

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

**Reference no:** 229

**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**

No

**Notes**

It should not be mandatory. Businesses should not be fined. If I buy something that may leak or be messy I still want it in a plastic bag. It is going too far to ban biodegradable/compostable plastic bags as well. Until retailers return to the free paper bags that all retailers used to offer before the cheap plastics era, then plastic bags still have a place.

**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**

See above. Also, I reuse any plastic shopping bags for a multitude of uses. The cheaper reusable carry bags that we are being forced to buy instead are not biodegradable. Currently I reuse or recycle all types of plastic. Where are the facilities to recycle the reusable, non biodegradable, mixed material carry bags that retailers are providing which mostly don't last that long?

**Clause**

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

If I buy something that may leak or may be messy or may contaminate the rest of my shopping eg, online takeaway deliveries, meat, fish, chicken, wet items, then it needs to be in a plastic bag. These should be exempt. Also bin liners and dog poo bags. In Auckland's summer heat and humidity in particular, rubbish needs to be disposed of in some type of plastic bag to avoid smell and other problems.

**Clause**

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

**Notes**

Biodegradable and compostable bags should be exempt and facilities should be provided to compost them.

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

They should not be penalised. It may not be economical for them to supply alternative type bags.

**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**

15

**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**

Should be 1 year.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

one year

**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**

No

**Notes**

The environment will just become littered with broken non biodegradable, non recyclable so called reusable bags instead. The cheaper ones that the majority can afford will be useless once they fall to bits which won't take long. Currently I can take all my plastic bags to the collection bins in the supermarkets. Who's going to collect and recycle the mixed material carry bags once they break?

**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**

Retailers need to return to offering free PAPER bags for purchases which they used to do before the advent of cheap plastics.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Paper bags and biodegradable/compostable plastic bags. Or plastic carry bags offered by retailers for a price.

**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**

Please see all my comments above. These bags will fall to bits as many are quite flimsy. Then they will litter the environment and cannot be recycled unlike plastic bags which can be left in supermarket collection bins. There is no such thing as single use plastic bags as they can all be reused for many things eg as bin liners etc, unlike most "multiple use" bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Retailers offering free paper bags in a range of sizes as they all used to do.

**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**

In the meantime manufacturers are changing their packaging from paper based or glass, to plastic at an ever increasing rate. Eg, milk, jam, honey, peanut butter, vegemite, frozen foods, bread, lightbulbs, toilet paper, plus unnecessary plastic packaging on produce and many other items. These and many other products all used to come in paper or glass. Fonterra churns out thousands of non recyclable plastic bottles a day. They're made of layers of plastic that can't be separated for recycling. Not to mention disposable nappies. The reason China has banned our plastic for recycling is due to our council's use of comingling whereby the wastestream is contaminated. Plus the lack of facilities for recycling hay bale wrappers and industrial pallet shrinkwrap. Instead of obsessing about plastic bags you should be fining manufacturers for their unsustainable use of plastic. Also investing in plastics recycling plants so that plastics don't have to be sent overseas.

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