

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

(Marco Smolicic)

**Reference no:** 1193

**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**

No

**Notes**

No need to ban ALL single-use plastic shopping bags and particularly not biodegradable or compostable. Plastic bags are technologically advanced solutions for transporting and containing goods including waste so banning them is unnecessary. Reducing consumption is necessary and focus of your efforts should be on REDUCTION, RE-USE and (if possible) RECYCLE. Total ban is the least intelligent solution and not based on the scientific reasoning or economic logic.

**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**

More than 50um. Any single-use shopping bag thicker than 50um should be banned.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Thin (less than 50um) shopping bags.

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

Based on my response above all retailers should be exempted.

**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**

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**

Not sure

**Notes****Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes****Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

Thin (less than 50um) plastic (conventional or biodegradable or compostable) bag is still the most practical/economical/hygienic/environmentally sound option.

**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**

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

**Notes****Clause**

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

**Notes**

Single use plastic bags are irreplaceable in life of any family which wants to use thin plastic bags for containing goods / waste. Containment of waste in plastic bags is the most hygienic and practical option for most people. It is also the most environmentally sound option in terms of Environmental Mass Balance and waste disposal / land contamination.

**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**

Retailers should be incentivized to sell less of single-use plastic bags but still offer them as an option.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Please use lateral and logical thinking instead of vertical (selective and sequential) and talk to experts in the field who could explain the technology / product / solution offerings in the scientific way.