

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

n/a (David Stuart Milne)

## Reference no: 1008

**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

Environmental impact as laid out in consultation document + unsustainability to continue manufacturing an item that is used once and then thrown away.

### 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

The reasons for the proposed mandatory phase out are the same for both weights of bag. There may be a move to make single use bags heavier to get around the new rules. Also, the definition of single use plastic bag as shown on page 26 of the consultation document should either exclude the text "which has handles" or change to "with or without handles". There is no reason why bags without handles should be excluded. Using supermarkets for example, there is no reason why the little plastic bags that are used for fresh produce should be treated differently to the larger plastic bags used at the checkout.

### 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

I do not believe we should have single-use plastic shopping bags that are exempt.

### 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

The question is: why should they be?

### 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

n/a - do not agree with exemption

### 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

This will require time for both retailers and consumers to adapt. 6 months should be sufficient for this.

**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**

I do not believe the full costs of continued use of single-use plastic bags are well documented. Historically, clean up of environmental contaminants is not investigated well at the time of use e.g. wood treatment chemicals, and the costs associated with their use is then borne by subsequent generations.

**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**

Because my family is using practicable alternatives right now!

**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**

Ensure that the costs of the multiple-use shopping bags are the true cost of manufacture and disposal. This would then make sure that cheaply produced multi-use bags that do not last are priced fairly against well made, possibly more expensive bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We have already made the adjustment.

**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**

Make it mandatory that all manufacturers/retailers publish data on volumes of single use plastics as part of existing reporting.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

The definition of single use plastic bag as shown on page 26 of the consultation document should either exclude the text "which has handles" or change to "with or without handles". There is no reason why bags without handles should be excluded. Using supermarkets for example, there is no reason why the little plastic bags that are used for fresh produce should be treated differently to the larger plastic bags used at the checkout. Also, what is to say that retailers don't just sell bags with no handle to get around the legislation???