

SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

RefillNZ responses -you can copy any you want and or add your own.

Proposal One: phase out hard-to-recycle plastics

The Government proposes to phase-out:

All polyvinyl chloride (PVC) food and beverage packaging (by 2023)

all polystyrene (PS) food and beverage packaging (some by 2023, the rest by 2025)

all oxo-degradable plastic products (by 2023)

all other expanded polystyrene packaging (by 2025)

We are targeting PVC and PS packaging because they are a bigger problem for recycling than other plastics such as PET (plastic type 1), which can be readily recycled onshore in New Zealand.

5. Do you support the proposed mandatory phase out of PVC and polystyrene (PS) plastic packaging and all oxo-degradable plastic items?

Yes

Yes, in part

No

- The phase out of PVC packaging should apply to all consumer facing packaging not just food and beverage (i.e packaging used for hardware goods etc).
- EPS (Expanded polystyrene) packaging used for medical purposes should not be phased out until suitable alternatives found.
- Regulated product stewardship should be used to address Polystyrene use in other industries such as plastic building wrap used in construction, **ie be compulsory to recycle plastic building wrap.**

6. Do you support the proposed timeframes for phasing out hard-to-recycle plastic packaging (timeframes are below)?

Yes No, make it sooner No, make it later Not at all

- PVC and PS timeframe response - PVC food and beverage packaging (2023): Yes
- PVC and PS timeframe response - Oxo-degradable items (2023): No, make it sooner
- PVC and PS timeframe response - Easier to phase out polystyrene food and beverage packaging (2023): No, make it sooner
- PVC and PS timeframe response - All remaining polystyrene food and beverage packaging and all expanded polystyrene packaging (2025): No, make it sooner

Comments

A 'ban only' approach could lead to swapping one single use material for another.

Phase out of polystyrene should be sooner in food packaging

- Therefore, alongside the phase out approach we would recommend mandatory recyclability and compostability labelling.
- Educating the public and gaining support through the labelling system needs to be done in conjunction with mandatory labelling.

- We think that the phase out (oxydegradeable,) should be sooner (January 2022), as this plastic serves no benefit and false labelling/advertising leads consumers to believe that it is better for the environment than traditional plastics.

7. Proposal Two: take action on single-use plastic items

Seven single-use plastic items have been identified as problems in the waste or litter streams. In most cases this covers bio-based, compostable, and degradable plastics too. The seven items are:

1. single-use produce bags
2. tableware (plates, bowls, cutlery)
3. non-compostable produce stickers
4. drink stirrers
5. some cups and lids (not coffee cups)
6. cotton buds
7. straws

Following the success of the single-use plastic bag ban in 2019, these items have been selected for consultation using criteria including environmental harm, availability of sustainable alternatives, and international trends and best practice.

We are interested in hearing about possible unintended consequences or downsides from phasing out these items.

YES to banning all;

Whilst single use plastic items can be convenient to use their long term impact on the environment outweighs any temporary benefits.

Plus

- Condiment sachets and plastic containers - eg for butter, jams, ketchup. These are ubiquitous in hospo and are totally nonrecyclable and unnecessary. There are easy alternatives, eg bottles of ketchup, butter cut up on a small plate as some cafes are now doing.
- Instead of plastic straws being available for people with disabilities how metal or paper, they don't need to be plastic.
- Helium balloons and Balloon sticks,
- Plastic tampon applicators - these always used to be paper and then the industry changed to plastic (probably cheaper) so the plastic can easily be banned.
- Single use plastic tableware should also be added.
- Plastic lolly pop sticks

8. Do you have any other comments or concerns? Are there any items you would not like to be banned?

Please add any comments here

It should be clear that all biodegradable/degradable plastics that are not certified compostable would be included.

- Should include containers with plastic or wax linings, eg takeaway coffee cups.
- Should include net produce bags which cannot currently be recycled with soft plastics

- Lids to disposable cups, even when made of plastics 1,2 or 5, can be hard to recycle because of their size- so we question them as an exclusion
- Some options would be mandatory reusables for dine in customers, updating legislation to accept clean BYO cups, a levy on disposable coffee cups and inclusion of disposable coffee cups on the phase out list.
- Wet wipes- communities need to be informed of proper use and disposal as well as removing the 'flushable' label from all packaging. Clean up fees to be imposed.
- Phase out wet wipes that contain plastics – alternatives are available