

# Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

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## Reference no: 1041

**Submitter Type:** Individual

### Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

### Position

No

### Notes

A recent German study (Leipzig November 2017) found that around 90% of the 8 million tonnes of plastic waste that ends up in the sea each year comes from 10 grossly polluted rivers, eight in Asia and two in Africa. The worst single offender is the Yangtze which contributes a mind boggling 1.5 million tonnes. Most of the remaining 10% comes from hundreds of minor Asian and African rivers plus lost or abandoned commercial fishing gear. The Western world's contribution to the mess is very small and that of New Zealand's plastic shopping bags infinitesimal. Just ask yourself - when did you last lose or dispose of a plastic bag in such a way that it could have ended up in the sea? How many people do you know who just chuck their bags away in that manner? The proposed ban is an unholy alliance between big business who stand to save a lot of money and sanctimonious greenies who are more interested virtue signalling and mutual halo polishing than genuine environmental issues.

### Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

### Notes

There should be no ban.

### Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

### Position

Yes

### Notes

All of them. See above. And of course they are not single use. "Single use" is a greenwash distortion of the language. Plastic bags have innumerable secondary uses and this will be the worst part of the proposed ban - the absence of an extremely useful product around the home/factory/farm/office.

### Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

### Notes

See notes to questions 1 and 3.

### Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

### Position

No

### Notes

I have nothing whatsoever to do with the industry or with the retail industry.

### Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

### Position

Yes

### Notes

To minimise the nuisance that this pointless virtue signalling policy will cause.

### Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

**Position**

No

**Notes**

There is no evidence that plastic bags from New Zealand are causing any measurable harm but the inconvenience and cost will fall on virtually everyone in society. The benefits will mainly accrue to big retail, especially the supermarket duopoly who acted in concert to start the ball rolling in this area about a year ago. They were so confident that their duopolist position would not be challenged they didn't even pretend not to be acting together. They were right!

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

No

**Notes**

The multi use (not single use) plastic bag is one of the handiest everyday items in modern life.

**Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

Freely available, carry stuff to work in it, use it in the garage, waterproof, rubbish proof, dog poo proof - oh yes, you can carry your shopping home in it too.

**Clause**

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

**Notes**

Multiple use bags are already available - they're called shopping bags Their environmental impact in Western countries like New Zealand is minimal. Heavier grade bags may well have adverse effects but this whole campaign is based on ideology not facts.

**Clause**

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

**Notes**

A free issue of similar bags dropped in the letter box once a week.

**Clause**

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

**Notes**

We put ourselves to considerable inconvenience, put money in the pockets of big business (who must be laughing their heads off at the government's gullibility) all for negligible environmental benefit while the rivers of Asia and Africa continue to pour thousands of tonnes of crap into the sea every day. I shake my head at such sanctimonious stupidity.