

Reducing Soft Plastics in Linen Logistics Across Mining Sites

SPL

CHALLENGE

Supplying clean linen to remote mining operations presents unique logistical and environmental challenges. Traditionally, linen was transported and protected using single-use plastic liners. While effective for hygiene and moisture control, this approach contributed significantly to soft plastic waste at site level, waste that is often difficult to recycle in remote locations.

At Golden Grove alone, 1,539 plastic bin liners were used between November 2024 and March 2026, highlighting the scale of the issue and the opportunity for improvement. In parallel, operational concerns, particularly around moisture and mould, required a solution that maintained quality and compliance without compromising sustainability goals.

SOLUTION

Following a series of operational reviews, a key outcome was the transition from single-use plastic liners (*Image 1 – Plastic Liners*) to reusable linen liners (*Image 2 – Blue Linen Liners*). These liners provide a more sustainable solution while improving airflow and reducing mould risk.

The liners are supplied and managed by Specialised Linen Services (SPL Services), who provide a fully managed solution including the supply, collection, and laundering of onsite linen items (e.g. bedding, towels, and cloths). Clean items will now be delivered in reusable blue bags instead of plastic and, once used, are returned in the same bags for collection and laundering, supporting a closed-loop system.

This solution:

- Eliminates single-use plastic liners
- Maintains linen quality during transport
- Supports operational efficiency and hygiene compliance
- Introduces a circular model where liners are reused and laundered



Image 1 – Plastic Liners



Image 2 – Blue Linen Liners

The initiative, first piloted at Golden Grove, is now being expanded to include Anglo Gold sites following the vendor's recent appointment.

RESULTS & IMPACT

The transition to reusable linen liners has significantly reduced reliance on single-use plastics, improving both environmental and operational performance.

At Golden Grove alone, eliminating 1,539 plastic liners represents a substantial reduction in landfill waste. This shift supports circular economy principles by replacing disposable materials with reusable alternatives and reduces plastic pollution in remote environments and communities where recycling options/services are limited.

Operationally, linen quality has been maintained, with improved airflow reducing the risk of mould and supporting safer, cleaner handling conditions.

In addition, SPL's commercial laundering process improves resource efficiency, using approximately 4.5L of water per cycle compared to 10–12L in a standard home laundry, further reducing environmental impact.

Overall, this initiative demonstrates how targeted operational changes can deliver measurable waste reduction, improve efficiency, and support safer and more sustainable work practices.