

**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 10:20 AM

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

Sent: Thursday, 16

August 2018 9:20 p.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I am a consumer of plastic bags, in a household of two people. I do not support this change in its current format. It is Greenwash to make a self serving superficial commitment to green policy, whilst Corporates use the policy to make money or get out of making real change. I am embarrassed the Corporates promote themselves with this superficial move they say is to for environmental concerns. Any serious person concerned about the environment wants a unified electricity generation strategy from the Government, taking control of power generation and setting up a CO2 offset scheme, and a Carbon cap with tax. Or fix the fishing quota system and enforce it to protect our endangered fish and dolphins. Subsidies for electric cars to get rid the ICE. Electrify the Wellington Bus service and NZ Rail, both which have replaced electric with Diesel. Plastic needs alternatives, not the vacuum of a ban. There are many alternatives out their, needing support to get up and going. The scheme plays into the hands of the corporates who are always looking to save money at the counter, this will put money into their pockets and the Government is doing it at a cost to the consumer , on poverty wages. This change does not offere green alternatives to plastic bags such as environmentally friendly starch and paper bags for free. Instead the consumer will have to buy multiple use bags, at their own cost, a big saving for the Corporates who are always trying to cut their costs of bag consumption. These multi use plastic bags take hundreds of more times CO2 to manufacture, and consumers will by them in their hundreds as they forget to bring them into the shop, throwing them into the rubbish with a huge increase in the CO2 burden. Don't be mistaken in thinking that we can go back 50 years to the wicker basket with the bread and milk from the corner shop, customers often travel many miles to get to a cheap supermarket and use dozens of bags in one go, and having all these bags at hand is not practical. Set up mandatory recycling or subsidies it to get plastic of the street. Make it compulsory to put handles on packaging so consumers can carry multiple large items instead of needing to bag everything to haul up the steps all at once, not making several trips with one or two items. A very callus cynical and unpopular move, which only a few countries have made to date. NZ doesn't have the bag problem as some of these other countries who banned bags in the third world. My observations are that I see few bags in our streets and sea in NZ. When in the tip, bags are not a hazard. We also have good recycling facilities, and yes Countdown accepts bags for recycling. Overseas there is little to no infrastructure for free waste collection in slums, and people throw rubbish into the street or sea, hence the bag problem. Banning bags will not improve rubbish issues overseas. Plastic packaging remains and people may buy one packs of small rubbish bags at the shops to carry their groceries home Many countries and stores have paper and starch bags, like America or Britain, and this is what we need here. But since the announcement I see NZ shops have started taking them away, some are hiding behind the announcement when asked why, but its to save money and blame the government saying they have to remove bags to the consumer. Packs of biodegradable starch rubbish bags used to be for sale on the shelf at my Countdown supermarket in Napier, but they took them of the shelf months ago leaving all the plastic ones, no commitment there in spite of the Corporate zeal at the counter for people stumped for a free bag, they have no commitment to selling real alternatives to plastic, and this ban will not change that for the better. I do not support the change in its current form. Yours sincerely, Thomas O'Neill