

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

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## Reference no: 126

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

Single use plastics are in no way sustainable and are doing immeasurable harm to our ecosystem, and especially the sea. They are also unsightly and form a large part of the litter problem in NZ. They take 100s of years to degrade and will remain in the environment as micro-plastics after this.

### 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

I would like the ban to include as many single use plastic bags as possible, so would like to include both thick and thin ones. Not many plastic bags get reused.

### 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

Ban them all, they are all harmful and there are alternatives. We managed without them 50 years ago, and we have better technology now. People need to get out of the single use mindset. We are destroying our beautiful ecosystem.

### 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

I couldn't live with myself.

### 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 smaller retailers that are responsible for a larger proportion of plastic bags. People are remembering to take their reusable bags to the supermarkets more often, but people have not changed their mindset yet about popping for a quick shop. If there are no plastic bags anywhere, it will force a faster change of habit in the population.

### 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

Make it as soon as possible. The world can not wait.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

two months

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

The benefits to the environment are the most important thing here, we should not even be thinking about money. My only fear is that the bags will be replaced by another plastic product. We need people to use reusable natural fibre bags over and over. This is very cost efficient.

**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**

Reusable cloth bags are widely available. people just have to get into the habit of using them. You can also purchase reusable produce bags for fruit and veg. We need to move away from the nasty polypropylene currently offered as an alternative by the big supermarkets. They break down into microfibres and do not last long.

**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**

In the end, they should just have to put all their shopping in the trolley, take it to the car and unpack it into the boot if they forget their bags. Do that a couple of times and you soon remember them. Just stop making single use bags available - they will soon start to remember their bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We are adjusted. Other families should be made to watch 'A Plastic Ocean'.

**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**

Don't know

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Please take this as far as you can. No green-washing, we really need to do this. Ban the bag!