

Drawing in Plastics panel event - Wednesday 5th October 2022

#	Question	Answer
	Great panel today! I'm interested in hearing how we can remove plastics from our diet (drinking water, cups, in our food ect)?	
1	I've been reading recently about this impacting fertility rates, passes the blood brain barrier, carcinogens, ect. Very concerning for our long term health!	In the future, it may be possible to do some removal from human serum using some technology similar to Dialysis.
2	When do you classify a river as biologically dead?	From my (brief) research, the waterbody, over a set period of time (not sure how long), does not support life of any Beau Miles, I appreciate your reply.
3	Covid plastics... my children are still bringing home RATS from school. I now wear gloves for walks due to picking up tests, face masks. Are the academics on this panel anticipating an increase in plastics due to the increase of waste/litter relating to Covid? I assume they are already reaching our waterways?	We are finding waste related to covid (e.g. face masks) are increasing in the environment. In some areas of Australia, we are seeing litter decrease on beaches by 75%, whereas in other areas of Australia we are seeing litter increase by 90%
4	Where can you watch the episodes of Bad River? Will they be streamed on any platform?	Thanks Kathy! Head to Beau Miles on YouTube. next three epsodes coming out overe the coming 6 months. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/beaumiles">https://www.youtube.com/c/beaumiles</a> here is the direct link to Beau's Channel.
5	visit Youtube to watch Bad River and related	
6	As a young engineer who works in infrastructure, particularly stormwater management, what are some of the emerging technologies I should be pushing forward to address plastics in stormwater runoff?	live answered
7	do you consider that plastics is a more significant issue than nutrient runoff?	live answered
8	Presently, the global human population expands by over 150,000 people each day and population is expected to reach 8 billion next year. The waste management hierarchy's top priority is prevention/elimination; followed by reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and dispose. How can we eliminate the growth of plastics as population continues to grow?	We need to urgently reduce production - particularly for single use plastic items.
9	Is it likely, in our life time, that single use plastics will be banned globally? Is there hope of a global initiative?	So far all bans have lacked enforcement, so until there is agreement that bans will be enforced, the answer is no.
10	Over here in WA we have local government and Water Corp managing drainage - with DWER the regulator who needs to drive the policy/regulation change to manage gross pollution?	Change can happen in many ways - from top down (federal government) to bottom up (e.g. individual activism). State government has, however, been very effective in QLD, NSW, and Vic,
11	Is an obvious part solution to gobally ban/limit single-use plastic packaging - via a forum like the UN (as per our approach to global climate change action)?	The plastic science community is very excited that an international treaty on plastics is underway. An international treaty will mean all signatory countries will be united in their efforts to reduce plastic pollution and improve waste management. Banning/reducing single-use plastics is a major discussion point for the treaty. I'm optimistic that
12	Q: Does the soils found in GPTs considered "contaminated"? Eg councils (if) they clean/empty them out, where would they be appropriately disposed of if 'contaminated'?	Hey Vivian. The removed pollutants can be sent to landfill. In NSW, we also take the removed pollution to a waste recycling centre.
13	What do we do about organisations and governments that keep focussing on recycling plastics as park benches, park pillars, rubber crumb in playgrounds and adding rubber crumb to roads?	They need to be encased in a material that will not photo degrade
14	Could you share any studies forecasting what 'business as usual' would look like on the planet if we continue using plastic the way we do?	Currently ... Apparently approx ONE garbage truck worth of plastic discharges to oceans per minute globally. By 2050, business as usual, would have THREE per minute....
15	Whilst I have no argument about reducing/eliminating single use plastics (especially to my mind the ridiculously wasteful wrapping/packaging of so many things), I'm very curious about the level of effort/thought/research going into making sure that the replacements/alternatives are actually better/safer/kinder to the environment. To me it seems there is a lack of careful attention here and we risk polluting with something just as bad in the long term...	In Australia's National Plastic Plan, an aim of the plan is to have a national/international standard and certification to class the variety of alternative plastic now entering the consumer market. A few research labs in Australia and the USA are testing the environmental effects of these alternative products to inform certification bodies what products are least harmful/best to use.
16	do we have any study about effect of plastic pollution in Murray-Darling river systems in Australia?	do we have any study about effect of plastic pollution in Murray-Darling river systems in Australia?
17	do we have any study about effect of plastic pollution in Murray-Darling river systems in Australia?	Not to my knowledge but a great knowledge gap that science can answer.
18	As well as banning plastic items is anywhere incentivising companies to reduce packaging on their items? Are any types of plastic preferable to others? I've often thought if we could reduce the types of plastic used we may be able to streamline reuse and recycling.	Best way to incentivise companies to stop using so much plastic is to stop giving them your money by buying their stuff. Power to the people !!
19	Are there any biodegradable plastic alternatives emerging that are cost-competitive and could one day replacewith oil-based plastics?	The price of oil is a major driver to the cost competitiveness of alternative products. Many alternative products are being developed, trialled and tested. I think there is more growth in this space. Keep optimisitc :)
20	why is the focus typically on the consumer and not the producer when it comes to recycling, reducing? shouldn't the focus be on business to stop selling product that damages the environment?	live answered
21	Once we've collected microplastics, where do we put them? Like from the river Yarra in Melbourne? I assume not in the rubbish so they wash back out in the next storm?	Hey Vicki, removed pollution (e.g. microplastics) is often best tranferred to landfill. If there's recyclable material (e.g. single use bottles), for sure recycle if you can. cheers
22	Great example from Guatemala. We should hear more from central and south America, and Asia; and also experiences from femals and non-white people.	Our research team has a book coming out next year which details successful waste management solutions from around the world. These solutions are grass-root, community created programs that have social and environmental benefits. We have successful stories from 19 countries including India, Chile, Vanuatu, South Africa, Bangladesh. Many of these programs have been started by women in the community. I was very encouraged learning about the
23	What about funding proper waste mangement in third world countries?... Very low tech, but costly... although without question it would improve millions of lives too.	The CSIRO are working with partners in India, Vietnam and Indonesia to find practical waste management solutions that suit the social and environmental nuances of the community. We will be supporting the development and
24	TOTALLY agree with your comments about the socks thanks Brad D	Thanks Peter.
25	How much of a part could Urban Sensitive Design play?	How much of a part could Urban Sensitive Design play?
26	How much of a part could Urban Sensitive Design play?	Water Sensitive Urban Design has a major part. A key principle of WSUD is stormwater management - which includes stopping pollution from flowing into downstream waterways. This is mandated for new development in
27	Do you guys know anything about the potential of the wax worm in reducing plasti	Do you guys know anything about the potential of the wax worm in reducing plastic
28	Thanks Brad. I guess it comes down to cost for the council. What and who is willing to pay for appropriate disposal...	Sorry, I don't. Yep, but what price do we put on healthy oceans, waterways ... and ultimately us ?
29	Thanks Brad	
30	Thanks. Top session	