

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

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## Reference no: 44

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

Not sure

### Notes

I agree only if shops will be providing a suitable alternative, e.g. paper sacks

### 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

I don't think the thickness makes much difference

### 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

Yes - more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

### Notes

I like to re-use the plastic bags to put used cat litter, vacuum cleaner contents, etc. before putting in the dustbin. I wouldn't want to put those things directly into the dustbin.

### Clause

4a. If yes, please explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

### Notes

Occasionally I visit the supermarket without my reusable shopping bags. Also, I like to reuse the plastic bags as described above.

### Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

### Position

No

### Notes

But I think all retailers need to offer some sort of bag to put items into to carry them - e.g. paper sack

### 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

That would be a very arbitrary figure, I don't think there is a sensible way to arrive at a figure

### 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**

Depends on when a viable alternative is being supplied - I have not heard any mention of this

**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**

Probably

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

No

**Notes**

The only alternative being proposed seems to be that the shopper needs to carry bags at all times. This is not reasonably practicable. Shops need to offer some form of bag

**Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

Free biodegradable or recyclable bags should be offered in shops instead of the single use plastic bags

**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**

I think most people are already using them generally now. But there are always times you forget or shop unexpectedly and just don't have them with you. Nothing is going to change that

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Free biodegradable or recyclable bags should be offered in shops instead of the single use plastic bags

**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**

Monitor it at source - the shops must be buying the bags from somewhere

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I hope this is properly thought out and not just a giant leap of faith that if the plastic bags are taken away without providing an alternative then it will somehow be alright