Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa - Plastic Straws Phase Out

The Ministry for the Environment is undertaking research with disabled people about the phase-out of plastic straws.

Some key questions and background for the research:

**Q1 Why are plastic straws being phased out?**

This is part of New Zealand’s response to climate change and the impact of single use plastics on the environment. [https://environment.govt. - waste plastic-phase-out](https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/plastic-phase-out/#:~:text=To%20be%20phased%20out%20by%20mid%2D2025&text=*It%20is%20important%20that%20disabled,disabled%20community%20to%20ensure%20this).

**Q2 What is the timing of the phase-out?**

In June 2021, the New Zealand Government agreed to phase-out three hard-to-recycle plastic types and six single-use items in three stages between 2022 and 2025.

The phase out of plastic straws are included in the second round which is planned to be implemented by July 2023.

**Q3 Why this research?**

The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for writing the proposed regulations (under the Waste Minimisation Act) that will enact the phase-out of plastic straws. They want to make sure that any negative impacts from the phase-out of plastic straws for disabled people are addressed in these regulations.

**Q4 Would you like to take part?**

Research with disabled people is important to this research so that the Ministry hears from those directly affected. UMR Research is conducting interviews and small group discussions with disabled people during February and March 2022.

If you would like to take part in this research and talk to a researcher in a confidential interview you can:

* Let us know and we will forward your contact details and best ways of contacting you onto them
* Contact them directly by emailing alice@umr.co.nz

**Q5 What will it involve?**

The interview will be with a UMR researcher and can include your whānau and main support people if you want them there.

The UMR researcher will work with you on what work’s best in terms of meeting place and any accessibility needs. The interview will take around 45 – 60 minutes.

A summary of the interview discussion points will be sent to you before the interview.

**Q6 Koha**

As a thank you for your time and involvement in the research there will be a koha of $40.

**Q8 What this research is and is not?**

While the decision has been made to phase out plastic straws, we are seeking input from the disabled community to ensure that those who need them continue to have access to plastic straws. Input from the disabled community is about identifying the best ways to provide ongoing access.

This research is not a consultation round; this has already been completed in 2020 by the Ministry.

**Q7 Further information**

If you would like further information on this research:

* The team from UMR Research; please contact alice@umr.co.nz or 0275437163
* The Ministry for the Environment team; please contact

Piata-Te-Kahurangi.Costello@mfe.govt.nz