

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

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## Reference no: 275

**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

I would like all single use plastic to be phased out immediately including produce bags and "degradable plastic bags" and "compostable" - as currently most people do not compost these

### 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

All plastic bags should be banned - the issue is the bags breaking down into micro plastic and finding their way into the environment. We need to ban all plastic bags.

### 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

absolutely not. It is a ban for reasons that these end up in our environment. There should be a total ban. There are paper bags as well as people reusing cloth bags and schemes like boomerang bag that could use more support from councils

### 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

No plastic bags full stop

### 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**

The ban should begin today or as soon as possible - I don't know what the big deal is so many retailers have already gotten rid of bags like Animates and Moore Wilson. We have so many other options at our disposal all the grocery stores need to do is offer their cardboard boxes to people who don't have bags.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

two months

**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**

Again, more and more people bring their own bags so retailers won't be buying bags anymore. Retailers can sell paper bags to customers at cost. This is already happening in shops all over NZ

**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**

Everywhere I look there are bags available for customers to purchase and in many places there are borrow bag schemes like Boomerang bags and Whanganui prison makes bags for the community [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz-herald-in-depth/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1504170&objectid=11948463](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz-herald-in-depth/news/article.cfm?c_id=1504170&objectid=11948463) Also there is paper which retailers could sell for \$15 -\$20 cents a bag. Cardboard cartons that the shops have can be used as well. There are endless options and councils could support organizations that provide upcycled bags

**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**

Plastic bags should be banned and environmentally safe bags should become the only option. Schemes like Boomerang bags and also Whanganui prison makes bags for the community out of fabric headed to landfill [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz-herald-in-depth/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1504170&objectid=11948463](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz-herald-in-depth/news/article.cfm?c_id=1504170&objectid=11948463) Councils could support organizations that provide upcycled bags made from off cast fabrics. This is already happening and just needs more people involved. Even kids in school are making these bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Many people say they use the shopping bags as bin liners etc. So what needs to happen is education about how to go bag free - composting food waste is a big part of making this easier. People also use plastic bags for things like togs going to the pool etc and again, education and upcycled swim bags like boomerang bags available in communities everywhere

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I think that it is great the government is taking a stand against the bag. I hope it is the start of more banning of plastic and the innovation of healthy alternatives. I would like to see the ban take place as soon as possible and I would like to see the government encourage initiatives like the Prisoners sewing bags for the community. It is a wonderful project that helps the prisoners as well. This can be a very positive process involving retirement homes, schools, community groups and councils. It's exciting and I think most of NZ is ready to get rid of the bag including the produce bags.