

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

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## Reference no: 652

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

They are unnecessary and very harmful to or environment. Ideally we should stop distributing/creating any new plastic and only distribute reusable plastic made from recycled plastic that already exists.

### 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

Thick plastic bags are still a bad option, even if they last for a few uses they are bringing more plastic into our environment and that is plastic that will always exist and harm our environment. Reusable bags should be made of materials that can biodegrade and aren't harmful to the environment, i.e won't break down into micro plastics and end up killing our oceans.

### 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

No plastic bags should be exempt! There are non-plastic alternatives to all of them.

### 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

No

### Notes

Every consumer can bring their own reusable bags to any shop, or we can have systems like boomerang bags that are made available to small shops to help them be accessible to customers.

### Clause

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

### Notes

Zero, they should not be exempted. Not being allowed to use plastic bags is not a hardship, it is an obvious necessity and very easy for consumers once they get used to it.

### 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

No

### Notes

Once the regulations are legal no more bags should be allowed to be bought by shops, the phase out period should reflect a reasonable timeline for using up their current stock of plastic bags.

**Clause**

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Six months is too long. Phase out period should be based on how long it would take average shops to use up their current stock of plastic bags and they should not be allowed to replace them.

**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**

Absolutely! The harm to our environment being done by plastic is huge and absolutely outweighs the inconvenience and cost of switching away from them.

**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 so easy to find, both for main shopping and for produce. Any op shop will have a few tote bags you can buy, or you can make your own from an old t-shirt without even doing any sewing. It's a problem of mindset rather than a problem of resources.

**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**

Once single use options are unavailable people will find it a lot easier to remember their reusable bags. Schemes like boomerang bags will be great for those who occasionally forget.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We already don't use them. We have several reusable bags, including light weight produce bags.

**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**

Self reporting, shop reporting, waste audit comparisons.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Long term I would love to see all single use plastic passed out of our society.