

FRESH CUT SALADS CASE STUDY

Converting Fresh-Cut Salads to Reusable Plastic Crates



KEY OUTCOMES



Single-use cartons removed
1.4 million



CO₂ emissions reduction
532 Tonnes CO2 eq



Waste reduction
181 Kg PM2.5 eq



Water reduction
5,428,685 L Water eq



Annual crate issues
~1.4 million



“RPCs help us deliver fresher bagged salads to consumers by improving airflow and temperature control throughout the supply chain, supporting both product quality and waste reduction.”

THE CHALLENGE

The fresh-cut salad category has traditionally been difficult to transition from single-use cardboard to reusable plastic crates (RPCs).

Fast turnaround times, chilled distribution and the need for consistent product protection have kept cardboard as the default, despite its limitations. In cold, high-moisture environments, cardboard can become compromised, increasing the risk of damage, product loss and handling inefficiencies, while creating ongoing waste and challenges for increasingly automated supply chains.

THE OPPORTUNITY

One of Australia's leading fresh produce businesses recognised the need to future-proof their operations by moving to a more efficient and sustainable packaging solution.

Working in partnership with Viscount, they made the transition to reusable plastic crates for their fresh-cut salad operations, marking a significant milestone for the category.

THE SOLUTION

Viscount's reusable plastic crate pooling solution provided a circular alternative to single-use cardboard, designed to improve operational performance across the entire supply chain.

Durable crates that maintain their strength in chilled and humid environments

Elimination of single-use cardboard waste through a reusable pooling model

Better product protection, helping reduce packaging failures and product damage

A hygienic, washable solution that is cleaned, sanitised and quality checked after every use

End-to-end pooling, collection and washing services that simplify asset management for growers

Consistent dimensions for improved handling and compatibility with automated distribution centres

By integrating seamlessly into existing retailer supply chains, the transition was achieved with minimal disruption while delivering long-term operational benefits.