

## Response ID ANON-911Q-X3EQ-D

Submitted to **Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment**

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### Submitter Details

#### 1 What is your name?

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#### 2 What is your email address?

**Email:** [REDACTED]

#### 3 What is your organisation (if any)?

**Organisation:** Life Cycle Association of New Zealand

### Reducing the impact of plastic

#### 4 Do you support the Government taking some more action to remove hard-to-recycle plastic and single-use items from use (in principle)?

Yes

### Proposal One: phase out hard-to-recycle plastics

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

Yes

#### Please add any comments here:

LCANZ welcomes the Ministry for the Environment's programme to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment by phasing out some hard-to-recycle PVC and polystyrene packaging and oxo-degradable plastic products, as well as seven single-use plastic items. The New Zealand Government signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment with one of the goals being 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025. A range of mechanisms for achieving this have been identified and assessed. The best option to achieve this is identified as mandatory phase out of:

- PVC and polystyrene packaging
- oxo-degradable plastics
- some single-use items

Broadly LCANZ fully supports the overall goal of 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025. We fully support and understand the reasoning for phase out of PVC and polystyrene packaging and oxo degradable plastics.

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

**PVC and PS timeframe response - PVC food and beverage packaging (2023):**

**PVC and PS timeframe response - Oxo-degradable items (2023):**

**PVC and PS timeframe response - Easier to phase out polystyrene food and beverage packaging (2023):**

**PVC and PS timeframe response - All remaining polystyrene food and beverage packaging and all expanded polystyrene packaging (2025):**

**Please note any specific changes you would like to comment on here:**

The proposal aims to 'turn off' targeted problematic single-use plastics at source. LKANZ are of the view that to realise the benefits of phase outs, the action will need to be supported by consumer behaviour change and supply chain systems change to avoid unintended consequences. This may require additional support from government, including assessment of the whole of life impacts of different products, and systemic changes toward a more sustainable society.

## **Proposal Two: take action on single-use plastic items**

### **7 Which single-use items do you support for phase-out? Please select any/ all that apply.**

Produce bags, Tableware (plates, bowls, cutlery), Non-compostable fruit stickers, Drink stirrers, Single-use cups and lids (excluding coffee cups), Cotton buds, Straws

**Are there any other items you would like to be included in the proposed phase outs? Please list them here:**

- fruit labels
- lollypop sticks,
- cigarette butts,
- coffee cups,
- soft plastics,
- bottle caps,
- wet wipes.
- tyres and textiles
- fishing nets

### **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:**

The choice of single use items to phase out is less understandable and may need additional justification. LKANZ also questions the choice of items and suggests that some key items are missing. Single-use plastic items that are commonly found in the environment include fruit labels, lollypop sticks, cigarette butts, coffee cups, soft plastics, bottle caps, and wet wipes.

Additionally, some multi-use products contribute significantly to micro-plastics, including tyres and textiles, while fishing nets are also a common source of plastic pollution and significant environmental harm.

LKANZ agrees that uncontrolled use of single-use plastic is an issue for the environment and a move to alternative products and systems (e.g. reuse) that are more sustainable and less environmentally damaging is a great opportunity for Aotearoa New Zealand.

## **Consent to release your submission**

### **9 Do you consent to your submission being published on this website?**

Yes

### **10 If yes to the above, clearly state if there are parts of your submission that you do not want published.**

**If yes to the above, clearly state if there are parts of your submission that you do not want published.:**

Follows is the full position statement of the Life Cycle Association of New Zealand. This is to be used for any publications

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LKANZ Submission Statement