

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

## Reference no: 4

**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**

**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**

Smaller retailers can still provide paper bags or require customers to bring their own reusable bags. Single use plastic bags are not necessary for any retailers, there are always alternatives.

**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**

Not sure

**Notes**

The period should be the minimum practical period necessary to implement the change.

**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**

In the long run, if people are using re-useable bags the cost should be less anyway.

**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**

**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**

Make high quality bags that are made of sustainable material, e.g. cotton. The bags will then last, and will be able to break down more easily at the end of their lifetime.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Alternatives for things like bin bags and bags to keep you food fresh - e.g. vegetables in the fridge

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

The phase out of single use plastic bags should be a relatively easy step, and certainly makes sense. However, there is the more difficult problem that also needs to be addressed, that the vast majority of food (milk, bread, cheese) comes in plastic packaging, and it is not always easy (or cheap) to find an alternative. Takeaway food and drink also produces a huge amount of waste. Bulk food bins and fresh produce markets (with unpackaged produce) needs to become the norm.

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**