

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 10:36 AM

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

Sent: Thursday, 16 August 2018

6:30 p.m. To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, 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. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). 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. Not just supermarkets but ALL retailers e.g. Farmers, The Warehouse, hardware stores...the list is endless (this in itself is a frightening realisation, that so many retailers readily give out plastic bags without a second thought). This is the fairest and most comprehensive way to ensure the elimination of single use plastic bags from the waste stream. Retailers should no longer be allowed to offer/supply customers with plastic bags simply so customers can carry away their purchases. It should be the RESPONSIBILITY of the CUSTOMER to supply THEIR OWN reusable non-plastic bags to carry away purchases. I do it myself, have done for many years, & have no issues with it whatsoever. My bags are washable by machine or hand & can be used over & over. I always have a cotton bag rolled up in my handbag for those 'just in case' purchases & 2 large bags in my car boot for groceries & larger purchases. 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. Yours sincerely, Stephanie PAUL