

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

**Reference no:** 1006

**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**

**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**

**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**

Benefits to the environment often can't be measured in economic terms. It's time to put social and environmental benefits ahead of, or alongside, economic ones.

**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**

Alternatives are already offered and reusable bags are becoming common accessories for people when shopping. Retailers are already changing their practices due to public / customer pressure. Community initiatives like Boomerang Bags should be strongly supported as part of the phase out.

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Initiatives like Boomerang Bags should be strongly supported. Materials are reused to make them, and therefore new material isn't needed - reducing impact on the environment and cost to produce. Education campaigns are needed to ensure the public are aware of what it takes to make a bag in the first place, and what impact it has when these are disposed of to landfill and not reused. I think most people aren't consciously aware of the environmental impacts of many of our actions.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Not having the option to use them. People are very good at adapting to change.

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