

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

Ashleigh Harris

**Reference no:** 406

**Submitter Type:**

**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**

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 single use plastic bags should be phased out

**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**

I don't think any should be exempt

**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**

**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**

0

**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**

**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**

Because there are plenty of reusable bags which have already been produced which can be reused again and again, there is virtually no need for any additional costs.

**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**

Reusable bags are everywhere. They are cheap or free as everyone tends to already have some lying around.

**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**

Lawful banning of plastic bags and sustainable alternatives offered. Educational campaign about reusable ie you don't have to buy 10 of these shitty Countdown bags, doesn't your mum already have 10 bags you could borrow? People won't do it unless they have to.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

N/A

**Clause**

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

**Notes**

Research into impacts of plastic on human and environmental health. Data collection of where the bags go. ie does the customer use it once and throw away? What is its lifespan? How long following this, will it take to break down in a landfill? Does that bag ever truly disappear from the environment?

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Good. Single use plastic is not determined by size or thickness, it's determined by usage. The guidelines around banning single use plastic bags should therefore be changed to include all single use bags because their purpose is the same to the average, throw away culture consumer.