

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

**Reference no:** 498

**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**

I support the phase out but would urge further actions to be taken as plastic shopping bags are only a part of the problem.

**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 would support phasing out all single use shopping bags at point of sale, or charging a significant fee per bag perhaps \$1 per bag. Also I would like to see a ban or penalty for/per product imported which contains polystyrene as a component of its packaging.

**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**

Lets just do this once and do it properly and not back down to all of the people who seem determined to do as little as possible to preserve and protect our country and our image.

**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**

1

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

Yes this is more than enough time. Bags are not a dilemna... there are many solutions out there. For example paper bags, boxes etc are all very easy to implement and have to a degree already been in use by some retailers for example pak n save and rite price offer boxes at the point of sale for customers to transport their purchases in.

**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**

Taking this modest step to phase out single use plastic bags helps restore some credibility to New Zealand as a country that protects the environment, it is hard to put a dollar value on the reputation of your country. In terms of financial benefits: I believe we will save money in the medium to long term as we greatly reduce the amount of plastic waste we need to collect, sort, transport and dispose of. Less space will be occupied in our landfills and that will save each of us money on waste disposal 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**

Boxes, paper bags and re usable bags are not hard to make more readily available though I would caution the government to make an effort to prevent reusable bags being used in place of disposable bags by some consumers and would urge the phase out of plastic re-usable bags also. Allowing re-usable bags which are made from natural materials would be a smart move.

**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**

Discounts at the checkout for re-using bags on purchases over a certain amount. Signage at the entrance to supermarkets and retailers. Television commercials and advertisements on social media.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We have already been using re-usable bags for the last year or so

**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**

Unsure

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I would like to see steps taken to tackle other problematic waste items like a bottle return scheme. Polystyrene is also problematic and the government should be taking steps to reduce the amount of polystyrene consumed by new zealanders in the form of packaging on imported goods.

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**