

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

## Reference no: 23

**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

Plastic bags have serious environmental impacts and degradable alternatives all come with their own problems as well, especially if not disposed of properly. Therefore, a phase out of all single use plastic bags with promoting the use of reusable bags would be the best option.

### 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

There are reusable options available so I don't see any need to keep thicker plastic bags available as this is simply more plastic.

### Clause

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

### Position

Not sure

### 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

We need to see changes across the board in order to combat this waste crisis. I also believe that a complete phase out will help people to adopt new habits more quickly.

### 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

Yes

### Notes

The costs to the environment of the current waste crisis are absolutely enormous and any monetary costs of the phase out will pale in comparison to the lasting damage caused by plastic pollution.

**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 bags are readily available and can be obtained very cheaply - most people already have them but may not use them. There are also great initiatives like boomerang bags to help people out if they forget them or the cost is a barrier.

**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**

We need to see habit changes which comes from education. Monetary incentives can also be useful in helping habits develop until they stick.

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