

Packaging Impact Report 2024





Retail Portfolio

Comsol boasts over 30 years of experience in manufacturing, importing, and distributing small electronics. Our partnership with the national retail organisation, Officeworks, allows us to deliver top-quality cables, chargers, and adapters to consumers.

This positioning uniquely places us at the forefront of innovation in packaging design too, enabling us to lead the charge towards more sustainable packaging solutions across Australasia.

Past designs and methods



Blister Packs

Before 2021/22, our retail packaging consisted of plastic blister packs, intended to showcase the product to customers. However, recycling this material poses significant challenges.



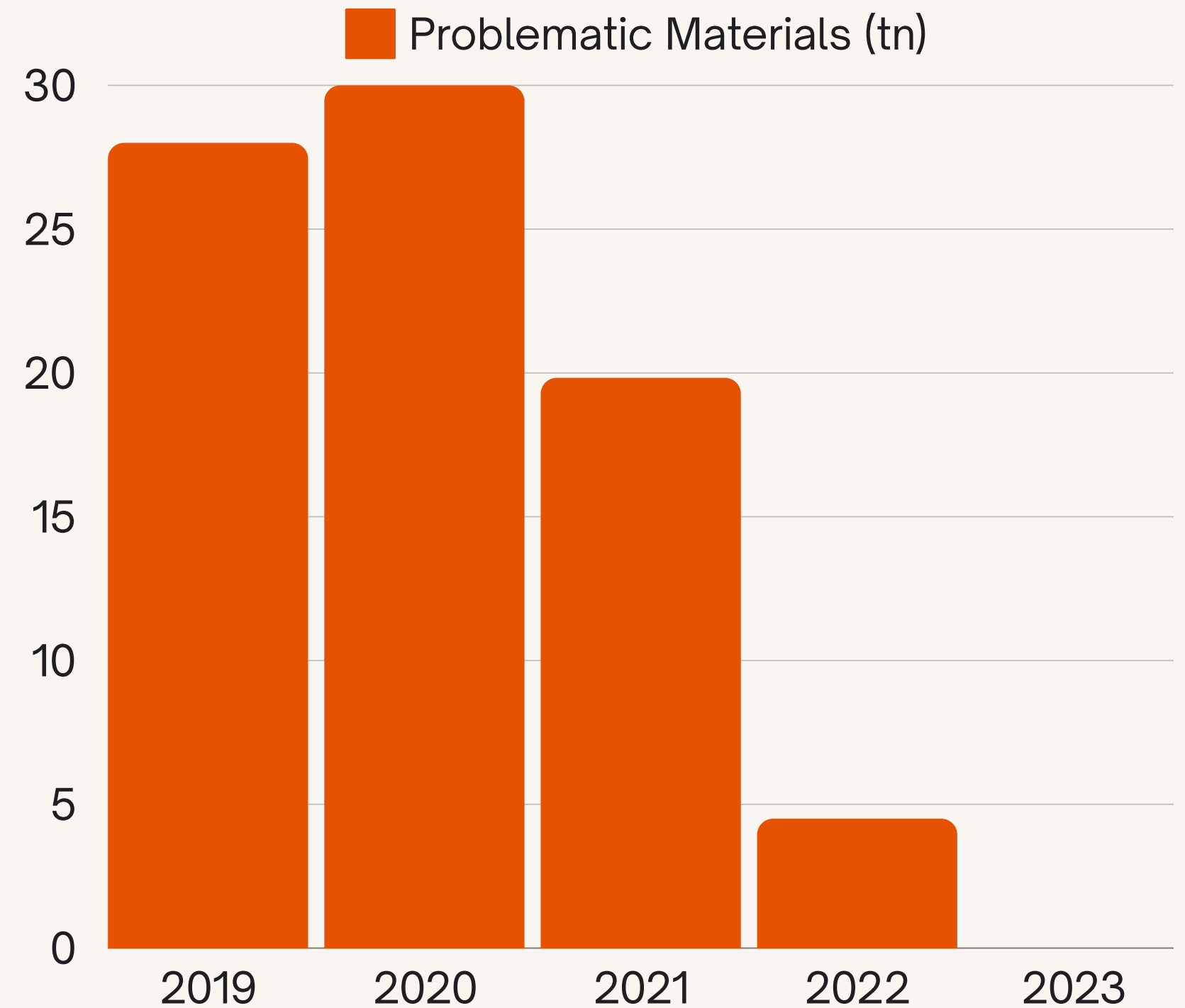
Magnet & Plastic Casing

We previously employed cases comprised of cardboard, plastic, and magnet window displays. However, these cases also pose challenges in terms of resource recovery.

Challenges with Traditional Packaging

Due to challenges in reuse and resource recovery of traditional plastic packaging for electronics, Comsol initiated the phased removal of problematic materials in 2021/22.

This strategic pivot towards cardboard packaging in the retail portfolio reflects our commitment to aligning with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's (APCO's) Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs), marking a deliberate stride towards sustainability in our packaging practices.



**Illustrates total plastic content of Box with Hook & Tray, Plastic Bag & Box, Blister Pack, Magnet Case, Plastic Casing, Steel Ring Hook, as well as BOPP film packaging that phased out from 2021.*

Redesigns from 2016-2021



Box, Hook & Tray

Before current packaging designs emerged, the box with hook & tray utilised increased cardboard alongside a plastic tray and hook for structural reinforcement and hanging purposes.



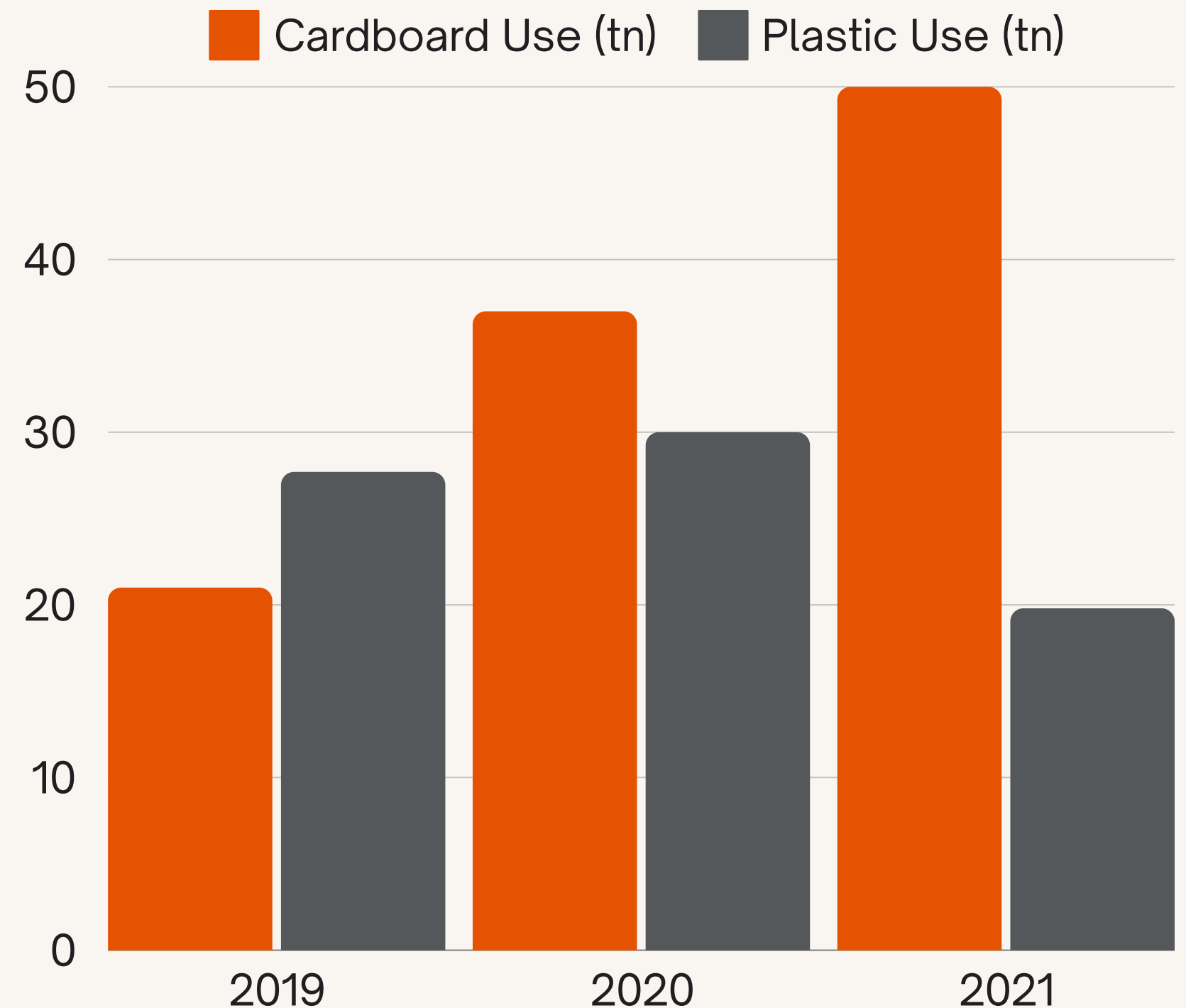
Box 2021

Transitioning solely to cardboard in our 2021 packaging version was a strategic shift away from difficult to recycle plastics. It marked a significant step towards promoting environmental stewardship.

Focusing on resource recovery opportunities

Recognising the limitations of various packaging types, including box with hook and tray, blister packs, plastic casings and magnet displays, Comsol embarked on a strategic shift away from plastic-centric designs.

This move aligns with our commitment to leading the sustainability conversation in the electronics sector by adopting packaging solutions that prioritise recyclability and are designed in line with the SPGs.



**Illustrates total packaging content of Box 2021, Box with Hook & Tray, Plastic Bag & Box, Blister Pack, Magnet Case, Plastic Casing and Steel Ring Hook packaging during transitional period.*

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Packaging Innovation and Labelling

From 2022 Comsol shifted to cardboard packaging, featuring the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) on all retail boxes sold in Officeworks stores, streamlining resource recovery efforts.



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Recycling Labels

APCO's Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) program simplifies recycling of packaging for consumers by providing clear on-pack instructions, ensuring correct disposal of packaging components.

By accurately labelling recyclable components, the ARL combats greenwashing and empowers consumers to make informed choices, fostering a more eco-conscious retail industry for packaging.

Since 2022, Comsol has been utilising the ARL on all retail packaging, leading a shift in the electronics sector towards recyclable packaging.

This strategic alignment with APCO not only provides clear recycling instructions to consumers but also underscores Comsol's commitment to sustainable practices, as advocated by the SPGs.

Packaging recyclability and reviews



Implementation

In late 2021 and early 2022, Comsol evaluated all packaging materials and strategically designed packaging to align with APCO's SPGs and the ARL guidance for recyclability.



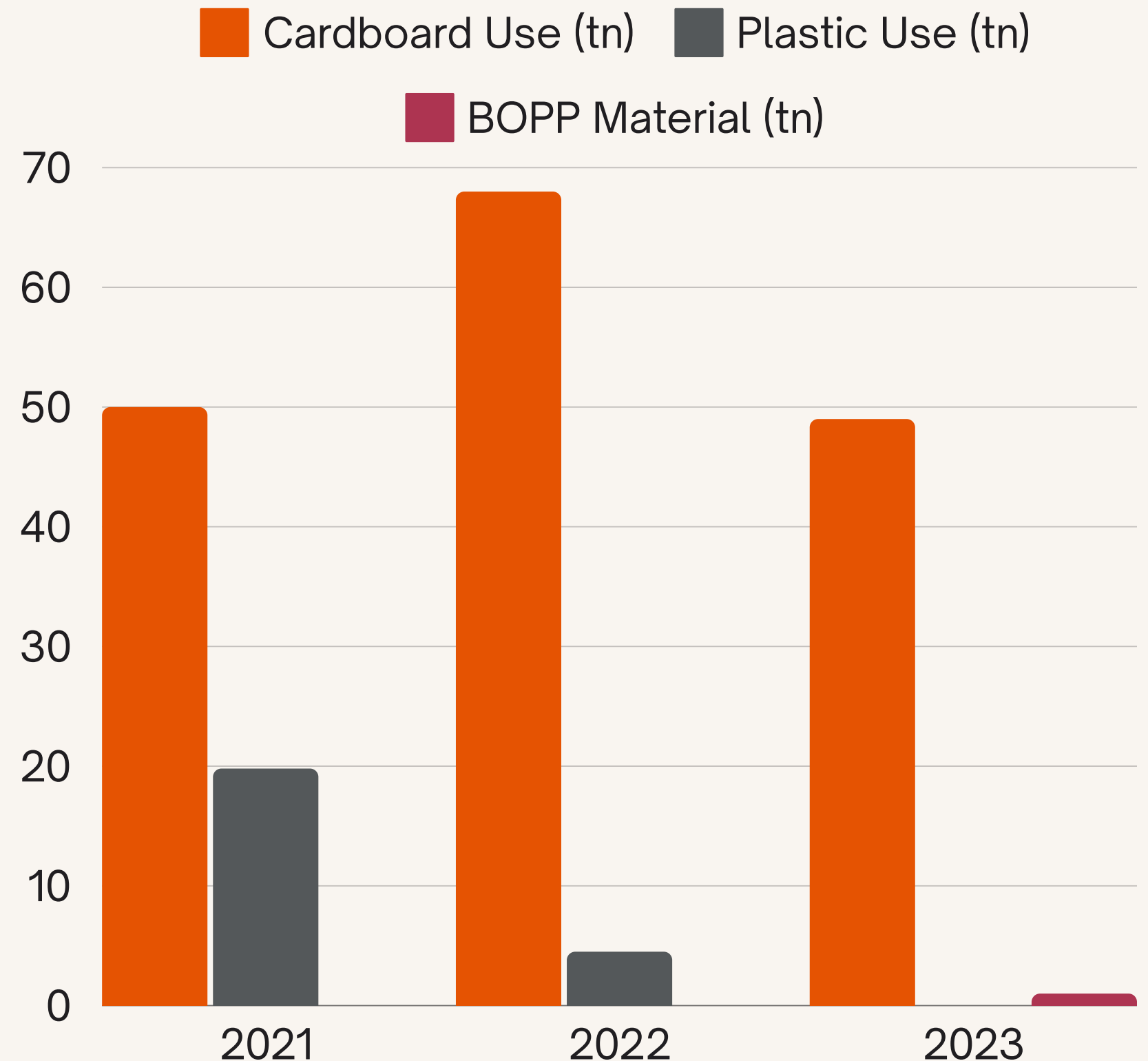
Monitoring

We work closely with our supply chain partners to integrate sustainable materials and remain vigilant about any factors impacting our objectives, a process that proved beneficial in certain ARL lines in 2023.

Material use, reviews & inspection

Transitioning to cardboard packaging and simplifying packaging components has brought us in line with APCO's SPGs and Fibre-Based Packaging Standards, benefiting stakeholders across the supply chain.

However, in early 2024, we encountered a challenge in our packaging supply chain involving the use of BOPP plastic film by our second-tier printing suppliers, unknown to us, underscoring the necessity for ongoing reviews. Although the material complies with APCO's Fibre -Based Packaging Standards, addressing this issue and eliminating the film was imperative to uphold our commitment to zero plastic usage - this material was removed immediately from all lines from January 2024.



**Biaxially-Oriented (BO) Polypropylene (PP). Biaxially-oriented refers to the production process that stretches the plastic film over two directions, making it stronger and more transparent. BOPP Film Quantity uses a High Value Assumption measurement.*



B2B Polybag Portfolio

Comsol's operations also encompass bulk B2B sales, serving the reseller market and businesses across Australasia with large product quantities. Unlike our retail range, that employs box solutions, the B2B sector requires alternative packaging solutions. To foster sustainability in this area, we have shifted towards using recycled materials for polybags, aligning with our commitment to circular practices.

Partnership driven successes

Comsol has forged a successful partnership with Grounded Packaging, a leading provider of sustainable packaging solutions.

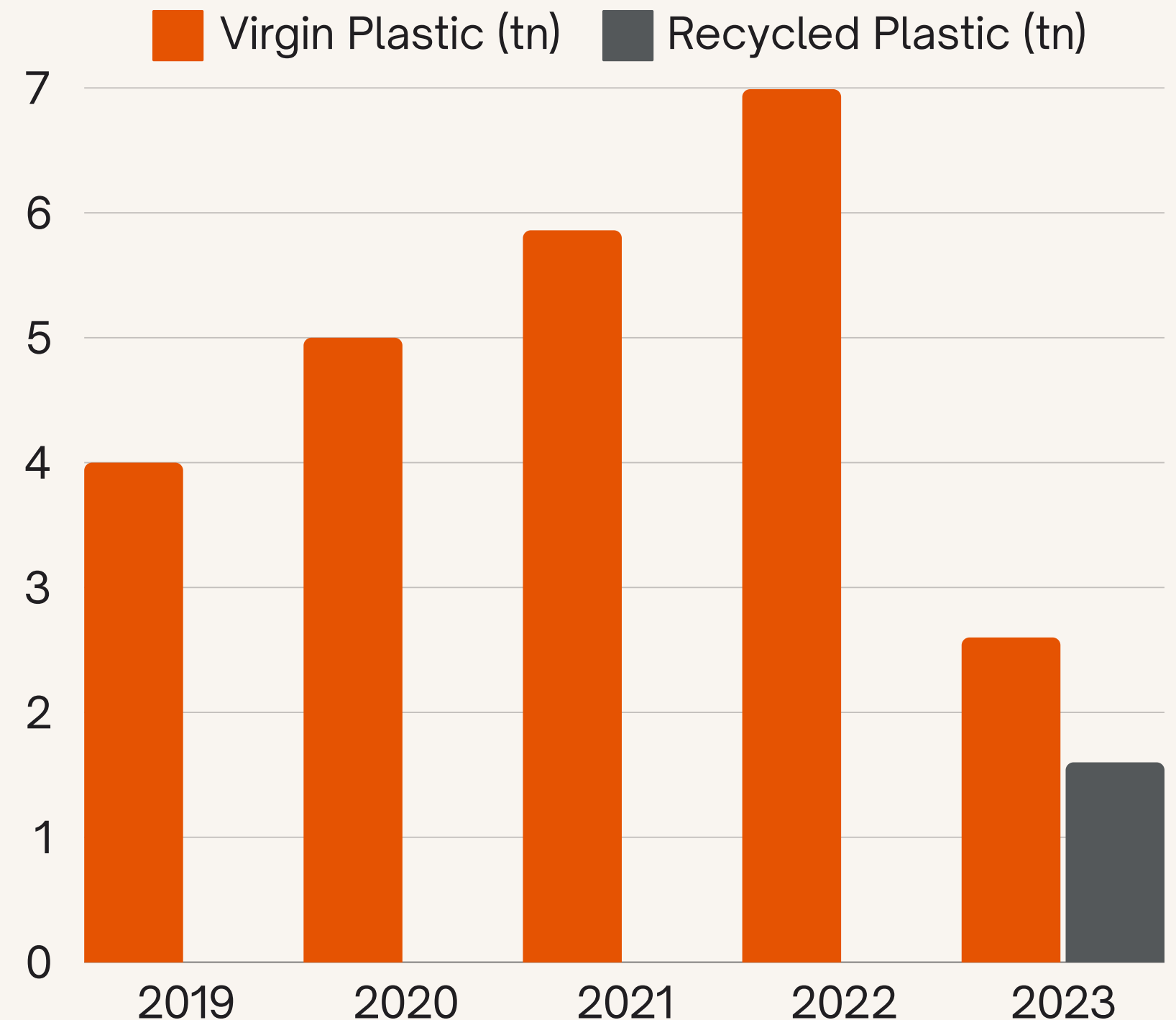
Together, we have implemented recycled plastic polybags across our B2B portfolio, replacing virgin alternatives previously used. These polybags are made from recycled plastic, contributing to the reduction of plastic waste and the development of a circular economy.

Comsol's collaboration with Grounded Packaging underscores our commitment to environmental stewardship and innovation in packaging solutions beyond the requirements of APCO.

Secondary Raw Materials

Comsol's product range spans both retail and B2B sectors, with the latter catering to reseller markets for bulk distribution. To meet the needs of this segment, Comsol sought an alternative to traditional packaging solutions like boxes.

Comsol introduced 100% recycled plastic polybags in 2023 to replace conventional virgin plastic options. These polybags, certified by the Global Recycled Standard, simplify end-of-life recovery efforts as they are made from a single material. Additionally, by using recycled plastic, Comsol contributes to the development of new industries centred around secondary raw materials.



**Virgin plastic refers to plastic produced from raw materials, such as petroleum. Certified recycled plastic has been verified as material that has been collected, sorted, cleaned and reformed into pellets that can then be designed into packaging or products.*



Education for packaging and products

In 2023, Comsol produced educational content tackling the electronic waste crisis, addressing its environmental, social, and economic impacts.

The material catered to students and adults, featuring insightful and engaging interviews, including discussions on sustainable packaging with APCO, the National Retail Association, and Grounded Packaging.

Discover more about our initiatives

comsol.com.au



We take a step-by-step approach to sustainability, aiming to create a supportive environment for tech products and services that's environmentally and socially responsible.

- Follow the link below to learn more.

Sustainably Connected

Closing The E-Loop represents a holistic approach to e-waste management promoting multi-stakeholder participation across the supply chain, fostering understanding, and encouraging action at all levels of society.

- Access the open-source content via the logo.

Closing the E-Loop