

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

**Reference no:** 291

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

**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?

**Position**

less than 70 microns in thickness

**Notes**

By setting the threshold higher, it increases the robustness of the bags allowed through. That means they will be more sturdy for reuse

**Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes**

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

People can bring their own bags - handbags etc. If cost is the reason small businesses are exempted from the phase-out, then anyone can try exempt themselves. I think it's better to be strict with the application of the law in this particular case

**Clause**

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

The environment is more important than the cost. People will find a way to make the cost work - it might pave the way for some more businesses who will provide in a more eco-friendly way.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

Reusable bags are sold at every supermarket, and at the rate you have to pay for plastic bags now, the cost of reusable bags is barely noticeable - and this is coming from a student!

**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)

**Position**

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

**Notes**

Plus the voluntary incentive scheme

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

It would help to make it super easy to get hold of reusable bags (not even just the thicker plastic ones - actual cloth bags etc.) If more shops sold them, the price would decrease nationwide, and they would be easily available

**Clause**

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

**Notes**

Tie it into current stocktake regulations in stores? (Maybe start making them keep track of the plastic bags vs reusable bags they sell/use over a certain time period)

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**