

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

**Reference no:** 142

**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 understand the plastic problem. Its not good for future or for our kids future. That which cannot be recycled, reduced , reused or rot should be taken out of the system and redesigned or removed.

**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**

Retailers should not bring back a little more thicker and say they comply.

**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**

**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**

All of them need to included in the ban. Once people get used to carrying their own bags it would not matter if they are big or small retailers.

**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**

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**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**

Yes

**Notes**

Yes there are lots. There are cotton bags, Boomerang bags , sewing co-operatives , Flax bags , jute bags which are easily available and cost effective.

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Prime time television programs and community events explaining the plastic bag problem and showing the reality of our landfills, beaches and marine life. It needs to be thought provoking. Also schools educating children will definitely have huge impact. National information campaign and advertisements and sign boards will also help.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

our family is plastic bag free. But my friends and relatives still need help. Once there is no other option they will remember to take the bags.

**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**

It will be in the rubbish bins. The rubbish bin audits or councils who collect the rubbish are the best place to find out what single use items are coming into market. Because if its single use they end up in the bin quickly.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We need to help circular economy and government should incentivise such businesses who have successfully phased out or taken alternatives to reduce waste. Many are local NZ businesses. For example: Ethique - solid shampoo bars , Dirty hippie - zero waste beauty products , Smart ass - Tree free toilet papers and tissues , Lilybee wraps , Innocent Pckaging , Munch cupboard , Rethink NZ and many many other small businesses have done great in developing a sustainable products. Government should incentivise and introduce these businesses to larger retailers as an example that when there is a will there is a way. Every time we talk about plastic bags one silly question gets asked. Waht about my bin liners or dog poo collection? I see there are reusable bin liners , kerbside collection of food waste, organic waste collection and composting which all will eliminate the need of bin liners. People use plastic bags as bin liners and dog poo collections. There are lots of alternatives and people need to be educated about the options.

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