

**Subject:** FW: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

**Recipient:** proposed-mandatory-phase-out-of-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags@submissions.mfe.govt.nz

**Sender:** wastefree@mfe.govt.nz

**Date:** 31/08/2018 09:58 AM

-----Original Message----- From:

Sent: Friday, 17 August

2018 10:36 a.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I support a mandatory phase-out on the sale and distribution of all single-use plastic bags. The phase-out must include a ban on false solutions, such as degradable (eg, oxo degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). There should be no exemptions from a mandatory phase out of single use bags. The phase-out should be applied across all retailers, no matter the size and staff level of the business. This is the fairest and most comprehensive way to ensure the elimination of single use plastic bags from the waste stream. The phase-out should take effect as soon as possible. I agree that the benefits from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs from implementing the phase out. There is no monetary value we can place the health of our oceans, rivers and waterways and the natural services they provide humans and other species. Reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags already exist in New Zealand, such as reusable cloth bags which are already available in many retail stores. I think encouraging alternative ways of packaging things should be included. At the moment even veggies are pre-packaged in plastic sealed bags. Just having them loose on the shelves and having boxes/separate compartments in the trolley or basket, customers can put these loose veg into and then through the checkout straight into their reusable bags would be good. Not using plastic at all is better than recycling plastic. A phase-out of single-use plastic bags should be the first step in addressing plastic pollution. I also support the call by Greenpeace and others for a national strategy to tackle the global scourge of plastic pollution. Yours sincerely, Jill Irwin