**WWR 4.4: Single Use Item Policy**

**Who does the Policy Apply to?**  
The single & disposable use item policy applies to all employees, volunteers, students, contractors, wider estate employees and any customers when they are at Watatunga. All Watatunga activities fall under this policy such as animal husbandry, veterinary treatment, tours, holiday lets, stretch tent events, BBQ hut events, school trips, art experience tours, and any other commercial activities such as private tours.

**Justification:**  
Single-use plastic is one of the largest contributors to environmental pollution across the globe and causes significant harm to wildlife and ecosystems. This problem can be reduced significantly with the controlled use and disposal of or single-use plastic and other disposable items.

**Our aim is to provide suitable alternatives to single use items wherever possible. This is achieved by:**  
-Promoting the re-useable coffee cups by offering a discount on drinks purchased by 25% to enable customers to have an incentive to re-use their own coffee cups rather than our disposable, recyclable cups.   
  
-We provide free tap water so that people can simply refill their water bottles on site as opposed to buying cartons of water from the gift shop.   
  
-We do not offer any gift shop bags for large items, we only provide recyclable paper bags for small trinkets like magnets, pens and pencils that could get lost or damaged easily.   
  
-We do not serve drinks with plastic straws. We use compostable coffee cup lids, and we use wooden drink stirrers. Our coffee cups are also recyclable. Our napkins are compostable.   
  
-We have re-fillable hand wash and antibacterial soap dispensers so that are not repeatedly buying bottles of soap. This has been implemented across the whole site. We also have hand driers rather than hand towels.

**Where the use of disposable items or single-use plastic is unavoidable for sanitation requirements, we ensure that we are only using them where necessary. Such items are limited to the following:**

Single use items may include needles, darts, veterinary gloves, microchips, first aid supplies for both animals and humans.   
  
-All single use items are placed in the correct recycling bins, we have recycling, general waste and compost bins across all areas of the site. We have a specialist sharps bin to put any sharp objects or needles and get incinerated by a veterinarian.