

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

**Reference no:** 1130

**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**

I agree plastic bags should be phased out how ever I currently use them for either my bin liner or to take travelling to separate dirty or wet items from my clean items which is getting more than one use out of them. If there was a fully biodegradable option to replace them then I'd be happy to use those, otherwise I'm just going to buy a roll of plastic bags and the problem isn't going to go away. If you don't give people an easy and affordable alternate option they're just going to purchase rolls of plastic bags Maybe replace them with a card/paper alternate to carry groceries in, if there isn't a viable biodegradable "plastic" bag.

**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?

**Notes**

What difference does 20 microns make? If it's not biodegradable then it's bad for the environment.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Not sure

**Notes**

I've heard of biodegradable bags whether or not they take too long to degrade I don't know.

**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**

If you want to save the planet it has to be all bags.

**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**

They shouldn't be exempt.

**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**

Not sure

**Notes**

The timing doesn't really matter what matters is giving retailers a legitimate way of getting rid of the bags they have in stock like recycling them and where possible reimbursing them when they are phased out.

**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**

You can't really put a price on the protecting the planets wild life from our waste. Just give customers an environmentally friendly option (reuse bags aren't much better they're often also made of plastic or not biodegradable) we're obviously willing to pay a bit more for convenience as seen at Pak n Save. The retailer shouldn't have to suffer when it comes to the initial phase out give them a way of recycling the unused plastic bags and compensate them.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Not sure

**Notes**

I personally don't know if there is but I wouldn't be surprised if there was. Surely there are paper or card style bags that we could use instead.

**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**

I guess inform people on the different uses for the plastic bags after you've used them, print them on the bags. That way its simple and the customer doesn't have to do anything extra to be informed. An app would be a waste of time majority of people don't want to download an app about single use bags. Pak n Save doesn't pack your bags for you so essentially you keep old bags in you car and pack them there if you forget to bring them into the store.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

An environmentally safe alternative that I can use as small/office rubbish bin liner that's available when I check out. You've got to make it as simple for the customers as possible, humans are inherently lazy especially when it comes to stuff like this. If we weren't everyone would have reusable shopping bags by now and retailers probably would've phased single use bags out themselves.

**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 so all customers have to say how many bags they're using when they check out even if they are free.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Remember humans are lazy. Give customers an environmentally friendly, affordable, and easily accessible (ready at the check out for us like the old bags) option(s) (reusable bags not included). If you do all that the phase out will go off without a hitch.

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