

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

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## Reference no: 1134

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

100% absolutely. This needs to happen ASAP. A lot of people are already doing this themselves and some businesses, but we need to make this even across the board so it normalises it.

### 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 more plastic bags we can get rid of the better

### 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

Get rid of plastic!

### 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

It's so easy for consumers to bring their own bags. If this ban is across the board then all consumers know and there's no confusion around who does and who doesn't. Plus this actually saves the consumer from buying plastic 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

1 at the most. I'm reluctant to put anything as I don't think they should 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

Six months max would be great. This is already a movement in progress, it's not a 'new' thing to most consumers.

**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**

There is no monetary amount that can exceed the cost to the environment. This plastic is getting into the food chain, and killing off parts of the food chain too. There could be nothing more serious! In the grand scale of things this phase out is just a drop in the ocean and the beginning of getting rid of the plastic in this consumer lifestyle.

**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**

For starters, there are lots of volunteer organisations making boomerang free bags for shopping. To think that people don't have bags in their house is silly. 80% of the reusable bags I have for shopping have been freely acquired and not specifically purchased.

**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**

Personally I repair them on my sewing machine if they start to wear out. Potentially this is where a volunteer organisation could help out. Or businesses could take worn ones to be mended and then given out for free/minimal charge?

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Making it a mainstream thing, making it compulsory everywhere.

**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**

I don't know how they are currently monitored to be able to offer advice? But there are other countries who have banned the bag, so they must have ideas on this.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

#banthebag We need to get single use and as much plastic out of the consumer cycle as possible. This is a huge opportunity for business/start ups to create compostable packaging. Also, we need to be able to process the recycled plastic we do have piled up here in NZ. We need to use Shane Jones regional investment fund to help create the infrastructure to sort out own recycling.