

Phasing out problem plastics in Aotearoa

Te whakamoe i ngā kirihou whakapōraruraru

Plastics waste is one of our generation's greatest environmental challenges – regularly ending up in landfills or the ocean.

To support Aotearoa's move towards a low-emissions, low-waste economy, we're phasing out these plastics over the next four years.

1 October 2022



PVC food trays and containers*



Polystyrene takeaway food and drink packaging



Expanded polystyrene food and drink packaging



Plastic with pro-degradant additives, eg, oxo and photo-degradable plastics



Plastic drink stirrers



Plastic stemmed cotton buds

* The scope is limited to pre-formed trays used for produce, baked goods, and meat

Mid 2023



Single-use:

Plastic produce bags



Plastic plates, bowls and cutlery



Plastic straws*



Plastic produce labels**

* Plastic straws will be available for disabled people and medical use
** See the Ministry's website for further information on scope

Mid 2025



All other PVC and polystyrene food and drink packaging