

THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY
BROUGHT TO YOU BY *TAKEAWAY THROWAWAYS*
WORDS BY *THE RUBBISH TRIP*

THE NZ GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BAN A BUNCH OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS...

...AND HAVE RELEASED
A CONSULTATION DOC

WITH **TWO PROPOSALS**

FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON.

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE ON

4 NOVEMBER 2020

PROPOSAL NO. 1

BAN SOME HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTICS

WHY?

- Not recyclable in NZ
- Contaminate otherwise recyclable materials
- If they leak into environment they harm wildlife and break down into microplastics
- Contain toxic/chemical additives with potential health impacts
- Many countries have banned these items already

PVC = Polyvinyl Chloride

PS = Polystyrene

EPS = Expanded Polystyrene

- All oxo-degradable plastic products by January 2023
- All **PVC** food & beverage packaging by January 2023 e.g. meat trays, biscuit trays, soft packaging, wraps, sleeves & other rigid containers or trays
- Some **PS** food & beverage packaging by January 2023 and the rest by January 2025 e.g. cups, meat trays, sushi packaging, other takeaway containers, protective casing for confectionary, **EPS** cups & containers, packs for yoghurt & other chilled goods & **EPS** bins
- All other **EPS** packaging by January 2025 including packaging for homeware, electronics & other consumer goods



BIGGEST WINNER

- The environment
- Local government and the wider resource recovery sector, including recyclers, processors & waste operators, as recycling systems will be less complicated & recycling streams less contaminated

PROPOSAL NO. 2

WHY?

- Not recyclable
- Many countries have banned some of these already
- Resource intensive to produce & consume
- High risk of becoming litter, harming wildlife & breaking down into microplastics

BAN SOME SINGLE-USE-PLASTIC ITEMS BY 2025 AT THE LATEST

- Including single-use-plastic items made of degradable, biodegradable, or compostable plastics
- Straws, cotton buds and drink stirrers
- Tableware
i.e. plates, trays, bowls & cutlery
- Produce bags under 70 microns without handles
- Cups & lids (**NOT** including disposable coffee cups) made from plastic types 3, 4, 6 & 7, including paper cups with plastic/wax linings
- Non-compostable produce stickers



BIGGEST WINNER

- The environment, due to less litter & more reusables
- Local government, who'll have less waste & litter to manage
- Businesses who make alternative products
- Businesses who have already moved will also benefit from a level playing field

SOME ITEMS ARE **NOT PROPOSED** FOR A BAN BECAUSE OF A PERCEIVED 'LACK OF ALTERNATIVES'

EXEMPTIONS

The Government also wants your views on potential exemptions for some of the bans. For example, provisions to ensure plastic straws are still available for those who need them to drink, or permitting polybins & non-compostable fruit stickers for export products.

The Government would like to ban these in the future & wants your ideas on how their usage could be minimised in the meantime.



COFFEE CUPS



WET WIPES



BALLOONS



CIGARETTE BUTTS



GLITTER

The consultation doc says that getting rid of these problematic items would require significant shifts in behaviour. The Government wants to know if you think they've chosen the right items for a ban.

OTHER OPTIONS

The Consultation doc considered other policy options to limit the use of the target plastics:

1. Voluntary agreements with industry
2. Reduction targets
3. Labelling requirements
4. Levies or taxes
5. Product stewardship
6. Mandatory recycled content
7. Maintaining the status quo

...But decided that bans are the most effective, achievable option for moving NZ towards a circular economy & the top layers of the waste hierarchy, while imposing the lowest costs. The Government wants to know if you agree with this assessment or not.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

DESIGNING FOR RECYCLABILITY & CREATING A CULTURE OF REUSE

The Government believes that banning hard-to-recycle & single-use plastic products will encourage uptake of more reusable alternatives & greater use of recyclable materials with a high recycled content. To support these shifts, the Government intends to accompany the proposed bans with best practice guidance for sustainable packaging & public education & awareness campaigns.

