

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

**Reference no:** 1237

**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 am very much in agreement to phase out the single-use plastic shopping bags. I am also proposing that the government should take measures to phase out anything that is single use, not just plastics!

**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**

In fact, the thickness doesn't determine whether the bags are of single-use or multi-use. It is the attitude of the people which determines this. It is better to educate people about the consequences of such single-use material. People will hardly be able to differentiate between a 50-micron thick bag and a 70-micron thick bag.

**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**

So far no. None of the articles I read mentioned this. I had to visit the MFE website to find it out for myself.

**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**

Elimination should come at all levels. Exemptions will not be a solution if we think of reducing the plastic bags ending up in the landfill over a longer period of time.

**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**

A giving a reasonable timing for looking out for alternatives is essential and 6 months is a good time to look for alternatives.

**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**

No

**Notes**

I think the alternatives are not existing in New Zealand as of now.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

These alternatives are either expensive or not adequate to be made available to all. People replace single-use paper bags against plastic which is doing no good. There should be a proper awareness campaign planned to educate people on bringing their own re-usable cloth bags. Also in people's opinion alternatives come with a cost. I think this should be addressed.

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I think I am already aware of this. I believe that educating children can bring a lot of change within families and their households.

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