



How Pac Food's Lined Sugarcane Trays Are Redefining Sustainable Skin-Seal Packaging in Australia

As Australia moves toward stronger sustainability targets and APCO-aligned packaging outcomes, food manufacturers and healthcare caterers are searching for packaging that not only reduces environmental impact but doesn't compromise on performance. In this space, Pac Food's lined sugarcane trays have emerged as one of the strongest innovations available – combining **skin-seal compatibility**, **recyclability**, and **compostability** in the same packaging solution.

Today, these trays are used widely across aged-care facilities, hospital catering, national ready-meal producers, and even appear on supermarket shelves in select meals sold through Coles, with trials and supply pathways also suitable for Australian supermarket. Their rapid adoption highlights a growing industry demand for packaging that performs under pressure while supporting Australia's circular economy goals.



A Sustainable Tray Designed for the Real World

Many fibre-based trays struggle to balance sustainability with sealing performance. Without a stable sealing surface, they can warp, absorb moisture, or fail under heat – making them unsuitable for skin sealing, freezing, or high-volume transport.

Pac Food specifically engineered its lined sugarcane trays to overcome these barriers.

The tray base is made from **renewable sugarcane fibre**, a rapidly renewable resource and a compostable material once the removable lining is taken off.

The innovative internal lining provides the necessary food-safe barrier and creates a smooth, consistent surface required for skin sealing. This means food producers can achieve the same reliability as traditional plastic trays while dramatically reducing their environmental footprint.



Recyclable With Lining On – Compostable With Lining Off

One of the strongest advantages of Pac Food's design is its **dual disposal pathway**:

Recyclable (APCO Compliant)

When the lining is left on, the tray meets APCO recyclability guidelines. It can be placed in kerbside recycling streams where accepted, ensuring a more circular material flow for food-service packaging.

Home-Compostable With Lining Removed

Once the lining is peeled away – a simple step consumers or processors can perform – the tray becomes **100% home-compostable**.

This flexibility means operators can choose the disposal method that best suits their facility or end user.

This is particularly valuable for aged-care facilities, hospitals, and ready-meal providers that are under pressure to reduce waste-to-landfill while maintaining high levels of food safety and compliance.



Proven Skin-Seal Performance – Even in Supermarket Supply Chains

Perhaps the most important technical achievement is the tray’s **skin-seal reliability**.

Skin sealing requires absolute consistency – the film must draw down tightly over the meal and bond seamlessly to the tray surface. Variations in material texture or structural strength can cause leaks, bubbling, or incomplete seals.

Pac Food’s lined sugarcane trays have been performance-tested across multiple commercial sealing machines, delivering:

- Airtight, leak-proof seals
- Smooth film adhesion
- Excellent freezer and transport durability
- Reliable heating in both microwave and oven

This level of performance is not theoretical – it is **proven in national supply chains**.



Ready meals sold in **Coles** already use Pac Food’s lined sugarcane trays, demonstrating that the product meets the stringent handling, transport, and quality requirements of large-scale retailers. The tray’s structural strength and heat tolerance ensure it performs from packing to heating to consumption.

Supporting Australia’s Shift to Greener Food Packaging

The shift toward low-impact packaging in food service is accelerating, and operational teams are demanding solutions that reduce environmental impact **without** increasing risk or cost. Pac Food’s lined sugarcane trays meet this need by providing:

- **A renewable material base (sugarcane)**
- **A recyclable barrier lining**
- **Compostable end-of-life potential**
- **Commercial-grade sealing and heating performance**
- **Compatibility with existing skin-seal workflows**

This unique combination positions the trays as a practical, future-focused alternative to traditional PP or CPET trays.

As regulatory pressure increases and consumer demand for sustainable packaging grows, products like these will play a central role in helping Australian manufacturers transition smoothly toward 2025 and 2030 packaging targets.

Conclusion

Pac Food’s lined sugarcane trays demonstrate that high-performance meal packaging doesn’t need to come at an environmental cost. With **skin-seal capability**, **dual end-of-life pathways**, and **proven supermarket-level reliability**, they offer a commercially scalable, sustainable solution for Australia’s ready-meal and healthcare catering sectors.

For full technical specifications, commercial enquiries, or samples, contact Pac Food or visit:

pacfood.com.au/commercial/lined-sugarcane-trays/

