

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

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## Reference no: 271

**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

The degradable single use bags are only compostable once they're put through a commercial composter which uses energy. I am more of a make yourself a bag - currently making them out of old animal feed bags.

### 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 this question. I thought they were being banned completely which is the best option.

### 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

### 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 you're going to do something do it well. Exemptions usually come back and bit later and will allow a way for retailers who don't care about this to find a loophole in the legislation.

### 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

Not applicable to my answers as this is not an option NZ should take - see above for reasons.

### 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

However I would have liked to have seen this happen years ago but National Party, when in govt, ignored requests such as this. Were they too busy doing something else? What was it they did?

**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**

I don't particularly care how much certain things cost and as far as I can tell the retailer will be better off by not having to supply bags, the customer will have a one-off cost of purchasing bags, or like me nothing because I've made some out of old animal feed bags for nothing, except a bit of power to use my sewing machine.

**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**

I see a lot of shops are selling alternative bags for \$1 which can be used many times. Boomerang Bags sell their bags quite cheap (not sure of the cost) which are made from durable materials and will last. I've also got a willow basket which is ideal for standing groceries in. There are many alternatives - lack of imagination is the only barrier for those stuck in the 'what will I do without' mindset.

**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? If you take away single use plastics that should do the trick as there will be no choice. The question baffles me.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

My family is intelligent enough to work this out themselves.

**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**

Just have a look at the packaging in places like supermarkets and hardware stores and you will see that monitoring is easy. EVERYTHING is wrapped in plastic.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

This is the first step to reducing products from the petrochemical industry. It will help reduce the extraction of oil for human use. It will help the world to 'keep it in the ground'. Well done to Govt for taking this step I completely support anything which will delay the coming Global Warming, which this is a part of, as well as the protection of marine life. I commend the govt for this way of presenting a submission to the process. Well done all round - just don't let anyone suggest that exemptions are a good thing as they're always loopholes.