

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

**Reference no:** 1091

**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**

It's about time we catch up!

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Don't know, whatever has the biggest benefit for the environment to reduce waste.

**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 exemptions.

**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**

There are too many of them and the problem will not be fully addressed if they are exempt - it's about the public changing their behaviour regardless of where they shop.

**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

**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**

Too slow.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

two months

**Notes**

Since it will be well signalled before the actual regs are gazetted, it should be done faster.

**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**

**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**

The alternatives have long existed, it's just the behaviour that needs to change, and has slowly been doing so. The plastic bags are only part of the problem - you need to regulate for less packaging as well!

**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**

It shouldn't be left to retailers - just need to push ahead with behaviour change initiatives, other countries have done it and many people in NZ already use their own reusable bags anyway. Ultimately, remove the option and people will only struggle a few times juggling arms full of stuff or paying substantially for a bag and they'll learn and remember, it's not hard!

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Don't need to, have already been using them for years!

**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**

Mandatory reporting by producers/importers and regulations to reduce packaging.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

The plastic bags are only part of the problem - you need to regulate for less packaging as well!

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