

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 10:24 AM

-----Original Message----- From: Sent: Thursday, 16 August 2018
8:30 p.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags
Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I welcome your proposal for a mandatory phase-out on the sale and distribution of all single-use plastic bags. However to be effective, the phase-out must include a ban on apparently benign alternatives such as claimed biodegradable and compostable plastic - these are just as polluting to the marine environment. The ban must also include heavier weight garbage and singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags of any thickness. Any exemption from the ban will incentivise industry to generate another form of plastic pollution. 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. 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. Yours sincerely, Thomas Trnski