

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

Recipient: proposed-mandatory-phase-out-of-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags@submissions.mfe.govt.nz

Sender: wastefree@mfe.govt.nz

Date: 31/08/2018 10:27 AM

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

Sent: Thursday, 16 August 2018

8:00 p.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of 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. I agree to all of this. There are the daily encounters which help. Never should a sales person say "would you like a bag"?, never leave that loop open. Another thing I practice: after weighing my things, vegies etc., the sticker goes onto something in the basket, a box of eggs or a hard thing or anything which will hold the sticker. I present this at the cash counter, if they want to see the things, they are lying open and are visible. My little daily helpers. And since years I have taken no bags, always have several folded in my shopping bag and ready to use. Some of them are from 2002, most are maybe 6 yrs younger. The hidden ones I cannot control, just try to be aware. I will not be around when the possible ugly facts hit the screen, feel sorry for my grandkids. It is up to you people in the world of politics and business to wake up and think of the consequences. I can only try and set examples. It is so easy to do it easy. But the hidden plastics I cannot control. Yours sincerely, Mary Schwyzer