

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 10:13 AM

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

Sent: Friday, 17 August

2018 12:34 a.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I appreciate that you and your government have chosen to show strong leadership on this issue. I am concerned that some stake holders with commercial interests may try to water down your efforts and the will of the majority of NZers to create a world we will be proud to leave to our grandchildren. 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. While these address some of the issues with single use plastics none address all the issues and each creates new problems. I support further research in this area but for now there should be no allowances for these products. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). As well as fruit and vege bags.. 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'd further encourage the government and yourself to look seriously about pushing industry to find alternatives to the many other forms of single use plastics that surround or food and consumer goods. Yours sincerely, Seb Gorrell