

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

Adam Shand

## Reference no: 155

**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

Not sure

### Notes

I absolutely support reducing the amount of single use plastic items in NZ. If replacement bags biodegrade into non-toxic ingredients in home compost piles and the ocean then that seems pretty reasonable. So it depends on the implementation details of the legislation.

### 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

I don't understand why thickness is a good metric? It seems like making this the rule will just cause people to find ways to keep doing business as usual but with thicker bags.

### 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

I'm not aware of any, but I can imagine there might need to be some exceptions.

### 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

If large companies can adopt I don't see any reason why small companies can't do so as well.

### 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

I don't know enough to know if this is reasonable, but it sounds okay to me.

### 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**

This seems like an impossible question. I'm not sure how to quantify death of animals tangled in plastic or micro-particles of phyto-degraded plastic making its way into our food chain?

**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**

We survived without them for millennia, I'm sure we can manage. I believe the specific focus on plastic bags is a bit ridiculous though. What about the plastic sheets that they put meat on before they weigh it? What about the plastic box that the nail clippers I bought the other day came in? What about plastic courier bags? We need to be addressing single use plastic as a whole rather than just cherry picking plastic bags.

**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**

What's wrong with paper bags like we used to use? I'm not against single use bags, they are useful for all sorts of things. But using fossil fuels to make single use items is nuts. I'm against incentive schemes. Just ban single use items which don't break down into non-toxic particles in water or a home compost pile, and let the market sort out the rest.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

The hardest thing for us is remembering to tell people in shops not to give them to us.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I support the banning of single use plastic bags but dislike the simplistic focus of this. We need to be banning all single use items which don't break down into non-toxic particles in water or a home compost pile. It's not just bags it's coffee cups, the wrap on a new broom, the plastic case around nail clippers, plastic courier bags, individually wrapped fruit and veg, the other day we bought a roll of masking tape which was wrapped in plastic.