

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

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## Reference no: 440

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

Definitely think this is important for the environment. Consumers won't change quickly enough without such measures.

### 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 plastic bags - including thicker ones like the ones Countdown has brought in as replacement to their single-use ones. All plastic bags eventually end up in the waste stream. We used to manage with paper bags and our own reusable bags and boxes. People will survive without them.

### 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

Why would they need to be exempted? Everyone should do their bit for the environment and I don't see how it could make a difference to these shops.

### 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

As soon as possible, but understand you need to go through the submissions phase, and also promote alternative options for people.

### 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**

I think we are at a critical point in the world, with regards to climate change. Any other costs will become irrelevant if we trash the planet. We have to make a change.

**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**

Eco bags, reusable bags, boxes, baskets, flax bags, chilly bins. You just have to make an effort. It can take a while but once you are in the habit it is not hard.

**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**

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

**Notes**

Not sure about this one... people need to look after their own responsibilities around this. Incentive schemes could work too. Perhaps community and school projects where people make their own bag and are proud of these and want to keep them.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

More paper bags and cardboard boxes available at supermarkets.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I think the smaller supermarket plastic bags that are used for the pick n mix and the fruit and veg should be phased out as well. People can be encouraged to bring your own cotton bag or container. Also what about rubbish bags and dog poop bags - these need to be thought about and paper encouraged, and compost options for these available so they don't just end up back in landfill (curbside and around town/parks/beaches composting options). We also need more education on recycling, more work on creating our own recycling facilities in NZ, and more pressure for companies to reduce the amount of plastic packaging they are creating.