cold chain supply to shelf, alternative substrates need to provide same shelf-life capabilities as their plastic counterparts to minimise food waste. Thus, it may be challenging to fully transition to these alternative substrates if shelf-life is negatively impacted. The collapse of REDcycle has also posed an obstacle for the recycling of soft plastics. We are investigating alternative monomer-based plastics for chemical recycling as well as mechanical recycling options. Further, a national standard (as opposed to council specific initiatives) needs to be developed for us to advise consumers on an appropriate soft plastic recycling pathway. We have also increased the amount of recycled content in packaging when possible; this is more feasible for secondary packaging (e.g. shippers) but bound by food grade safety constraints for primary packaging.

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

We were recently recognised by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) at their annual Sustainable Seafood Awards in March 2024. Tassal was recognised with the Above & Beyond Award for our initiatives in reducing single-use plastics such as soaker pads in pre-packaged seafood and EPS for cold-chained retail prawns. 33,000 poly replacement prawn boxes have been implemented and tens of millions of soaker pads

have been saved annually.

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).
- 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
- **5%** 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
- 65% of our packaging to be made using some level of recycled material

Criteria 4:

Recoverability:

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

- 1% 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.
- 13% of our packaging to have all packaging components that are reusable.

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.

- 43% of our packaging to have on-pack labelling to inform correct disposal.

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
 - Soft plastics
 - Rigid plastics
- Aim for 83% of our on-site waste to be diverted from landfill.

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
 - Sponsoring a clean up day