



Balloons are sometimes given out or mass-released at events such as weddings or funerals, without thought as to where those balloons end up. The City of Stirling asks people to not release helium balloons at our reserves and facilities.

What goes up, must come down!

When helium balloons are released into the sky they eventually freeze and shatter, falling back to earth as litter.

These leftover pieces often land in the ocean and look like jellyfish or squid – a favourite food of many fish, whales, turtles and seabirds. These aquatic animals will try to eat the balloon fragments, or become entangled in the balloon's strings or ribbons, at best making them very sick, but more often resulting in slow, very painful deaths.

Even balloons labelled as 'biodegradable' can take between one to four years to degrade, leaving plenty of time for them to be eaten or to entangle wildlife.

What are better alternatives to balloons?

Here are just a few better alternatives to balloons to consider that won't cost wildlife:

- Create a legacy by planting a tree or native plant
- Light candles to remember a loved one or celebrate your event
- Honor someone's passing by making a bequest to a charity
- Handout packs of seeds to guests so that the memory of the day lives on

Please help us to keep our City's sky and sea litter-free and safe for all animals!