

Subject: FW: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

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-----Original Message----- From:

single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I support a mandatory phase-out on the sale and distribution of all single-use plastic bags. The phase-out must include a ban on false solutions, such as degradable (eg, oxo degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). There should be no exemptions from a mandatory phase out of single use bags. The phase-out should be applied across all retailers, no matter the size and staff level of the business. This is the fairest and most comprehensive way to ensure the elimination of single use plastic bags from the waste stream. The phase-out should take effect as soon as possible (2-6 months). I agree that the benefits from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs from implementing the phase out. There is no monetary value we can place the health of our oceans, rivers and waterways and the natural services they provide humans and other species. Reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags already exist in New Zealand, such as reusable cloth bags which are already available in many retail stores. A phase-out of single-use plastic bags should be the first step in addressing plastic pollution. I also support the call by Greenpeace and others for a national strategy to tackle the global scourge of plastic pollution. The use of cloth bags is a good solution as these can be washed multiple times. The ban should be extended to cover the wrapping of any fruit and vegetables in plastic, and also bread. There are spoilage issues but these can be overcome. people could be encouraged to have a designated bread bag . Removing bread from Shelves could be done with tongs. Handlers should wear gloves, rubber gloves. Allergic stackers could wear cotton gloves under the rubber. Alternatively, bread could be wrapped in waxed paper, as it was before plastic came in. Sending magazines etc. in plastic should also be stopped. Ordinary paper envelopes can be recycled. We managed before plastic. Costs may rise but the real costs of plastic outweigh all others. Yours sincerely, Mary McDonald