

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

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## Reference no: 442

**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

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 should be banned. Allowing bags of a certain thickness to remain does not resolve the problem, as in reality they are only able to be used a few times before they end up in landfill

### 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

I believe it's actually easier for smaller businesses to make changes. However, if the alternatives are more expensive then perhaps smaller businesses could have grants available to them to help them make the switch

### 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

Although the phase out might cost businesses financially if the alternatives are more expensive, this is a situation where we have to put our environment first. Any extra cost will become the new normal before long.

**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**

People who care about this are already bringing their own bags. Paper bags are easily accessible.

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

people working in retail are always trying to give us plastic bags even when we ask for no plastic bag. They need eco friendly alternatives to offer and they need to understand the reasons why. I often find retail staff just dont understand why I wouldn't want a plastic bag

**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**

The manufacturers who make the plastic and/or use it in their packaging should be required to pay a fee or levy to offset the damage they are doing to the environment. This would make the eco friendly alternatives more attractive

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

It should include all plastic bags, including those sold as dog poo bags, rubbish bags etc. It's ridiculous to phase them out from checkouts but still have a roll of them for sale in he supermarket aisles