

# Balloon releases at services



Releasing balloons at Funeral or Memorial Services is discouraged and may be illegal, pending on your state or territory. Please consider other environmentally friendly tributes for your loved ones.

Concerns generally relate harming marine life and aircrafts.

A [2016 CSIRO study](#) identified balloons among the top three most harmful pollutants threatening marine wildlife, along with [plastic bags](#) and bottles.

See links and details below for each Australian State or Territory information.

## ACT

**No more than 20 balloons** – see Act & Regulations &/or contact [Access Canberra](#)

*Ref: Environment Protection Act 1997; Environment Protection 2005; Division 2.6 Balloons; 16 Release of 20 or more balloons prohibited*

*Media - <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/balloon-ban-is-it-just-a-lot-of-hot-air-20190111-p50qr3.html>;*

## NSW

[New South Wales balloon releases](#)

It is illegal to release 20 or more gas-inflated balloons at or about the same time. The balloons should not have any attachments. On-the-spot fines can be given and penalties are much higher if over 100 balloons are released.

## NT

Contact <https://nt.gov.au/>;

## QLD

[Queensland balloon releases](#)

In Queensland, the release of balloons into the environment is considered littering under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*—whether released deliberately or by accident.

## SA

[South Australian balloon releases](#) Councils ban balloons

## TAS

[Tasmania balloon releases](#) or contact the Dept of Environment & Water Resources

## VIC

[Victorian balloon releases](#)

## WA

[Western Australian balloon releases](#)

## *What are some alternatives to balloon releases?*

- **Dove releases** (may also be considered controversial – do your research!)
- **Ribbon streamers** that guests take home eg pinwheels, garden streamers
- **Fly a kite**
- **Pom poms**
- **Drumming**
- **Flash choir**
- **Floating flowers**
- **Painted rocks** – build a memorial garden

*This information is provided as a guide by the Funeral Celebrants Association Australia  
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